

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 11, 2013 @ 7:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present at the meeting was Mayor Robert Austell, Councilmember's David Kiser, Brian Dalton, Rick Campbell and Malcolm Parker. Staff that was present City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Interim Police Chief Cam Jenks, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, EDC Director Richard Randall, and Fire Chief Jeff Cash. Michael Powell from the Cherryville Eagle was present also.

Mayor Austell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He welcomed everyone and asked Rev. Leonard Bumgardner to say a prayer and also asked everyone to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Austell opened the meeting by saying he was proud of the new staff that had been put in position for the City of Cherryville. Mayor Austell started with the new City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Finance office manager Lessa Workman, and the new Police Chief Chad Hawkins. Mayor Austell was glad to see the new police chief and Captain Cam Jenks working closely together. He went on to say that good things were happening for the City.

Mayor Austell shared that he and Richard Randall met with Fleetnet and was given some good news from that company. They will be looking for additional jobs within this business.

Modern Polymers is also looking to expand into a new building within the city. The City of Cherryville is working with them as much as possible.

Carolina Care is looking to expand.

Peak Resources is moving along and will be opening soon.

Mayor Austell said that five different companies are looking at rural grants for help.

Richard Randall shared that a company from New Jersey would be opening in the building located at 100 Sweettree Street.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

No citizens spoke at this meeting.

ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Austell addressed minutes from the previous City Council meeting, the previous Work Session meeting and the Closed Session meeting. Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve all the minutes and complimented Madam Clerk on doing such a terrific job. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ITEM #2 AGENDA APPROVAL/REVISIONS:

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

ITEM #3 PREVIOUS WORK SESSION VOTING UPDATES:

Mayor Austell shared that at the previous Work Session the Council voted to place two new board members on the Chamber Board. Those two new members are John Rudisall and Alan Eaker.

Another item that was discussed and voted on was an offer from the Gaston County Police Department. The Council voted to go into closed session to discuss this matter. The Gaston County Police made Cherryville another offer for policing. After coming out of closed session, Councilmember Dalton made a motion to move forward with the Gaston County Police and the motion did not carry.

ITEM #4 AUDIT REPORT: DARRELL KELLER

Darrell Keller the City's auditor approached the podium to give the annual audit report. Mr. Keller went over the finances as of 2011, 2012 and the current year 2013 through February. He shared that we have not picked up any new debt and we have put an audit committee in place. Mr. Keller was excited about both of these. Mr. Keller spoke of debt that would be paid off this year in June and he also reported the following:

AUDIT REPORT MARCH 2013

| | CASH | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | 2012 | 2/28/2013 2013 | 2011 |
| GENERAL FUND | 144,609.00 | 632,890.00 | 73,545.00 |
| ELECTRIC FUND | 65,563.00 | 671,905.00 | 29,203.00 |
| WA/SW FUND | -5,169.00 | 615,808.00 | -42,070.00 |
| GRANT | -5,361.00 | -10,031.00 | -4,042.00 |
| C'VILLE FEDERAL | <u>30,000.00</u> | | |
| TOTALS | <u>229,642.00</u> | <u>1,909,572.00</u> | <u>56,636.00</u> |
| | CASH MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT | | |
| GENERAL FUND | 41,085.00 | 41,098.00 | 256,060.00 |
| ELECTRIC FUND | 36,060 | 36,060.00 | 6,743.00 |
| WA/SW FUND | <u>135</u> | <u>135</u> | <u>135</u> |
| CASH PER AUDIT | | 1,986,865.00 | |
| | 324,760.00 | | 3,325.60 |
| | PREPAID EXPENDITURES | | |
| GENERAL FUND | 111,924.00 | | |
| ELECTRIC FUND | 6,973.00 | | |

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| W/ SW FUND | <u>19,251.00</u> |
| | 138,148.00 |

DEBT

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2,666,850.00 | 2,901,305.00 |
| ELECTRIC FUND | 65,000.00 | 72,222.00 |
| W/ SW FUND | 1,198,416.00 | 1,505,369.00 |
| DECREASE OF | 548,630.00 | |
| 2013 DECREASE | 440,477.00 | |

