



**City of Murchison
City Council Minutes
Tuesday August 13, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. City
Hall 9540 FM 773 Murchison TX
903-469-3710**

***Opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance-call meeting to order. 6:02 pm Bradley Gray, prayer Danny Garza, Pledge of Allegiance Torance McClean**

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

Absent: Jeremy Smith

Gallery: Steven Hartley, Jacob Paul, Connie Haynes, Sandy Hoffmeyer, Jeff McElfish, Michael Kennedy,

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)

Consent Items:

1. Approve July minutes and financial statements
 - a. From quarterly report Government fees are taxes that we are paying from prior years
 - i. Motion to accept minutes with change on emergency minutes, Boyd Sauter seconded passes
2. Approve minutes from August 6, 2024, Emergency Meeting
 - a. Gayle Furlong wants more detail in the minutes

Mayor's Report:

1. Baseball field update; plaque dedication, opening day August 17th
 - a. Branco is working feverishly to complete everything. Waiting on power from Oncor; have generator back up. We have two travel teams to play Saturday
2. Auditor was here week of July 22nd
 - a. Had a few hiccups on things Q Wilcox is working on. Should have report back in few weeks
3. Letter was sent to Extreme Auction on July 16th to clean up the parking lot
 - a. Sent another letter out, it appears it was cleaned and now it's back to a mess. An issue to come up with at the next meeting. Citizen states they are shutting down.
4. Candidate packets are at City Hall last day to pick up is August 19th
 - a. We have two council positions open. We have packets at city hall
5. Sewer main break and repair
 - a. Sewer main break last week, repairs on it should be starting Wednesday August 14, 2024
6. Purchased Square adapter for ballfield concession
 - a. The use of the city phone will have the app on it
7. Reached out to school concerning ballfield use
 - a. School isn't sure if they are going to have a team or not
8. First day of school tomorrow

- a. Murchison ISD starts August 14, 2024

Water Report:

Given by Steven Hartley: except for sewer, we have small leak on 773. Pump 1.7 mil gal. potential leak is on wildflower. Schedule creek crossing to start Wednesday morning. TCEQ will be out to inspect. Still have sewer issue at the gas station. Joey Ridgle pumps twice a week and dumps into the 773-lift station. The game plan is to excavate the 773 leaks will be done slowly and repaired by end of week.

Micheal Kennedy asks about the land he has cleared and hit a water line. He dug it all the way back to the creek. He hit a water line 30 feet from the main. There's about two to three inches of water always standing in the drive.

Executive Session: The City Council will convene into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.07 to review 90-day work performance of maintenance position, at 6:29 pm

Regular session resumes at 6:42 pm

Old Business:

1. Discuss Dept. of Labor new salary threshold
 - a. Next month Bradley Gray will start working on the budget. TML brought up possible civil suits that could rescind this threshold. Bringing it up so we can discuss raising the salary or moving Q Wilcox to hourly with time and half overtime. \$45,760 is currently Q Wilcox income. Torance McClean suggests monitoring the time of the City Secretary to go the cheaper route. Danny Garza as an employee who has that comp time, they never take it off. Bradley Gray needs to know by the next meeting
 - i. Torance McClean motioned to table; Gayle Furlong seconded; passed unanimously
2. Discuss and approve award to selected grant management firm for grant pre-application, application, and implementation services for the (Insert Entity's Name) 2025-2026 Texas Community Development Grant Fund Program as administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. If applicable, the city's designated representative is authorized to negotiate and agree to a final fee on behalf of the City of Murchison.
 - a. Gayle Furlong Traylor & Associates is the cheapest, Public Management has great reviews from Kerns, the actual cost is going to change. Jeff McElfish says they will negotiate a price to get the city's business and will not lose the city of Murchison due to the price. They all have reviews that are great. JM gets comfortable with who we like and 98% success rate. This procedure takes place for every grant that a city gets. You stay with a company until needs aren't met and then move on to a new comfortable. Some the percentage goes up, if you do a bigger project then the cost will go up and none of it comes out of the city pocket. Pricing should be the last thing that is to be considered. We will negotiate where the council and mayor are happy. JM is the only one from any of the 4 companies to show up in person. Gayle Furlong says from a reference says that GW is best grant manager, always completed on time. Love the level of service. JM GW's main job is keeping the city compliant. The state needs things to be perfect, if it's not its serious business. They want it to make it as

easy for the city as possible. They ride a line; but stay on the good side. Q Wilcox will have someone to help him through.

- i. Torance McClean motioned to go with Grant Works, Danny Garza seconded; passes unanimously
- ii. Q Wilcox will negotiate with GrantWorks
- iii. Phase II, public hearing in sixty days. Announces that the city is going after this money. Agree to the match and what the project might be. The city has two years to pay the 2% of the grant. Go after the low-income areas.

