



City of Murchison
City Council Minutes
Tuesday June 11, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
City Hall 9540 FM 773 Murchison TX
903-469-3710

Present: Jeremy Smith, Bradley Gray, Danny Garza, Torance McClean, Gayle Furlong, Boyd Sauter, Q Wilcox, Steven Hartley

Gallery: Connie Haynes, Sandy Hoffmeyer, John McElfish, Keely Graves

Call to Order at 6:02 pm Prayer: Gayle Furlong Pledge: Jeremy Smith

Sandy asks where to sign up for the new internet? Bradley Gray says she can go online or call Optimum to set service up.

Connie Haynes asked about the previous water contract that brought a lawsuit against the city? Bradley Gray responds with the city attorney filing a response to the citation and nothing else has come of it.

Consent Items:

1. Approve May 2024 Minutes and Financials
 - a. Motion to accept minutes made by Danny Garza, seconded by Jeremy Smith; passes unanimously

Mayors Report:

1. Delay on ballfield due to weather
 - a. They started but the wet field was the cause of delay. Putting up forms for the cement; field has had track around the edge pulled up already. He's building up low spots
2. Sewer plant shop broken into, chainsaw recovered, filed on insurance
 - a. Report was made with the police, the sheriff office has a suspect and have found our chainsaw and returned to the city. Insurance check will be in next week, \$3383.15
3. Due to all the rain, may take a little while to catch up on mowing and weed eating
 - a. Jacob has been getting to the ditches and high grass spots
4. Trains blocking crossings
 - a. Most probably know this but the reason the city cannot get the train to move; doesn't matter where the train is stopped. 471.0007 there was a law about trains blocking crossing. A citation could be issued after five minutes of blockage in 1999 it changed to ten minutes. In 2001 railroad brought a case against state saying the federal law says there is no time limit and so the state cannot trump federal law. 471.007 obstructing rail road or crossing 2015 overturned previous law of any state or city taking action against a train being stalled on the tracks. The city nor the state can do anything about the trains. When the storms were happening more trains got stuck, with debris on the tracks.

5. Reminder that City Hall will be closed from noon on Wednesday June 12th to 5 pm Friday June 14th
 - a. Q Wilcox is going to training and City Hall will be closed. Grace period for water bills until June 19th

Water Report:

Things are running well. Well number one is down waiting on iron testing and filter. Some of the filters are made out of materials that will have a negative effect with water. Waiting on test results to get the best material parts to put in the well. TCEQ came out and found ammonia was in the casing is what started the fixing of Well One. We are moving forward from the ammonia and facing the iron problem... 3% is the limit and we are at .5%, it's not harmful but people will notice its tea color. The well is operational and the law requires the city to have a back up well. When Steven Hartley started the well was online but getting constant complaints daily of dirty water. There is no record but was told it was turned off when Tim was here. When Scott took over, they did away with the chemicals. Steven Hartley does filtration that removes contaminants. Looking at green sand; it's not as efficient anymore, each filter is approximately \$10,000. Place in Houston will design it for us so we aren't out of engineering cost. We will have to put up a portable building because you cannot leave it in the elements or store it with chlorine. Waste Water wise getting inspection done to see if we can clear it all in the field. Coming up with a way to prove the rakes in the basin are working. Cannot clear phone at 773 lift station until its installed. Sinkhole on Third St, aware and going to fix it this week that's not disturbing service. Leak at Cardinal St and Cardinal Dr, equipment wise the back hoe has been stuck since before the storms happened. It's currently still at Ms. Cooks' house, the hydraulic line snapped and we weren't able to get it out. Figured out where the issue is from; under the car lot. A year or two ago we jetted the line and a plumber came out but didn't fix it correctly causing the sink hole. Tomorrow the back hoe will be back at the WasteWater Plant and the hydraulic line fixed. The Third St lift station is controlled by that computer in there when you open it up. This only happens occasionally, the error code it gives is pump one start fail, pump two start fail, float fail. We can pull the floats and test it. With the pump down we can pull it. The person that came out had to trial and error it to figure out what was wrong with it. Bradley Gray asked if we got a phone line out there could we put something like we have at the lift station 773. Yes, Steven Hartley can do that.

