

Minutes

City of Murchison City Council Meeting, held at City Hall February 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Those present include: Mayor Bryan Wilkins, council members Ken Baker, Alisa Griffis, Steve Kroll, Roy Griffis, Dana Joslin and City Secretary Karen Kroll. Also in attendance were Murchison residents, June McLean, Robert Horton, Yancy Miller, Michael Morrison, James Hardin, Alexis Abbott, Tammy Wilkins, Dana Becton, John Becton, Connie Haynes, Denise Goines, Sandy Hoffmeyer, Kathy Merrill. Also in attendance was Corey Frentress from Frentress Engineering and assistant Fire Chief Ricky Harris from the MVFD.

After opening prayer by Yancy Miller, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Public Recognition:

Consent items:

Water Report:

New Business:

1. Discuss/Consider new building permits:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins discussed that Micah Shultz had submitted a permit application to move in a 24'x30' building, to be located at 6252 Mockingbird Lane. Mayor Wilkins stated that the building would be completely remodeled, all new siding, front and back porch, with a fence around property. Mayor Wilkins asked the city council if there were any questions or discussion needed for the permit. The city council discussed the permit application and decided to accept it.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moves for motion to accept the permit application submitted by Micah Shultz to move a 24'x30' building on the property located at 6252 Mockingbird Lane. Motion made by Steve Kroll, seconded by Ken Baker and carried unanimously.

2. Discuss/Consider EDC projects:

None to Discuss

3. Discuss/Consider additional bids for Cardinal Street culvert clean-outs – north of Mockingbird:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins stated that the city needed to have the ditches cleaned out and the need to possibly replace some of the culverts on Cardinal Street (north of Mockingbird Ln.). Mayor Wilkins discussed that this section of Cardinal was not included in the initial contractor bids for the city project as it was deemed not necessary at the time. After work was completed with other streets, it is now necessary to be done in order for proper drainage. Mayor Wilkins stated that two bids had been received and read each one. The first, from Athens Contractors in the amount of \$7000.00. The second, from Lee Construction in the amount of \$8750.00. The city council discussed the two different bids and decided on Athens Contractors.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moves for motion to accept Athens Contractors to clean the ditches out on Cardinal Street (north of Mockingbird Ln.). Motion made by Alisa Griffis, seconded by Steve Kroll and carried unanimously.

4. Discuss/Consider bids for culvert extension, ditch cleanout and road widening at the Murphy St. & Live Oak intersection:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins discussed the need to extend the culvert and widen the road at the intersection of Murphy Street and Live Oak. Mayor Wilkins stated that the water does not drain properly at that location and the road is too narrow to navigate safely. Mayor Wilkins read the three bids that had been received for the project. The first bid, from DD Heavy Hall, was for \$3500.00. This bid, however, did not include the road widening or ditch cleanout. The second bid, from Athens Contractors, was for \$20,000.00. This bid, however, did not include the asphalt for the road widening. The third bid, from Lee Construction, was for \$18,350.00. This bid included the asphalt for widening the road, all rock, and purchase of the culvert as well as delivery. The city council discussed all three bids and agreed that Lee Construction was the best value for the city.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moves for motion to accept the bid from Lee Construction for the ditch clean-out, culvert extension and road widening at the intersection of Live Oak and Murphy Streets. Motion made by Roy Griffis, seconded by Steve Kroll and carried unanimously.

5. Discuss/Consider bids for ditch cleanout and lowering of culvert on 1st street:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins discussed the need to clean-out the ditches and lower one culvert on First Street. Mayor Wilkins stated that the water was not draining properly and that at least one culvert needed to be repositioned as it was too high. He also stated that

two bids had been received to complete the work. The first bid, from Athens Contractors, was for \$7500.00. This bid did include the asphalt mix needed to repair the road after culvert replacement. The second bid, from Lee Construction, was for \$17,250.00. This bid included replacing at least 3 culverts, asphalt that needs replacing when the culvert across 1st street is set, and cleaning out the ditches all down both sides of 1st street. Mayor Wilkins asked the city council if they wanted to discuss the two bids. Council member Roy Griffis stated that although the bid from Lee Construction was higher, it included a more comprehensive plan and action that would be more beneficial to the city. Council member Dana Joslin stated that she did not like Lee Construction, that the Third Street project that he did for the city did not look good as well as the ditches were holding water. Mayor Wilkins stated that the Third Street project completed on time, done professionally, correctly, and was shot to grade for the proper drainage. The further members of the city council discussed the bids and determined that Lee Construction was the best value for the city.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moves for motion to accept the bid from Lee Construction for the work to be performed. Motion made Ken Baker, seconded by Roy Griffis, Council members Steve Kroll and Alisa Griffis voted “yay”. Council member Dana Joslin voted “nay”.

