

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY MAY 12, 2014 @ 7:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING

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

Pastor Tom Hartis of the First Nazarene Church gave the invocation and it was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Beam shared an e-mail that he received from the North Carolina League of Municipalities dated May 5th. It read as follows: "Today the US Supreme Court issued a ruling in an important case regarding the constitutionality of prayer at town board meetings. The Court held by a 5-4 margin that the town's practice of inviting clergy from local congregations to give an opening prayer at board meetings did not violate the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. Prayer that is solemn and respectful in tone that invites lawmakers to reflect upon shared ideals and common ends before they embark on the fractious business of governing serves that legitimate function. So long as the town maintains a policy of nondiscrimination, the Constitution does not require it to search beyond its borders for non-Christian prayer givers in an effort to achieve religious balancing."

"City Manager Blackburn, Councilmember Parker, EDC Director Richard Randall, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy and I met with Mr. Nathan Kirby, a developer specializing in building reuse, particularly historic preservation as well as developing sound stages and sets for the movie industry. Mr. Kirby's interest in Cherryville was twofold 1. The City BB&T building and 2. Industrial sites such as the former Carolina Freight location, Travis Knits buildings and others. Mr. Kirby was most impressed with the loading docks at the former Carolina Freight site. He is asking his film production team to visit and inspect the site for possible use as a sound stage or film set. Hopefully we will hear something soon from Mr. Kirby regarding both the BB&T building and Carolina Freight dock site."

"I was notified by City Manager Blackburn that former employee LuAndra McNeely had accepted a position at her former employer and had resigned her position with our City. Several applications are being reviewed and her former position will soon be filled."

"In other events, I gave the opening address for the 2014 season of the Cherryville Little League Program."

“I attended both days of the Cherryville Cherry Blossom Festival and am happy to report that it was a huge success again this year. I visited as many of the vendors as possible and thanked them for their support of the festival.”

“On May 1, I gave a welcome speech at the National Day of Prayer and later that day I attended and spoke at the retirement party for Detective Buddy Gilbert. Current Cherryville Police Officer Sergeant Brian Doolittle has been transferred in that slot.”

“After being informed that former finance director Bonny Alexander had filed for bankruptcy protection, I instructed City Manager Blackburn to see if this action would have any effect on the City’s restitution as ordered by the Court. We were happy to learn that this in fact will not affect her payments to the City. In fact, we have been notified that the City will receive a first check in the amount of \$12,214.30 within this week. Good news for our City.”

“The City received good news from the organization of Safewise with the announcement of our City being ranked in the top 50 safest cities in NC. Out of the top 50, Cherryville was ranked 24th. We are very proud of this accomplishment.”

“We received news from Fleetnet America announcing their intent to hire an additional 75 employees by the end of this summer. All positions will be located in the recently remodeled headquarters in the City’s Sunbeam Industrial Park.”

“And Finally, I attended and gave a welcoming address at the Cherryville Relay-For-Life event on Saturday May 3rd. This event was well attended and a record amount of money was raised this year and exceeded last year’s revenue.”

“I urge all citizens to keep Public Works Sanitation/Street Superintendent Doug Black in your thoughts and prayers. Doug has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and is expected to have surgery in early June.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as written. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

AGENDA APPROVAL/REVISIONS:

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

RECOGNITION OF JOHN CHAVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH, BRYAN DENTON, PRINCIPAL OF JCMS:

Principal of John Chavis Middle School, Bryan Denton, was present to recognize students of the month for February, March and April. They were as follows:

JOHN CHAVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

February:

6th grade: Noah Ingle, Gracie Hester, Pierston Elliott
7th grade: Jace Brittain, Justin Lemons, Addison Beam
8th grade: Tristian Hedgepeth, Anna Sparks, Steffany Cruz
Teacher: Allison Trudnak

March:

6th grade: Allison Kiser, Madison Hedgepeth, Abigail Shook
7th grade: Ariana Escobar, Natalie Clayton, Jessica Drewery
8th grade: Raegan Hoyle, Stephen Maher, Camryn Bess
Teacher: Susan Wagoner

April:

6th grade: Emma Rayfield, Breanna Carlson, Parker Beam
7th grade: Matthew Williams, Shamyiah Jefferies, Abbey Greenway
8th grade: Jordan Shelton, Jessica Turney, Hannah Cooke
Teacher: Traci Melton

CONSIDERATION OF EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT, TYLER PRUETT TROOP 323:

Tyler Pruett of Scout Troop 323 addressed the Mayor and Council with a project he is wanting to do for his Eagle Award. Tyler has plans to build a 20 X 24 picnic shelter at Kenwood Park. The existing play structure will be removed and the picnic shelter will be built on the exiting concrete pad and a sidewalk will be added with a handicap parking so that all citizens will have access to the structure. The cost of this project will be \$8,000.

The City plans on buying some picnic table to go under the new picnic shelter.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

None.

