

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2013 @ 7:00 PM  
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present at the meeting, Honorable Mayor Robert Austell, Councilmembers Rick Campbell, David Kiser, Malcolm Parker, and Brian Dalton. City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Police Chief Chad Hawkins, Finance Director Dixie Wall, and Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy. Also present Mayor elect H.L. Beam and Councilmember elect Jill Parker.

The Honorable Mayor Robert Austell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Mayor Austell welcomed everyone to the meeting and called on Pastor Tom Hartis of the First Nazarene Church for invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Austell shared that the Mayor's Comments would be moved to item number four because he has more comment to make than normal.

Mayor Austell thanked former Mayor Jack Davis for attending the meeting as well as Mayor elect H.L. Beam and Councilmember elect Jill Puett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Austell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous City Council Meeting and previous Work Session Meeting. Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as written. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

AGENDA APPROVAL/REVISIONS:

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

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

Below are a list of the JCMS Students that were students of the month for September and October. Mr. Denton recognized the students that attended the meeting. They were Tristan Centeno, Maddie Daggerhart, and Jacob Parris. Mayor Austell and the Councilmembers thanked Mr. Denton and the students.

**JCMS STUDENTS/TEACHERS OF THE MONTH  
FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2013**

**SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER**

6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

NYKERA BUSH

JULIANA VOLLMER

MADISON GARREN

HALLIE HOLT

TRISTAN CENTENO

KAITLYN HUTCHINSON

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

EMILY TORRES

JACOB PARRIS

ALICIA DOVER

MADDIE DAGGERHART

KAYLA HILL

LOGAN BARRETT

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

JACOB ROGERS

HANNAH SHOOK

DAVONTA MARTIN

SARA MAUNEY

JESSE BLAUVELT

SOPHIA CARTER

TEACHERS:

DONNIE ALEXANDER

TRISTA DYE

PRESENTATION OF FY 2012-2013 AUDIT REPORT:

Mayor Austell called on Mr. Rob Collis with Collis and Associates for the 2012-2013 Audit Report. Mr. Collis approached the bench and gave an update thanking staff members for their time and support. He commented that everything he asked for he received and it always helps to have good staff. Mr. Collis shared that the report is a fair presentation of the transactions that took place during the year. He also shared the City has \$1,082,000 in unrestricted cash, and last year we had \$325,000. That is an increase of \$757,000 from last year. Some of these funds came

from the Black Dot rental agreement of \$455,000 and \$150,000 from insurance recovery for pass losses. The other amount came from getting revenue in the doors and cutting spending.

Mayor Austell stated that the amount also came from a full Council that set a budget and a staff that bought into the budget and worked it. He thanked the Council and staff for their hard work.

Mr. Collis also addressed the unrestricted funds in the general fund. In June 2012 we had a deficit of \$15,000. This fund represents what is available for the Council to re-budget in the next year. This year it is a positive \$352,000 for an improvement of \$367,000. This means we are at 8.6% of the 2013-2014 budget for the general fund. We need to be at 8%, but we are at 8.6%. Mr. Collis stated that the Local Government Commission would look at that as a healthy place to be and encourage us to continue doing what we are doing. Mr. Collis also commented on the general fund revenues stating they were up over \$233,000 over the past year and most of that has to do with grant money that the city has received. The operating income in the electric increased from a loss of \$40,000 the previous year to an income of \$38,000 this year. The operating income for the water sewer fund went down about \$16,000. The long term debt balance decreased \$442,000. Mr. Collis shared that the city has made significant progress in restoring financial health in the City. He shared that everything financially has improved.

Mayor Austell shared that the City does need to carry a healthy fund balance for major disasters that could happen. He recalled that Hugo and a big ice storm cost the city a lot to recover.

Councilmember Malcolm Parker thanked Mr. Collis for the job he had done and the reports he had prepared.

Councilmember Dalton stated that when he started looking at the financial reports he could tell that staff has done a great job. He stated that the Council simply puts the budget into place but it's the staff that has fulfilled the budget. Councilmembers Dalton shared that the citizens of Cherryville need to be very proud of staff for the job they have done.

#### MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Austell also agreed with Councilmember Dalton and stated, "In conjunction with that prior to vacating the chair next month I won't be taking as long under the Mayor's Comments but I do plan to make some final comments as it relates to not what has happened in the last ten years but to what has happened in the past two. I don't think the public understands what has been accomplished in this community in the last two years. They've had negatives in front of them to the point that you couldn't see what was taking place. This Council has accomplished more than they are aware of. I am going to give them a sheet next month and it is going to show them exactly what has been accomplished in the last two years with this Council and it is great. Tonight I am going to make a report, a final report and I hope it's the last report necessary on the wrong doings in the City of Cherryville. I have been encouraged by family, encouraged by friends, encouraged by staff, encouraged by a number of citizens and especially just recently by

some people that ran for office. I have been told that there are so many miss conceptions out there, so many untruths, just false perceptions in place and what's happened here has been a terrible thing. But you need to understand what happened, because what is being communicated in a lot of places is not what happened. I think the general public for the most part thinks the FBI came in here and knocked down the doors at City Hall, took all the records and found all of this. That's the farthest thing from the truth. In my report for tonight, I don't know if we are going need a sandwich or we are going to need Paige to serve hors d'oeuvres but I am going to make this a matter of record. Some of you have heard most of it in pieces but it's going to be a summation tonight with it all together. I hope to get through it as fast as I can but I do feel like it is necessary for this to be a final report in the records of the City of Cherryville, and with that I begin." Mayor Austell then read the following:

"At the request of family, friends, staff members and even some elected officials I am taking your time to make a summation of the wrong doings in this town. Hopefully it will be made available to those citizens that want the truth and in some way put the past behind us. The sentencing of the guilty parties is close before us and we should be in a place where our community can all start looking to the future.

