

The City of Murchison City Council meets in regular session on the second Tuesday of each month. The council reserves the right to convene in an Executive Session on any item on the agenda under Texas Government Code, Chapter 551. Items for this meeting include:

Bradley Gray, Danny Garza, Bobette Bandy, Gayle Furlong, Dana Joslin, Jeremy Smith, Skylier Murrell, Steven Hartley

Connie Haynes, Torance McClean

Called to Order at: 6:00 PM prayer-Gayle Furlong ; pledge- Skylier Murrell

Public Recognition (Citizen Comment(s): HB 2840 – Any Citizen wishing to address the Council on an agenda item may do so during the Citizen Comment section of the meeting, or when the item is being considered by the Council. Sign in Sheet (5 minutes)

New Business:

1. Review Status of the Sewer Project
 - a. Mayor Bradley Gray asked Steven Hartley for an updated status on the Project and Steven states next to the fire department and across the street at the bank the pipes are done, wasn't packed but loosely packed to allow dirt to settle. Contractor will come to fill in by the bank and St by the gas station and then haul off whatever dirt is left. No overflow is showing at the plant that has been cleaned up some but he will be cleaning up more. Dirt back fill and asphalt is still needed to complete but Steven states the was told to stop once pipes were fixed and holes filled.
 - b. Mayor Bradley Gray goes over his timeline of the communication between him and Steven from January 13, 2025 to March 17, 2025. (copy included)

Open Questions to Steven Hartley:

1. Jeremy Smith asks if the sewer line is in and all pipe laid? Steven states it is laid. Mayor Brad doesn't agree with it being done and Jeremy Smith says it can be checked. Why also is there extra pipe? Steven states that Bore was needing done and he thought they would use it but it couldn't be used by excavator, they had to push pipe one by one at a time under the road. The additional pipe does need to be moved to Waste plant.
2. Danny Garza asked if he did a trench when laying the pipe by the gas station? Steven states yes he did dig for the space he needed to tie the sides together. Jeremy Smith asked what was used? Steven states a back hoe was used to a trencher.
3. Mayor Bradley Gray asked how long is the line? Steven states 6 to 7 feet towards the Fire Department. Bradley Gray states what is the exposed pipe then? Steven states trash pipe hit by the bore and wasn't fixed yet because he was told to stop project.
4. Dana Joslin asks can he use a backhoe or something to pack the dirt or will it move or shift? Steven states he might have but was told to stop project, dirt was still too loose then also, underneath is sloped. Also states weather issues were a cause. Dana asks since it was packed lightly how do we

know we wont have issues? Jeremy Smith says you can lay pipe but it does normally have to settle then have it filled/smoothed out.

5. Steven states that asphalt will come when it can be packed and concrete laid, extra will be hauled off then. Casings was needing leveled, cinder blocks used to for support help.
6. Gayle Furlong states it might all look ad, past deadline but everyday Steven had other daily tasks and jobs to do and didn't or couldn't hire someone to help.
7. Danny Garza says the trench by the fire department looks like no trench was dug, Steven states he loosely backfilled but there's no evidence of the done. Steven states it started by the gas station, the bore crew was days late and didn't start at one end and finish at other end. Bradley Gray verified our backhoe was used to back drag. Steven states excavator was used and he had that a month or so in January when pipe was laid but states it was done but no ground disturbed, Torance says he saw it not done.

***6:45pm Going outside to look at the patch work done by Fire department down to gas station street.**

1. Mayor Bradley Gray wants to confirm it was done, not 3 days ago but months ago as Steven claims. Steven says he had to hook up pipe and run pipe one by one pushing together with the backhoe.
2. Jeremy Smith wants to know where the pipe stops? Steven states at the end of the road by water plant and gas station and shows Jeremy Smith and Bradley Gray were pipe ties in on street. Back drag was used for uneven spots.
- 3.

Back in Session: 6:49pm

8. Bradley Gray wants to know if J&J Bore Service will confirm where pipe was laid? Steven states he doesn't know what he will say because they are upset with him. Jeremy Smith states a plumbing company will scope the pipe line to see if the work was done. Will know because of pipe color etc.
9. Gayle Furlong asks is that new pipe? Steven states yes but that holes weren't dug very deep or wide and that it was drug recently and was dug months ago (in January). Steven knows hiring someone would have helped but he bid the bare minimum and was not expecting the issues he had.
10. Dana Joslin asks if he normally gets help? Steven states yes if in the budget because one can be laying pipe while others dig etc. but didn't expect the busted pipe, line not being mapped right, weather issues.
11. Bradley Gray states he has told Steven awhile now that its neglect on his part because some things could have been prevented and that he believes 100% the pipe wasn't all laid properly and whatever we have to do to check it we will.
12. Jeremy Smith asks how deep it is? Steven state 5 ½ and 7 feet but varies though. Jeremy also states he doesn't believe its been done but can dig it up to verify. Looks like something was dug but not the entire thing.
13. Torance McClean states work done by his house looks better and that the trench cant be dug with the backhoe bucket Steven states was used. Also that A-1 Plumbing was going to dig but Steven did the job and was paid it while working for the city (on Sewer project but working other jobs). Steven states he was asked verify the spot and was able too so, did the job because Kent wasn't able to coordinate to do it, so Steven did charge for it.
 - i. Jeremy Smith Motions to approve him using the backhoe to dig up to make sure pipe was laid. Will leave open until councilmembers can see it and will take pictures of proof, Danny Garza seconds, passes unanimously.

