



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2015 @ 7:00 PM**

**CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING**

**106 S. JACOB STREET CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021**

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam III called the meeting to order. Councilmember's Jill Puett, David Kiser, Malcolm Parker and Brian Dalton were present. Also, City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Fire Chief Jeff Cash, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy and EDC Director Richard Randall.

Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

**INVOCATION: REV. CINDY SPICER, CONCORD METHODIST CHURCH & BEULAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:**

Rev. Cindy Spicer gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the November 9, 2015 City Council meeting and the November 24, 2015 Work Session meeting. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, CITY CLERK PAIGE GREEN:**

City Clerk Paige Green administered the oath of office to Mayor H.L. Beam III and Councilmember's Malcolm Parker and Brian Dalton.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

On Nov. 16, I was honored to attend the retirement party for Captain Matt Greenway. We congratulate Matt on this occasion and wish him the best in the future.

Later on that evening, I attended the first meeting of the newly appointed doctors' search committee hosted by the chair of the committee Dr. Tommy White.

On Nov. 18, I attended a meeting of the Main Street Committee to discuss developments within our Main Street Program.

In addition, later on that same day I attended and spoke at fire dept. badge pinning ceremony.

On Nov. 20, I was present at the public works department luncheon held here in our community building.

On Thursday Dec. 3, I participated in the Who Ville Christmas on Main Street. A very large crowd was on hand and the event was a huge success.

On Dec. 8, I attended the audit committee meeting and reviewed the 2015 financial audit for the city.

This past Friday I spoke at the annual fire department's Christmas party. Representative Kelly Hastings and wife were in attendance as well as Senator Kathy Harrington and husband.

Finally, this past Saturday I was honored to be a part of our annual Christmas parade.

#### **NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Parker thanked the citizens for having faith in him for the next four years. Councilmember Parker shared that there had been many dark roads but everything is really looking good for the City. Councilmember Parker also shared that he looked forward to working with every citizen.

Councilmember Dalton shared that it is an honor to serve the citizens again in this great town. Councilmember Dalton also shared that it was rough in the beginning. He stated that with the help of everyone, he feels the Mayor and Council have more support now than ever before. Councilmember Dalton shared that it is amazing to see how hard citizens are working. Councilmember Dalton pointed out the Main Street Committees that were present. He commented that so many people were coming together to make our city better. Councilmember Dalton shared that five people cannot do it alone and staff cannot do it alone. It takes everyone. Councilmember Dalton shared that he appreciates everyone's hard work and he is looking forward to the next four years.

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL/REVISIONS:**

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

#### **CONSIDERATION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT RE: GASTON ARTS COUNCIL, KIM GEORGE:**

Ms. Kim George shared with everyone that she wanted to be involved in our community. She shared that she would like to know when we have different event so she can advertise them for us. She recently advertise Who Ville and she wants to bring activities to our community. She

shared that Gaston County has so much to offer and she wants everyone to be aware of what is going on. She will work with Richard Randall at the Chamber of Commerce as events are being planned and she wants to keep in touch with the Little Theater and their events.

City Manager Blackburn shared that he has a letter of support that he will give to Ms. George stating support from Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers.

**RECOGNITION OF CHERRYVILLE FIREFIGHTERS, MAYOR BEAM:**

Mayor Beam recognized three firefighters. Quentin Cash was recognized for receiving the North Carolina State Firemen’s Association Advance Firefighter Certificate. Captain’s Trent Carpenter and Chris Cash were recognized for receiving the North Carolina Chief Officers Executive Development Program.

**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:**

Mr. Harold Word (he also goes by Joey) approached the podium to share that he is a coach for Dixie Youth. He shared that many rumors were around town about recreation. Mr. Word was concerned about the fields and the availability to Dixie Youth. Mr. Word shared that Dixie Youth had put \$31,000 in the dugouts and batting cage. He also shared that the Dixie Youth Program was a feeder program. He just wanted to find out what was in the plans for the fields and how it would affect the Dixie Youth Program.