6. Discuss/Consider a Municipal Advisory Agreement with Government Capital Securities:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins addressed the city council to consider entering into a Municipal Advisory agreement with Capital Securities. Mayor Wilkins asked Corey Frentress to explain to the council the details of the agreement. Mr. Frentress explained that in order for the city of Murchison to continue to move forward with the projects necessary to upgrade the water and sewer plant, the city would need to obtain a financial advisor to help in facilitating the upcoming projects. Capital securities will aid in the process of trying to secure loans, or grants, ensure that the city is within its financial boundaries, advise on city taxes, and water rates. Mayor Wilkins asked if the city council would like to discuss the issue. The city council discussed the benefits of having a financial advisor and agreed to accept the agreement with Government Capital Securities.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moves for motion to accept a Municipal Advisory Agreement with Government Capital Securities. Motion made by Alisa Griffis, seconded by Ken Baker and carried unanimously.

7. Discuss/Consider a Master Agreement with Frentress Engineering, LLC for consulting engineering services:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins discussed considering entering into a Master agreement with Frentress Engineering to do consulting work with the city for the Water and Sewer Plant.

Mayor Wilkins stated that the city needed a master plan in order to move forward with water and wastewater needs for the city. The agreement would state that Frentress Engineering would be the city of Murchison's Engineer, to be used on an individual project basis as they arise. Mayor Wilkins asked the city council if they wanted to discuss the agreement. After some discussion, the city council agreed to accept the Master Agreement with Frentress Engineering.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moved for motion to enter into a master agreement with Frentress Engineering. Motion made by Ken Baker, seconded by Dana Joslin and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moved for motion to have Frentress Engineering draw up a master plan for the Water/Wastewater improvements for the city. Motion made by Roy Griffis, seconded by Ken Baker and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins explained that the city of Murchison had received a letter from TCEQ stating that corrective action was required to address low pressure on PR 7801. Mayor Wilkins stated that Frentress Engineering will need to send a letter to TCEQ explaining what the city is doing to correct the issue, creating a master plan.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moves for motion to have Frentress Engineering write a letter to TCEQ on behalf of the city of Murchison showing corrective actions.

8. Discuss/Consider using \$10,000.00 from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to help purchase radios for the Murchison Volunteer Fire Department:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins asked the city council to discuss possibly using some of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund money that Murchison had received to help the MVFD in purchasing new radios. Assistant Fire Chief Ricky Harris then addressed the council explaining that the current county radio system would go offline at the end of December, 2022, and that the MVFD needed new radios for the new system that will be in place. Mayor Bryan Wilkins advised the council that he had spoken with the Fire Chief and the radios would cost approximately \$16,000 and that they would be able to raise \$6000.00 of that total cost. Mayor Wilkins asked the city council if the city of Murchison would be able to help the MVFD with the additional funds needed to purchase the radios. The city council discussed the issue and agreed to give the MVFD \$10,000 towards the purchase of the radios.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moved for motion to give the Murchison Volunteer Fire Department the \$10,000 additional funds to purchase the new radios. Motion made by Alisa Griffis, seconded by Roy Griffis and carried unanimously.

9. Discuss/Consider removing Dana Becton the Economic Development Committee and appointing Wade Carter as replacement:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins addressed the city council to consider removing Dana Becton from the Economic Development Committee and appointing Wade Carter. Council member Dana Joslin addressed the mayor and asked why this needed to be done. Mayor Wilkins stated that the city council could remove anyone from the EDC without cause. Mayor Wilkins then asked Michael Morrison, president of the EDC to address this issue with the council. Mr. Morrison stated that Dana Becton had served the EDC well in the past few years and that she had been an asset to the committee. Mr. Morrison then stated to the council that recent events with Ms. Becton had caused some friction within the city of Murchison as well as with the city council. He went on to say further, that it would be in the best interest of the EDC to remove Dana Becton and replace her with Wade Carter. Mayor Wilkins asked the city council if they would like to discuss the issue further, with no response.

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moved for motion to remove Dana Becton from the EDC and replace her with Wade Carter. Motion made by Steve Kroll, seconded by Ken Baker. Alisa Griffis and Roy Griffis responded with "yay". Dan Joslin responded with "nay". Mayor Wilkins so moved the motion.

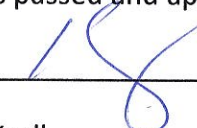
Mayors Report:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins discussed the status of the city projects, that the ditch clean-outs were still taking place and that the new culverts would be set shortly.

Adjournment:

Mayor Bryan Wilkins moves for motion for adjournment at 6:36 pm. Next city council meeting will be held on March 8, 2022 @ 6:00pm at city hall. Motion made by Steve Kroll, seconded by Alisa Griffis and carried unanimously.

Minutes passed and approved this 8th day of March, 2022.

Attest:  _____

Karen Kroll
City Secretary