New Business:

1. Discuss and Consider and Approve the City of Murchison authorization to issue requests for proposal for administrative services (RFP) and requests for qualifications for engineering services (RFQ) for grant pre-application (Phase I), application (Phase II), and implementation services for Texas Community Development Grant Program for 2025/2026 Community Development Fund (and all eligible activities per the application guidance) as administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.
 - a. CDBG offers a grant every two years. It is competitive within all ETCOG; we compete and get scored by it. GrantWorks pre-scores every city if the city is competitive, they bring it to the city. We were funded 6 years ago; we received a score of 60 on that aspect. The only cities that score higher are cities with low to moderate income areas. Q Wilcox will work with someone to find the area's low to moderate income to where the funds can be used at. The census is what they base it off of with surveys to get the initial score. GrantWorks offers this service to go door to door to find out if there are more that qualify to get our number higher. Have to be over 51% to qualify for the whole city. This grant depends on LMI, this grant is at least \$500k, hoping for closer to \$750k. Because of regional priorities, ETCOG chooses the same things each year (streets, water, sewer) . We should get funded in the first round. The city will

match 2% of the grant we are offered, doesn't have to be paid up front; will have two years to pay it. Q Wilcox is needing to send out RFP for an administrative service and a RFQ for engineers. TDA hasn't announced yet what the amount is going to be. A Comprehensive Plan can be a tool used in the way we want to use this money. Early in the fall is most likely when it will be announced. City authorizes, sends out the RFP and RFQ, selects administration, and holds public hearings. If you get invited to Phase II you have been approved to be funded and a year to 18 months out will be awarded. Where was the money used last time so we don't double dip the same area?

- i. Motion to move forward with RFP and RFQ to be sent out by Q Wilcox by Jeremy Smith, Gayle Furlong seconds; passes unanimously
2. Discuss and possibly take action on EDC expenditure of up to \$2000 for welcome banners.
 - a. As you know the EDC is a separate entity from the City Council; in November Q Wilcox and Bradley Gray attended a webinar that taught us about advertising expenses that the EDC can fund. Both A and B cities have a certain amount that can be used for advertise the city. Cannot spend more than 10% of annual revenue on advertising of the city. Previous to 2024 it was capped at \$1000, since learning this the EDC has moved it to \$5000. The EDC wants to purchase banners for six poles in the city. The EDC approved the expense, policy says the City Council has to also approve the expense. Most of the poles already have the hardware for the banners. Oncor has said it's ok to hang on their poles as long as we stay within their guidelines.
 - i. Motion to accept funding from EDC towards banner Gayle Furlong, seconded by Torance McClean; passes unanimously
3. Discuss, consider, and take action, as necessary, concerning the adoption procurement policies and procedures to supplement the City of Murchison's purchasing policies, that includes the federally required provisions 2 CFR 200.317 – 200.327 and Appendix II to Part 200, which are federal guidelines regarding procurement actions to be taken when applying for federal funds.
 - a. Purpose of this policy is to ensure that we are getting the best value – the most advantageous balance of price, quality, and performance was obtained during selection of GrantWorks. Its part of the process of the comprehensive plan
 - i. Motion to approve the Procurement policies and procedures Jeremy Smith, second the motion Danny Garza; passes unanimously

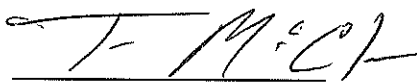
Next council meeting July 9, 2024 6pm

Adjournment motion Danny Garza Jeremy Smith 2nd 7:16pm

Approved on: 7.9.24

Posted on:

Q Wilcox City Secretary



Bradley Gray Mayor
Torance McClean
Mayor Pro-Tem