RECOGNITION OF FIREFIGHTER ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES, MAYOR BEAM:

Mayor Beam shared the following:

In order to formally recognize the advanced level of competence of firefighters directly or indirectly serving the governmental units within the State of North Carolina, to foster increased interest in formal college education and professional fire protection programs, and to attract highly qualified individuals into a fire and

rescue department, the North Carolina State Firemen's Association has established a voluntary FIREFIGHTER'S ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM. Approved and implemented by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association Board of Directors in 2004, this completely voluntary program is an innovative method by which dedicated firefighters may receive statewide recognition for education, professional training, and on-the-job experience. The State Firemen's Association makes these awards available under the authority granted through North Carolina General Statutes for firefighters who are members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

Two of our firefighters have been awarded the NCSFA Advance Professional Certificate. They have reached this pinnacle by having over 1130 documented training hours and have twenty plus years of active fire department service, this through education, training, and experience.

Chris "Pudge" Cash – Full-Time Driver/Engineer

Shane Calaway – Part-Time Fill-in Driver/Engineer

Mayor Beam presented Shane Calaway and Chris Cash with their certificates.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AN ABC LAW ENFORCEMENT, CHIEF CHAD HAWKINS:

Chief Chad Hawkins addressed the Mayor and Council sharing with them that he would like to designate Officer Erin Williams as the ABC Enforcement Officer. Chief Hawkins explained that the North Carolina General Statute 18B-904(f) allows the governing body of a City to designate an official of the City to make recommendations to the ABC Commission concerning the suitability of a person or of a location to receive an ABC permit. This statute allows the designated City official to testify at contested hearings in which the suitability of a person or of a location to receive an ABC permit is an issue. A resolution designating Officer Williams was given to Mayor Beam and the Council for consideration. Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve the resolution and Officer Williams as the designated Law Enforcement Officer. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

RECOGNITION OF ADVANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATES, CHIEF CHAD HAWKINS:

Police Chief Chad Hawkins addressed Mayor Beam and the Council explaining to them that he had several officers that he would like to recognize for achieving their Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates. Chief Hawkins shared that this was the highest award that is given in law enforcement. The NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission set forth a certain amount of training and education hours required to achieve the Advance Law Enforcement Certificate. There is a general

certification, and immediate certification and advanced. There are three that just recently met the requirements and many more to come. Chief Hawkins recognized Officer Wes Bennett, Sergeant Brian Doolittle, and Captain Cam Jenks.

CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CLOSING OF SWEETREE STREET (PORTION), BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor and Council asking them to consider setting a public hearing for the closing of Sweetree Street. The portion between Academy Street and Carroll Street. The City has been contacted by Modern Polymers who is interested in buying property adjacent to them to extend their business. City official have met with the owners of Modern Polymers and would like to help them extend their company.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to set a public a public hearing on June 9, 2014 @ 7:00 pm. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED FY 2014-2015 BUDGET, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed that Mayor and Council and asked them to consider setting a public hearing for June 9, 2014 for the FY 2014-2015 budget. Councilmember Dalton made a motion to approve the public hearing for June 9, 2014 @ 7:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Parker. Vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO SET SPECIAL MEETING, (MAY WORK SESSION), BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor and Council and asked them to consider changing the work session/budget meeting that had been planned for May 28, 2014 @ 3:00 pm to May 20, 2014 @ 3:00. Due to being short staffed in the utility office.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that some cemetery concerns have been brought to his attention and he and staff will be addressing this concerns.

Councilmember Puett also commented that some of the graves need some special attention. When the Legion puts the flags out sometimes they have a hard time finding some of the graves because grass has grown over them. This will be addressed.

Councilmember Parker wanted to congratulate the Cherryville Ironmen Baseball team on their conference win. He also shared that the City should send Murray Beam a letter thanking him for the work his has done on installing the sidewalk on Church Street between Pink and Hoyle. Everyone in the community is talking about it and how good it looks. Councilmember Parker also commented that work

is being done on the park with the swings. City Manager Blackburn shared that parts have been ordered to make more repairs.

Mayor Beam commented on and shared that the City should also send a letter to Shane and Jodie Scates for the work they have done to their business on Main Street at the old Carlton site. The Scates have moved their electrical business into the building and have worked very hard on the landscaping. It looks great coming into Cherryville.

Councilmember Dalton shared that he would like to commend the public works department on how well they took care of every situation that came up with the Cherry Blossom. Councilmember Dalton said that he heard nothing but compliments on how well issues were addressed.

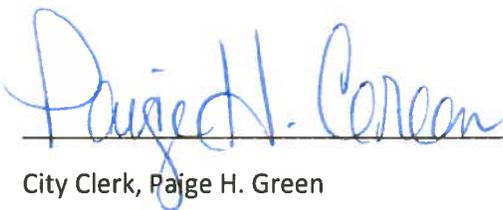
ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Beam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Kiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Councilmember Parker. Vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Adopted this the 9th day of JUNE, 2014.



Mayor, H.L. Beam



City Clerk, Paige H. Green

(SEAL)