Councilmember Dalton responded by saying Mr. Word had been misinformed. Councilmember Dalton shared that the fields would always be available to Dixie Youth and Little League. Councilmember Dalton shared that he would like to have tournaments and the money made be put back into the fields.

Mr. Reggie Walker of 7050 Sunshine Meadow Lane approached the podium stating that he was representing the Main Street Program. Mr. Walker spoke in favor of the BB&T building stating that if the building were sold, Cherryville would lose control of what happens to the most important corner on Main Street. Mr. Walker shared that keeping the building would put an anchor on downtown.

Mr. Daniel McBride of 3001 Eaker Drive approached the podium and shared that he would like to see ball tournaments held next year and the money raised put back into the fields.

Mr. Roger Hollifield of 7639 Dallas Cherryville Highway and the Main Street Program shared that the BB&T building will be 100 years old in 2016. Mr. Hollifield spoke about how the building is also a focal point for the City of Cherryville.

Fire Chief Jeff Cash of 215 Carolina Drive approached the podium and shared that the recreation department once had a committee and it worked well.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Blackburn asked Mayor Beam and Councilmembers to consider committee appointments. Mr. Blackburn shared that a Mayor Pro-Tem would need to be decided. Councilmember Parker made a motion that Councilmember Brian Dalton continue to be Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Below are a list of committee appointments for consideration:

<b><u>Appointment</u></b>	<b><u>Current Appointee</u></b>
Mayor Pro-Tem	Council Brian Dalton
ABC Board Liaison	Council Malcolm Parker
Appearance Committee	Council Jill Parker-Puett
Audit Committee	Mayor H L Beam, III Council Brian Dalton Robert D. Austell
Centralina Council of Government	Mayor H L Beam, III Council Brian Dalton (Alt)
Cemetery Committee Liaison	Council David Kiser
Chamber of Commerce Liaison Depot Museum Liaison	Council David Kiser Council Jill Parker-Puett
ElectriCities Board	Mayor H L Beam, III Council Brian Dalton (Alt) City Manager Ben Blackburn
ElectriCities Rate Committee	Council Brian Dalton Council Jill Parker-Puett (Alt)
Fire Department Relief Fund Board	Council David Kiser Council Malcolm Parker
Gaston-Cleveland - Lincoln Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)	Mayor H L Beam, III Council Jill Parker-Puett (Alt)
Recreation Advisory Committee Liaison	Council Brian Dalton
YMCA Liaison	Council Brian Dalton

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to leave the committee appointments as they are. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM CHERRYVILLE NEW YEAR SHOOTERS, GARY DELLINGER:**

Mr. Gary Dellinger approached the podium to ask Mayor Beam and the City Council for permission for the New Year Shooters to shoot on city property. Mr. Dellinger spoke with Mr. Blackburn about a city ballfield that has lights for the final shot for this group. One group of shooters always have their final shot at Rudisill Stadium. It has become a safety issue for both groups to be at the stadium. When the two groups combine, it is so large that it could make for unsafe conditions. Mr. Dellinger explained that his group is looking for an area that has lights.

Mayor Beam asked City Attorney Huffstetler if he had any concerns with liability issues if this group shoots on city property. Mr. Huffstetler shared that the City Clerk had already contacted the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) and their response was in the agenda package. The NCLM responded by saying that group's insurance agent should provide the city with a certificate of General Liability insurance with minimum limits equal to the City's (\$2,000,000). Mr. Blackburn shared that the group could also sign an agreement with the City of Cherryville eliminating them from any liability. Mr. Dellinger said the group would be willing to sign an agreement.

Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers directed staff to work with Mr. Dellinger and his group shooters to find an appropriate place.

