

2017.5.7 Town Hall

Olive Branch Church

Sunday, May 7, 2017
3:04 PM

Mary Bond, 3040 Community Circle

Frustrated about traffic. Has City considered additional fees or assessments such as impact fees? She suggested placing burden on people building apartments on 2-lane highways.

The City has a number of plans in place to help manage traffic, including Future Land Use Plan, Major Thoroughfare Plan in late Spring 2017, land use studies.

However, many of the roads with the most congestion are the responsibility of the State, including I-24, Thompson Lane, Highway 99, Bradyville Pike (Right-of-Way begins in Fall 2017). The IMPROVE act will create a funding source to address the large backlog of projects.

We have a significant number of apartments. What is being done?

The City enacted a moratorium to allow time to put additional regulations in place regarding the size and location of apartment complexes. These will help better locate and manage the development of new apartment complexes.

What is being done to engage community?

Town Halls, social media, citizen study groups, open mic on the first Thursday of each month and regular neighborhood meetings on planning matters.

It was suggested that the City use utility bills for public notices.

Robert and Karen White

Did groceries taxes get decreased?

Yes, the IMPROVE act reduced taxes on groceries by 20 percent. There is a one penny reduction on the state sales tax side which impacts the General Fund.

Are there term limits on boards and commissions? How do we know when sits become available?

The Council has discussed this over the past several months. The Mayor looks for opportunity to find fresh opportunities to bring in new people. He also tries to balance maintaining the input of seasoned board and commission members.

The Mayor provides the Council with additional time to review applications before an appointment is finalized.

The City also pays attention to diversity in its board and commission appointments.

There are no "term limits." Positions become available when members decide to resign so they can decide to serve another term. Therefore, it is difficult to know precisely when positions become available.

Penny Sanford

What is purpose of red light camera system?

The City has cameras at six intersections. Murfreesboro has a “red-light” running problem.

This safety program has resulted in a reduction in crashes by 50 percent. Tickets are reviewed by a Murfreesboro police officer before a citation is issued. There is a due process element whereby the case will be heard in city court. System prevents having to place officers at intersections so they can be assigned to other duties.

Dick Baines

What is status of Bradyville Pike?

Bradyville Pike design is being finalized. Once TDOT approves and gives Notice to Proceed, the right-of-way acquisition will begin. Construction is estimated to begin in a couple of years. One factor in the delay is that this project was bumped off TDOT’s schedule three years ago.

I have encouraged the City to be more pedestrian friendly.

The City has a bikeway/walkway/greenway master plan. Improvements are planned for Jones Boulevard, Mercury Blvd.

Mark Schlerth

Please begin Citizens Academy again.

Vincent Windrow

What is the status of local partisan elections?

The delivery of city services is not a partisan issue. The City is committed to diversity and equality and is concerned about the divisiveness of partisan elections.

Jim Harris, Marymont Drive

He is involved with the Contributor newspaper. He corresponded with Council members about panhandling. The newspaper has removed itself from the Murfreesboro market. What can a group like this do to allow sidewalk sales?

I have worked with the Contributor and it has helped a number of homeless persons. What is the City of Murfreesboro doing about the homeless population?

The Contributor was not banned by the City. While they cannot sell from street corners for safety reasons, they are able to do so on private property with the owner's permission.

The City Council also approved funding for MTSU to study a campus concept for services to the homeless. MTSU is close to completing the study.

My concern is apartment complexes and the crime.

The City is taking numerous steps to address crime around the campus. It includes direct conversations with MTSU. MPD has made over 200 charges for offences including an arrest for the homicide from Thursday.

The City Council approved an unruly gathering ordinance. The City Manager, Police Chief and Mayor will be meeting with the apartment complex managers. We want to encourage them to enact lease provisions that would mandate an immediate expulsion following a drug or violent related expense.

MTSU, like other colleges, has transitioned from an on-campus model to off-campus regarding student housing.

Dawn Thompson

I have suggestions for getting more citizens involved:

Citizens Task Force on Homelessness. There is a Homeless Alliance. The Alliance, led by Scott Foster, meets monthly. The City also provided funding for an MTSU study on homelessness. She also suggested a Task Force on Violence and Crime. The City continues to work with its strategic partners on crime issues, most notably MTSU and the apartment complex owners in response to the recent shootings.

Steven Shirley

I have been impressed with the professionalism of Murfreesboro police officers. Does the City use foot patrol and/or bike patrol?

Chief Durr spoke to the professionalism and commitment of MPD officers. The City utilizes bike patrol in certain areas and made note of Mr. Shirley's suggestion to use bike/foot patrol in the neighborhood.

What is the plan to extend Joe B Jackson Parkway?

An alignment has been established and will likely be development driven. It is not in the current 5-year CIP.

Can Wi-Fi be extended to Patterson Park?

The City Manager will look into it.

Susan Allen

What is status of cooperation with the County on the landfill?

The Rutherford County Solid Waste/Advisor Steering Council, a Task Force studying solid waste, recently visited Huntsville's Covanta waste to energy facility. The study group continues to examine alternatives.

What is status of city council districts?

The City Charter established a process for council district to be implemented.