

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the City Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Council Members Malcolm Parker, Jill Puett, David Kiser and Brian Dalton. Also present was City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Finance Director Dixie Wall, Police Chief Chad Hawkins, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Fire Chief Jeff Cash, and EDC Director Richard Randall. City Clerk Paige Green was not present due to school.

Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

The invocation was given by Rev. Leonard Bumgardner and it was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

The Honorable Mayor Beam called the meeting to order welcoming everyone and commented on the following:

The City Public Works Department has been quite active lately, approximately 12 tons of asphalt has been put down, trees and shrubbery around City Hall have been trimmed, interior lighting has been repaired or replaced in the community building and new signs installed at the intersection of Old Post Rd. and Mary's Grove Rd. that had been destroyed.

City staff is in the process of preliminary planning on the proposed water line extension on Delview Rd. This project, when completed, should result in fewer incidents of "dingy" water in that area of our City.

The City was informed a few weeks ago that Smart Assett, a technology company based out of New York has named Cherryville as the 3rd most affordable City to live in North Carolina, The only other City in proximity to be named was Kings Mountain that came in with a ranking of #8. Last week's Eagle has a very good article explaining how Cherryville was selected for this ranking.

Over the past several weekend I am pleased to see the progress being made on the Kenwood Rotary Park site. Mr. Tyler Pruett, Eagle Scout candidate and other scouts from Troop 323 as well as Rotarians have almost completed the picnic shelter and work will soon commence on new playground equipment. This will be a fine upgrade to this park. Several local citizens have shown an interest to "adopt a park" for other park improvements.

I attended the local Small Town Main Street (STMS) meeting last Thursday at the Parkway House. Plans on construction of the information kiosk on the Chamber of Commerce lawn is underway as well as exploring options on the outdoor furniture for the Main Street area. I will also be attending the STMS Conference to be held in Morganton next month along with many of the STMS Committee Members.

And finally the sidewalk cleaning of Main Street has been completed and I have received many positive comments on this project as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Beam and the Council Members had a copy of the previous City Council meeting minutes, the previous Work Session meeting minutes and the previous Closed Session minutes. Council Member Kiser made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes as written. Council Member Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Mr. Rick Hudson of 207 Dale Drive approached the podium and explained that he had spoken with Council Member Parker about putting a “No Thru Truck” sign on Dale Drive. Mr. Hudson shared that trucks are turning onto Dale Drive off of Hwy. 150 to get to the lower dock of the old Carolina Freight property. Mr. Hudson asked Mayor Beam and the Council to consider putting a sign up on Dale Dr. as well as Ramsey Street to stop the trucks.

Mr. Louie Fowler of 106 S. Elm Street approached the podium and asked if the Small Town Main Street Committee had a decoration design committee. Mr. Fowler shared that the committee should consider a Christmas decoration design committee.

CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF HANDICAP PARKING AT THE 300 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET – BEN BLACKBURN & BRANDON ABERNATHY:

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that the survey for a handicap parking space on Main Street has been completed. This handicap parking space was requested by Dr. Tom White. The location for one space is in the mini park.

Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy shared that the big planter that once sat on the sidewalk beside the front of the building located at 301 E. Main Street has been remove by the Small Town Main Street Committee. Mr. Abernathy recommended this area as being the best place for the handicap parking space.

Council Member Dalton made a motion to put a handicap parking space in the mini park. Council Member Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF A “NO THRU TRUCKS” SIGN ON DALE DRIVE AND RAMSEY STREET – BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that he understood Mr. Rick Hudson’s concern about the trucks on Dale Dr.

Council Member Parker made a motion to approved erecting a “No Thru Truck” sign on Dale Drive as well as Ramsey Street. Council Member Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 9TH, 2015 RE: REZONING CHANGE FROM B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS) TO R-15 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 305 N. CHERRY STREET. (GASTON COUNTY PID #129271) – BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Blackburn shared that Ms. Pat Beam has requested the property located at 305 N. Cherry Street be rezoned from B-3 to R-15. Mr. Blackburn shared that the request will go before the Planning Board that will meet on February 16, 2015. The Planning Board will make a recommendation to the City Council on this rezoning. Mr. Blackburn asked Mayor Beam and Council to consider the next City Council meeting on March 9th, 2015 to set a Public Hearing for this rezoning. Council Member Kiser made a motion to set the Public Hearing for March 9th. Council Member Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

UPDATE ON FINANCIAL AGREEMENT RE: USDA LOAN APPLICATION – BEN BLACKBURN:

Mr. Blackburn shared that a loan between the USDA and the City of Cherryville for the Cherryville Fire Department Facility is being brought before Mayor Beam and the Council because the UDSA realized that their file was incomplete. Mr. Blackburn shared that the City of Cherryville has never been late on a payment or defaulted on a payment. Money was to be set aside in the loan agreement in the amount of 10% each year until one year’s payment had been accrued in a special account. The City was not aware of this agreement and the USDA officials were not aware of this until a recent audit was conducted. Mr. Blackburn went on to say that Council Member Parker recommended that we contact Congressman Patrick McHenry’s office for his assistance with this. The USDA has agreed that the City of Cherryville can start this process in the 2015/2016 budget. Council Member Dalton asked what the interest rate is on the loan. The interest rate is 4.25%.

UPDATE ON TRAFFIC STUDY ON WEST ACADEMY STREET – POLICE CHIEF CHAD HAWKINS:

Police Chief Hawkins gave an update on the study that his department did on W. Academy Street. Chief Hawkins was asked to do a speed study because of recent complaints of speeders on that road. His study resulted in the following:

Posted speed limit:	45 MPH
Total vehicles observed:	326
Average speed:	37 MPH
Highest speed:	57 (Only one)
Lowest speed:	24 MPH
Total vehicles over the speed limit:	18 (All but one was less than 5 MPH over the speed limit)

Days of the week and hours varied.

Chief Hawkins recommended that the speed limit be reduced to 35 MPH. Council Member Dalton shared that trucks are stopped on Academy Street and there is very little room to load and unload the

trucks. There was discussion about how many signs are currently posting the speed limit and it was recommended that more be posted.

Council Member Dalton made a motion to reduce the speed limit on W. Academy Street from Styers Street to Paul H. Beam Rd. to 35 MPH. Council Member Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF TOWN HALL DAY ON MARCH 18, 2015 – BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that the 2015 Town Hall Day will be held on Wednesday March 18, 2015 at the Local Government Federal Credit Union Center in Raleigh. He shared that the deadline to register was March 11th, 2015. Mayor Beam shared that he will be attending the Small Town Main Street Conference along with others on the committee on that same day.

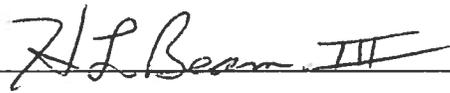
OTHER BUSINESS:

Police Chief Chad Hawkins shared that two of his officers, Dell Garren and Brandon Parker both lost their fathers on February 9, 2015. He asked that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

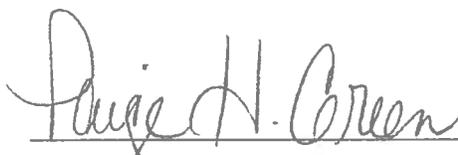
ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Beam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Kiser made a motion and Council Member Puett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Adopted this 9th day of March, 2015.



Mayor, H.L. Beam III



City Clerk Paige H. Green