**CONSIDERATION OF GASTON COUNTY CAROMONT HEALTH LEASE PROCEEDS, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that on Monday December 7, 2015 he met with all department heads within the city. The meeting was held to determine what areas the City of Cherryville could benefit the most from the Gaston County Township Grant Program. Below is a list of areas that were put together by department heads:

- Old Bank - \$250,000
- Delview waterlines upgrade - \$50,000
- Black, Brown, and White Street waterline upgrades - \$50,000
- Academy and Pink Street waterline upgrades - \$13,000
- Carlton Mill area waterline upgrades - \$45,000
- Mini Park Alley paving - \$50,000
- Old Bank outside upgrade - \$12,000
- Depot/Main property acquisition - \$50,000
- Community Building upgrades - \$95,000
- Electric water meter upgrades - \$350,000

- Police Dept. water problem/paving - \$75,000
- Downtown restrooms - \$100,000
- Park upgrade – Dixie Youth (fence/upgrades) - \$16,000
- Ball field upgrade (fence/safety) - \$2,500
- Edwards Park upgrade - \$25,000
- Heritage Park upgrade - \$25,000
- Benaja Park upgrade - \$3,000
- Pool building repairs - \$15,000
- Water Plant upgrade filter replacement (4) - \$160,000
- Water Plant pumps upgrade (3) - \$240,000
- Water Plant backwash pump - \$75,000
- Water Plant reservoir - \$1,000,000
- Waste Treatment Plant bar screen - \$150,000
- Building upgrade program (downtown – 8 to 10) - \$80,000
- Police Dept. front of building upgrades - \$15,000
- Downtown main street enhancements - \$300,000
- Fire Dept. SCBAs (15) - \$98,000
- Fire Dept. Pagers (35) - \$17,500
- Fire Dept. Mobile Data Terminals (5) - \$15,000
- Fire Dept. Light Trailer (1 – City wide) - \$6,800
- Fire Dept. Hydrant Markers (425) - \$4,000
- Fire Dept. Defibrillators (4) - \$9,000
- City Hall window water proofing - \$3,000

The department heads then made two lists with the most critical projects needed. Below are the two lists that were presented to Mayor Beam and Councilmembers for consideration:

**Project Priorities – A**

1. Bank - \$250,000
2. Water line upgrade - \$148,000 \*Potential \$75,000 match
3. Police Dept. water problem (basement/paving) - \$75,000
4. Park upgrade(s) - \$46,500
- 5.

**TOTAL - \$519,500**

**\*Potential Match - \$75,000**

**TOTAL - \$444,500**

**Project Priorities – B**

1. Water line upgrade - \$148,000 \*Potential \$75,000 match
2. Police Dept. water problem (basement/paving) - \$75,000

3. Park upgrade(s) - \$46,500
4. Community Building upgrades - \$95,000
5. Water Plant upgrades (2 filters, 1 pump) - \$160,000
6. Old Bank (outside cleanup) - \$12,000

**TOTAL - \$536,500**

**\*Potential Match - \$75,000**

**TOTAL - \$461,500**

Councilmember Dalton shared that at this time he could vote for Project B list but not for Project A. Councilmember Dalton shared the cost of the BB&T building is unknown and the City of Cherryville is not financially stable enough to take on such a project.

Mayor Beam shared that he does not agree with Councilmember Dalton. Mayor Beam shared that the Main Street Program has made great progress and the volunteers have worked very hard. Mayor Beam shared that he is not for selling the bank building.

Councilmember Puett shared that she is not for selling the bank building.

Councilmember Kiser shared that he agrees with Councilmember Dalton and would vote for Project B.

Councilmember Parker does not want to give the bank building away. He does not want to sale the building. Councilmember Parker shared that the city would have debt coming off the books and we all need to improve the city as much as we can.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to approve Project B. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion. Mayor Beam asked for a vote and Councilmembers Dalton and Kiser voted for Project B and Councilmember Puett and Parker voted against Project B.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to approve Project A contingent that the funds can be used in other areas if not used on the bank building. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and Mayor Beam asked for a vote. Councilmembers Parker and Puett voted for Project A and Councilmembers Dalton and Kiser voted against Project A. Mayor Beam had to break the tie with a vote and voted for Project A.

City Manager Blackburn will prepare a letter along with the information about each project and submit it to the County Commissioners by the deadline of December 31, 2015.

**CONSIDERATION OF CEMETERY PRICE INCREASES, CITY CLERK PAIGE GREEN & BRANDON ABERNATHY:**

City Clerk Paige Green shared with Mayor Beam and the Council that a copy of the current cemetery fees were in their agendas. Mrs. Green shared that the current contracted gravedigger will have a price increase beginning January 1, 2016. Mrs. Green asked Mayor Beam and the Council if they wanted to increase any of the prices effective January 1, 2016.

