



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2015 @ 7:00 PM**  
**CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING**  
**106 S. JACOB STREET CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021**

**CALL TO ORDER, HONORABLE MAYOR H.L. BEAM III:**

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam III called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilmember's Jill Puett, David Kiser, Brian Dalton and Malcolm Parker. Also, present City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Fire Chief Jeff Cash, EDC Director Richard Randall, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy and Police Chief Chad Hawkins. Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

**INVOCATION BY: DR. JOE COLLINS, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:**

Dr. Joe Collins Pastor of First United Methodist Church gave the invocation. Dr. Collins is the new Pastor at FUMC and Mayor Beam and the Councilmember welcomed him to the community.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

On Thursday July 23, at 6 pm Council Member Jill Puett and I attended the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Counties MPO This organization deals with the transportation issues within the three counties. At this meeting, I am happy to say that the four laning of Hwy 279 from Dallas to Bess

Town Road and improvements to several of its intersections are being considered at the State level for implementation.

In addition, the four lanes of Hwy 150 from Shelby to Delview road are being considered at the State level as well.

This is in addition to the improvements and widening of Hwy 279 that have already been approved and funded and will be completed within the next 18 months or so. I can only say that this is a huge accomplishment for Cherryville and will be a big help for these long needed highway improvements.

The Main Street furniture and lamp banners have been installed on Main Street and the design team for the Main Street Program has informed the city that they are in the process of identifying a number of areas where cherry trees will be planted within our city. Also new Christmas decorations for the downtown area have been ordered and will be in place for this holiday season.

On July 31, I gave the welcoming address at the first annual CHS Midnight Madness. This event was well attended and served as the official opening of the 2015 Ironmen football season.

Finally, on August 2 I was honored to speak and present a city council proclamation in support of our Citywide Revival held thru August 6. This revival was held outdoors at Fraley Field for four days and the final night at Starnes Auditorium. Speaking with promoter Terry Moss, he stated that the revival was not as well attended as last years but was still an overall success.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2015 meeting. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL/REVISION:**

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – CITIZENS THAT WISH TO SPEAK MAY DO SO BY COMING TO THE PODIUM AND STATING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BEFORE YOU SPEAK. COMMENTS WILL BE HELD TO 5 MINUTES PER PERSON:**

None

**CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING RE: PEAK RESOURCES, CDBG-ED FUNDS, MR. DAVID HARTIGAN, HARTIGAN MANAGEMENT:**

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to enter into the public hearing. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. David Hartigan approached the podium to give a closeout report on a 2012 Community Block Grant (CDBG) for Economic Development (ED) for Peak Resources.

The project consisted of the construction of a 5,600 linear foot water line and the expenditure of \$300,016.44 in CDBG-ED funds. Other funds expended included \$99,386.50 by the City of Cherryville for water line construction and project administration. Peak Resources invested over \$10.5 million in the construction of a new 65,000 square foot nursing and rehabilitation facility in Cherryville. As a result of the project, 48 new jobs were created.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to exit out of the public hearing and Councilmember Puett seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Beam asked if anyone would like to comment on the public hearing and no one did.

By unanimous consent of the Councilmembers, they were all very pleased with the closeout report. The Mayor and Councilmember's thanked Mr. Hartigan for all he had done in making this a success.

**PRESENTATION OF BILL EDWARDS PARK IMPROVEMENTS, MS. NA'TONYA HOUSER:**

Ms. Na'Tonya Houser approached the podium to share that a group has formed a committee called the "Revitalization of Freedom Project" to make improvements to the Bill Edwards Park, which is located at 103 E. Old Post Road, Cherryville, NC 28021 in the heart of the Historic African American Community. Local citizens affectionately call this section of Cherryville "Freedom". The park is behind the notable John Chavis Middle School.

Ms. Houser explained that the objective of this project is to restore and redevelop this beloved park to its former glory. She shared that once upon a time on any given day you could ride past this area and hear the laughter of children playing on the swings or Merry-Go-Round. You could hear music from the cars, which lined the road way or the chatter from numerous spectators floating through the air, just as local basketball greats like the Griggs, Harris, Johnson, Whisnant, and other legends did on the courts. Even if you could not play ball or did not have any children and just wanted to have a family event such as a reunion or birthday party on the weekend, Freedom Park was the place to be. The Park was not just for the Cherryville residents but all of the surrounding cities (Bessemer City, Shelby, and Lincolnton)

citizens came out to fellowship as well. The time for community harmony is at hand and with the support of this wonderful city, I know it can be achieved.

Ms. Houser shared that in order for this project to come full circle the committee along with other Cherryville residence will band together and create opportunities for fund raising activities to finance this mission. The committee members are optimistic about the outcome of the "Revitalization of Freedom Project" and would greatly appreciate the full support of the City of Cherryville.

The committee is in the planning process for the *Beautification Phase* and will need volunteers to paint and plant shortly.

Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers thanked Ms. Houser for getting this committee together and shared their full support for revitalizing the Bill Edwards Park.

**CONSIDERATION OF WATER & SEWER EASEMENT FOR 214 E. MAIN STREET, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Ben Blackburn explained that an offer has been made on the property located at 214 E. Main Street by Mr. Gary Freeman. Mr. Freeman would like to purchase the building to open an art gallery. Mr. Freeman is an artist and plans on displaying his work as well as offering lessons. Currently the building has no water or sewer and Mr. Freeman would need water and sewer available to add a bathroom when he renovates. Mr. Blackburn shared that Mr. Freeman and Vickie Spurling are requesting an easement across the back of the Chamber of Commerce property to supply the water and sewer.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion for the City of Cherryville to provide the water and sewer to the property located at 214 E. Main Street and waive the fees. The only fees would be the cost of the water and sewer taps and the surveying. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**WATER REPORT/UPDATE, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Blackburn gave an update on the water situation saying that currently we are holding our own and watching the water levels every day. Mayor Beam and the Council were given a copy of the daily readings. Mr. Blackburn shared that if we need to change our status on restrictions the public would be notified as soon as possible.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to revise the agenda and change item thirteen (other business) to item twelve. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Parker asked about the plaque honoring the Moss family for the clock. Mr. Blackburn had the plaque at the meeting and held it up for everyone to see. He shared that the plaque will be placed on the building within days and a ceremony would be held at a later date that will be announced.

**CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION RE: G.S. 143-318.11 (5):**

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to enter into closed session. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

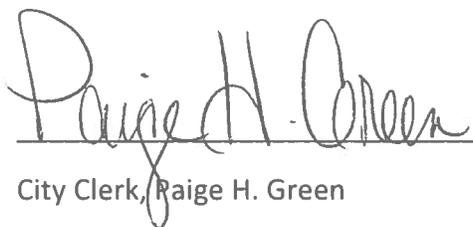
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

Adopted this 14 day of September 2015.

  
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Mayor, H.L. Beam

  
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City Clerk, Raige H. Green



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