Continued New Business:

1. Review Performance of the water contractor Steven Hartley (Open Questions to Steven Also)
 - a. Mayor Bradley Gray Discussed Main issue is Sewer Plant and overflow. Ridgle was the issue when they should have emptied the tank Steven says.
 - b. Jeremy Smith wants the issue at Waste plant explained. Steven states 3 drying beds for the sand filter keep tripping, Ridgle clogs it and maybe overloaded it. Jeremy wants to know if a retaining wall might help to contain the mess. Steven states he has looked into it but doesn't know where it all runs or drains from. Bradley Gray feels Steven is just explaining issues away and Jeremy states that something needs to be used to clean the area because its unacceptable.
 - c. Gayle Furlong asks if the waste could have been prevented? Steven states yes it could have been but also the ground was too wet to get a backhoe in to do something.
 - d. Danny Garza asks can a pipe flow not have been done? It was approved by council previously because of the overflow issues already. Bradley Gray was told something would be figured out so it isn't a issue but nothing yet. Steven states pump drops but doesn't empty al the time, also shorts out. Had the lift emptied and told its still not draining properly still (about a month ago). Steven owns the trash pump, the city one doesn't work. Steven states he can maybe weld a bypass by the grate to help. Jeremy states or a water trough but something is needed to prevent spillage.
 - e. Gayle Furlong asks how long was it leaking because it was reported? Steven states someone called it in because it was going into the creek, the water was tested and shows all good though. Current issues have been daily but pumping more often helps, it didn't run into the creek every time and in that one case where it was called in it was running an hour or so.
 - f. Danny Garza states overflow is happening to often, sites are trashed, nothing is done to fix the issues. Steven states can only do or approve so much without council approval. Bradley Gray asks when he left Lake Striker? Steven says because his contract ended basically. Bradley states but we will spend money to keep things up and stuff is still a mess when preventable.
1. Jeremy Smith wants to go into Executive Session concerning Sewer Plant Conditions and Project, Bobette Bandy seconds.
 - a. 7:43pm recording off
 - b. 7:45pm Executive Session
 - i. Bradley Gray isn't happy that Steven stays afloat but we are not getting what we are paying for with him.
 - ii. Next contract needs to have stipulations to be fined by him if deadlines aren't met.

8:06pm Back to Normal Session:

Bradley Gray asks Steven what he thinks his job role and duties are? Steven states operating water and waste with TCEQ compliance and checking levels, read meters, unclog lines, minor repairs (extra expenses for things like taps), clean up dripping grease or maintenances from water issues, lift stations (would be new though), and fixing/repairing drying bed to stay in use(City covers parts expenses but he does the work).

1. Jeremy Smith Motions to revisit Steven Hartleys contract with Skylier Murrell as its too vague and needs to have details on job responsibilities. * Considerations will be made for things beyond his control, remove clause for backhoe/excavator in contract, will be fined for things not done timely or

correctly if necessary- exception would be if city votes on something that increase waste or waters normal operations. Steven states he will bring old contract that's detailed to City hall tomorrow. Gayle Furlong seconds, passes unanimously.

2. Jeremy Smith Motions if pipes are good when dug up to verify Steven can complete the rest by April 1, 2025, \$250 daily fine to him if not done after this date. If the new pipes aren't there then he will have money deducted from what was to be paid to him for Project, hes only paid for the whats finished(example is 1/2 is done hes only paid 1/2, 1/3 completed or 1/4 completed he could owe the city money. Gayle Furlong seconds, Danny Garza opposed, majority passed.
3. Jeremy Smith Motions to pause on the repairs at the lift station til April. (Steven will check on supplies ordered as its close to \$10,000.00 from the \$11,000.00 city already gave him or if he can cancel the order), Danny Garza seconds, passes unanimously.

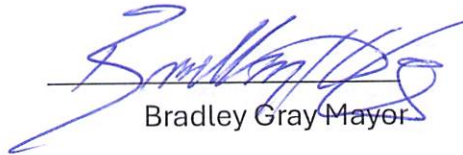
Next meeting April 1, 2025, 6pm

Adjournment Danny Garza motions, Jeremy Smith seconds 8:41pm

Approved on

Posted on

Skylier Murrell City Secretary



Bradley Gray Mayor