NO NEW DEBT IN 2012 AND THE WATER SEWER BOND WILL BE PAID IN FULL ON 6/03/2013

GENERAL FUND BALANCE

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| BEGINNING OF YEAR | 627,630.00 |
| END OF YEAR | <u>522,947.00</u> |
| DECREASE | -104,683.00 |

UNEXPECTED EMPLOYEE MOVES

APPROXIMATELY 40% OF DECREASE IS RELATED TO SEVERANCE & VACATION PAY FOR EMPLOYEES RESIGNING, BEING LAID OFF, OR BEING TERMINATED.

ELECTRIC FUND BALANCE

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CAP ASSETS | 1,313,653.00 | 1,425,826.00 |
| RATE STABILIZATION | 35,533.00 | 35,513.00 |
| UNRESTRICTED | <u>637,779.00</u> | <u>773,371.00</u> |
| | 1,986,965.00 | 2,234,710.00 |

NO GRANTS IN 2012

TRANSFER

UP 14,300.00

RATE INCREASE 5%

WATER/SEWER FUND BALANCE

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CAP ASSETS | 11,903,437.00 | 11,936,552.00 |
| UNRESTRICTED | <u>129,908.00</u> | <u>-80,198.00</u> |
| | 12,033,345.00 | 11,856,354.00 |

ITEM #5 CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERSHIP WITH THE GASTON REGIONAL CHAMBER: MAYOR AUSTELL

Mayor Austell shared that the Gaston Regional Chamber had sent the City of Cherryville an invoice to be a member. The fee is \$3,000.00. The Economic Development Divisions helps to market resources for recruiting new business. They assist in determining what work force related issues the business community faces, and they encourage job growth and entrepreneurship by sponsoring "Project Launch."

Councilmember Dalton was not for spending \$3,000.00 to join and the rest of the Council agreed.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to not participate and it was seconded by Councilmember Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

ITEM #6 OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Dalton asked where we were with improving our sidewalks. Brandon approached the podium to give an update. We are still waiting on the state to give us approval. All the plans have been turned over to them and it has been over a year.

Mayor Austell shared that the Lake Norman RPO had already made a decision to roll the two plans into one. Mayor Austell will be coming off as chairman of the committee and Alan Fraley will be going on as a member.

Councilmember Kiser asked for an update on the inmates. Mr. Blackburn shared an update with the council sharing that Brandon and Jeff had sent over half the employee's at public works for training. We will have inmates in our community soon. Mr. Blackburn told citizens not to be alarmed when they saw inmates in neighborhoods. The inmates will be very beneficial to our community. No employees will be laid off, if anything we will have extra help in the city for only a dollar a day.

City Manager Ben Blackburn also shared that on March 27, 2013 Town Hall Day will be held in Raleigh. Mayor Austell, Councilmember Kiser and Ben will be attending this.

Ben commended Interim Police Chief Cam Jenks and the rest of the police department for all the hard work they have put into sprucing up the police department. The city has provided the paint and the guys are volunteering their time and labor to paint the police department and do some outside work to give it a fresh look.

Ben also mentioned the Small Town meetings are going well. Richard Randall shared that next month will be a big meeting on April 4th and a full market report will be given.

Councilmember Campbell shared that little league needed support from the community. Little league will be holding the brick sale this year. The cost of the bricks is \$25.00 to \$35.00. Applications can be picked up at the fire department or Councilmember Campbell's house. Little league gets to keep all the money raised. They have a lot of spaces left for bricks.

Rodney Bowyer of 305 Mark Street asked about the screening that was put on the fields and wanted to know if it was toxic. Jeff said that it had been looked into and it was not toxic. Mayor Austell asked if we had that in writing and the answer is yes.

Mayor Austell shared that a meeting has been set with Sharon Edmundson about the embezzlement and where we are at this point.

Mayor Austell asked Cam to thank the police officers for their work at the police department.

ITEM # 10 ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember's Campbell and Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2013.



City Clerk, Paige Green



Mayor, Robert Austell