New Business:

1. TML Cyber Security Inter Local Agreement
 - a. The rate goes up \$1000 for 2025 to 2026. City currently has Core+ coverage. Would lose it if we don't opt in.
 - i. Danny Garza motioned to opt in to the changes of the Cyber Security Inter Local Agreement, Gayle Furlong seconded; passed unanimously
2. Discuss ordinance for grease trap log requirement for food establishments
 - a. We have been having big issues with the gas station with their new deli renovations. Steven Hartley has gotten a lot of trash and grease in the sewer lines. With what is seen they know they are dumping grease down the drain. Bradley Gray hasn't seen other cities' ordinance; Steven Hartley found a template on TCEQ website. We need to investigate creating one because it is causing the city money and issues.
 - i. Torance McClean motioned to table; Boyd Sauter seconded; passed unanimously
3. Discuss Live Oak Waste cancellation letter and send out RFP to sanitation vendors
 - a. Live oak waste expires December 1, 2024; if we don't want to continue, we need to send a letter to let them know we don't want to renew. We have issues with Live Oak not picking up on Private Roads. They do not let the city know when they are not picking up. The drawback to it is the risk of not getting what we have now through them. If we do not notify them by September 1, 2024, we will automatically renew. Live Oak offers trash clean up, porta potties, and extra bins for events. Rates will remain under new terms if we don't respond to not renew.
 - i. Torance McClean motioned to keep Live Oak; Danny Garza seconded; passed unanimously
4. Discuss action needed to get the Railroad to maintain their ROW
 - a. A phone call to the railroad. Find a contact address to send a certified letter to UP in spring Texas, Lance Goodwin might need to be contacted.
 - i. Danny Garza motioned to call railroad public relations, if we don't have luck then certified letter before reaching out to congressman, Torance McClean seconded; passes unanimously
5. Consider building permit for new home on Highway 31
 - a. Sandy Brown and Michael Kennedy are wanting to build a new home on Hwy 31, double wide modular. The foundation will be behind the circle drive. Do a permit for the house and shop at the same time.
 - i. Danny Garza motioned to accept the building permit; Torance McClean seconded; passed unanimously
6. Discuss updating city hall computer
 - a. Torance McClean motioned to approve mini pc number 3 from office supply, Danny Garza seconded; passes unanimously

7. Discuss resolution for Kenneth Wilcox opening new bank account for parks and recreation (ballfield only)
 - a. Resolution to open bank account for ballfield that the only thing coming out of the account is for ballfield use. New equipment, supplies, food items, improvements. Mowing not included. We did away with mowing contract for purpose of full-time maintenance to do the mowing ourselves
 - i. Gayle Furlong motioned to accept resolution for Kenneth Wilcox opening bank account; Boyd Sauter seconded; passed unanimously
8. Discuss ballfield use (field, concession, bathrooms, etc.)
 - a. Bathrooms have locks; should we leave them open or not. Chandler softball park was broken into and did \$20k worth of damage. If someone really wants in, they will get in concession will not remain open. We do have insurance in the field, once it's all a completely new appraisal will be done. Will cameras be installed? Not without internet. Danny Garza doesn't think we should leave the restroom open, but the field should stay open for use to the community. If someone requests the use of the field they can request to open the bathrooms. Our handbook allows us to hire seasonal or temporary positions. We could do this if the field starts to get used more. After Saturday's event lock it all up and at the September 10 meeting have final decision. Gayle Furlong asks if we have a light fix. For right now we are behind cause contractor had covid.
 - i. Torance McClean motioned to table until next meeting; Gayle Furlong seconded; passes unanimously
9. Discuss filter system for water well #1
 - a. The estimate was roughly \$60k, so far, no other estimates have been found. Went online and asked where we are getting it directly is \$13k. we can run the pipe from well to pump room and route water back. Dump whatever water gets filtered out into the ditch. It's a mineral and able to go into ditch or sewer but the ditch is easier. If we need help tying anything in Hickman would be contracted but that price is in the estimate. CC Lynch invoice is for wastewater. 4 filters because 2 run at a time, when they get full, they switch off and alternate. Well one can run as an emergency, it can run but will have some strange color. The whole project can be done in two weeks if there's no back orders. Bradley Gray currently works and is safe (well 1) it might be a bit rusty looking. Gayle Furlong brings up raising rates again, auditor told her they should be going up every year. The best way to visit that is through a town hall meeting.
 - i. Danny Garza motioned to table the filtration system and address it when needed, Boyd Sauter seconded; passes unanimously
10. Discuss sewer repair involving gas station
 - a. Installing 500 feet of new pipe from behind bank to gas station. Trash is gathering and causing the issues, this time around the issue is the line pumps backwards; from installed backwards. Tried to camera it but could not go past the gas station. It would be cheaper to replace the line rather than to chase the problem.
 - i. Torance McClean motioned to continue to pump and put out for bid; Danny Garza seconds; passes unanimously
11. Discuss wastewater plant annual calibration
 - a. Annually there's a meter that needs to be calibrated. The original quote was for but not necessary as one is annual the other is every three years. What are we doing

now? The flow meter is sufficient, last calibration was April 2023. It must be done once a year. There is another company out of Dallas, but this quote is from the ones that installed the meter originally. Torance McClean: pumping trips has been about 15; right now, we can leave the line then pump less. \$10k roughly for the remaining months of the year. Since it's over \$50k we will need to go out for bids.

- i. Torance McClean motioned to accept the quote from CC Lynch, Gayle Furlong seconded; passes unanimously

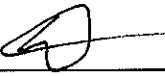
Next meeting September 10, 2024, 6pm

Citizen comments:

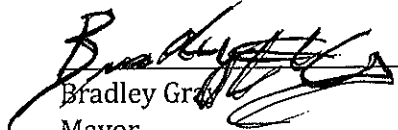
Adjournment

Boyd Sauter motioned to adjourn; Danny Garza seconded; passes unanimously 8:25pm

Approved on: September 10, 2024 Posted on: September 19, 2024



Q Wilcox
City Secretary


Bradley Gray
Mayor