Mrs. Green shared that the prices in the center of the page for graves opened on a holiday are charges from Greene & Son's that the city passes on. Also, the charges for funerals that are scheduled to begin later than 4:00 pm for \$250.00, and later than 5:00 pm charges are double are just passed on. Mrs. Green also shared that the youth grave opening was not a fee that was ever charged. The opening and closing fees are based primarily on baby grave fees and adult grave fees.

Mr. Blackburn shared that Council could just pass along the increase that Greene and Sons will make effective January 1, 2016. Councilmember Parker made a motion to pass along the fee increases that Greene and Sons has made and delete the youth grave fee for opening and closing. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to change the purchase price of a plot for an outside residence from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00, to change the price of a cremation plot in the cremation section to an outside residence from \$400.00 to \$600.00. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Kiser shared that if prices were going to increase now was the time. The following prices were updated: **(The changes are in red)**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016**

PURCHASE PRICE FOR ALL GRAVE SPACES –	Inside Residence	\$600.00
	Outside Residence	<del>\$750.00</del> TO <b>\$1,000.00</b>
FEES FOR GRAVE OPENING AND CLOSINGS: (CHARGES PRIOR TO INTERMENT)		
	Cremation Grave Opening	\$300.00
	Baby Grave Opening	\$250.00
	<del>Youth Grave Opening</del>	<del>\$400.00 (Delete Completely)</del>
	Adult Grave Opening	\$550.00
MAINTENANCE FEE FOR INSIDE CITY RESIDENCE		\$0.00
MAINTENANCE FEE FOR OUTSIDE CITY RESIDENCE		\$700.00

AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$315.00 WILL BE CHARGED TO HAVE A GRAVE OPENED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS – NEW YEARS DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY, AND THANKSGIVING. **CHANGE TO \$350.00.**

WE DO NOT PERFORM BURIALS ON EASTER SUNDAY OR CHRISTMAS DAY.

FUNERALS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN LATER THAN 4:00 PM, WILL INCUR AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF \$250.00. **FUNERALS THAT BEGIN LATER THAN 5:00 PM WILL BE DOUBLE REGULAR PRICE.**

**ADOPTED MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

CREMATION REMAINS: (2 x 2 space)	Inside Residence	\$300.00
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Outside Residence

~~\$400.00~~ TO \$600.00

Maintenance fee only for outside residence for cremation remains: (Adopted 12/09/2013) \$300.00

ALL MARKERS FOR CREMATION REMAINS MUST BE A FLAT 2 x 2 AND MATCH.

**BENCHES:**

Customers will purchase bench.

Space for bench in the City Cemetery will be

\$400.00

City will choose where benches can be placed.

If a bench is moved for any reason, the City of Cherryville will assume the benches property and resale the space.

**CONSIDERATION FOR THE DECEMBER 29, 2015 WORK SESSION, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Blackburn asked Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers to consider not having a December work session. Mr. Blackburn shared that with the holidays this time of the year is generally slow and nothing is on the agenda for a work session. Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers all agreed. There will not be a December work session.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Parker asked the Police Chief who was responsible for sweeping up the street after a car accident. Was it the responsibility of the wrecker service or the police department? Chief Hawkins responded by saying that the responsibility falls on the wrecker service because they are paid to do the job. Chief Hawkins stated that he would make sure everyone was clear on that.

Councilmember Dalton asked that a Resolution be prepared for the Cherryville High School Cheerleaders at the January 2016 meeting for winning the State Championship in Raleigh.

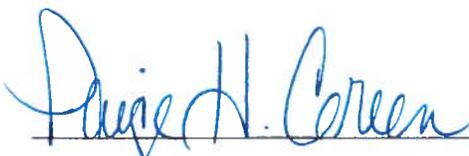
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember's Parker and Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Adopted this 11 day of January 2016.



H.L. Beam, Mayor



Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

(SEAL)