On October 2, 2011 Mayor Austell discovered credit card abuse by two of our employees. He suspected that credit card payment checks were not crossing his desk for his signature. This suspicion turned out to be true. On October 3, 2011 Mayor Austell met with Mayor Pro Tem Hovis and gave him the circumstances of what he had found. On October 4, 2011 Mayor Austell and Councilmember Ron Hovis met with legal counsel Palmer Huffstetler Jr., and internal auditor Darrell Keller and brought them up to date on what the Mayor had discovered. It was then decided that Darrell Keller, who was currently performing the City's audit, would take the January – June 2011 reports the Mayor had reviewed to and see how far the abuse went back. He was also able to determine how much the abuse amounted to in dollars and how far it went back.

Mr. Keller called a meeting for October 19, 2011 with Austell, Hovis and Huffstetler. Mr. Keller reported the abuse was for approximately one year with an amount of approximately \$12,500 total. He also reported approximately \$2,500 was still outstanding. At that time a phone call was made to City Manager David Hodgkins telling him to come to Mr. Huffstetler's office. After being bringing Mr. Hodgkins up to date for the first time, further discussions followed. Mr. Hodgkins and auditor Keller were instructed to go back and check specific power bills, vacation/sick pay records and to reproduce all the evidence on the abuse and it was to be kept in auditor Keller's office. Also both were to secure the files on hand for the past years and to make sure that our computer programs had not been compromised. Auditor Darrell Keller submitted his findings to Mayor Austell which was discussed with legal counsel Huffstetler and City Manager Hodgkins.

Councilman Hovis who was defeated in the November election instructed us to proceed without him but he was available if needed. Councilmember Gert Fisher also said for us to proceed without her but she was available if needed. Mayor Austell then presented all the findings to existing Councilmembers Rick Campbell and David Kiser on November 11, 2011. The Mayor then met with newly elected Councilmember's Brian Dalton and Malcolm Parker and

presented his findings to them during the first week of December 2011. Mayor Austell, newly appointed Mayor Pro Tem Rick Campbell, and City Manager David Hodgkins met with District Attorney Locke Bell in the Mayor's office and Mr. Bell recommended the two people be prosecuted. All Councilmember's agreed to proceed. Austell and Hodgkins delivered the evidence to District Attorney Locke Bell and SBI Agent Audrey Bridges. A unanimous position existed by all Councilmembers that both of the credit cards abusers must be removed. However, the Council was not totally agreeable on when they should be removed. City Manager Hodgkins had lobbied hard to have the employees cross trained first. After new Councilmember's Dalton and Parker were sworn in, Mr. Hodgkins lost a lot of his support system. Support existed to have these two employees quickly removed. Councilmember Dalton arranged for a meeting with District Attorney Locke Bell to discuss a possible investigation of the Cherryville Police Department. Councilmember Dalton called and invited the mayor to join him at this meeting. The District Attorney refused to investigate the Cherryville Police Department without some evidence of wrong doing.

The City hired new Finance Director Dixie Wall on April 2, 2012. On May 24, 2012 a utility supervisor was placed on investigative leave. This same utility supervisor was terminated on May 30, 2012 for suspicion of embezzlement. Mayor Austell, City Manager David Hodgkins and Finance Director Dixie Wall met with District Attorney Locke Bell. Mr. Bell said he was going to use Gaston County Police on this case. He turned it over to Gaston County Police Detective Matt Hensley who charged the utility supervisor with multiple counts of embezzlement on July 27, 2012. She has since pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

On June 15, 2012 City Manager David Hodgkins was terminated with full Council support. Fire Chief Jeff Cash was appointed interim City Manager that same day. The Council then hired new City Manager Ben Blackburn on December 1, 2012 with full Council support. The week of July 16, 2012 Mayor Austell, acting City Manager Jeff Cash and Finance Director Dixie Wall met with Locke Bell and SBI Agent Audrey Bridges and presented them with obvious examples of embezzlement by our former Finance Director. This information was the beginning of what would lead to \$435,294. The city was having to pay BB&T and American Express for the materials to recover records to determine this embezzlement. It was obviously going to cost the City an enormous amount and the SBI could get the materials at no cost to the city. Bonny Alexander was charged with embezzling \$435,294 on January 15, 2013. She has pleaded guilty to all charges and is awaiting sentencing.

On October 17, 2012 the FBI arrested a number of Cherryville citizens in a sting they had set up and the city had no involvement whatsoever in that effort. All six people have since pleaded guilty. On that same day the FBI went to the Cherryville Police Department to gather records for an investigation they were running on that department. On that same day they came to City Hall to gather other documents to support that investigation. Also additional records were picked up to support the charges against former finance director and the utility supervisor as they had taken over those cases from the SBI. On that day the FBI recommended that acting City Manager Jeff Cash place the Police Chief and the Police Captain on administrative leave. The acting City Manager consulted the Mayor and a couple other Councilmember's before placing them on

investigative leave. Shortly thereafter the Police Chief went on retirement and the Police Captain resigned. On June 24, 2013 the Police Chief was charged with embezzling \$11,048 and has pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

I will spend a shorter amount of time before vacating this chair at the December meeting not talking about my five terms as Mayor, but all the accomplishments of this Council during the last two years despite having to deal with all the wrong doings. However, tonight I want to say this Council laid out specific goals to hire a finance director, and a police chief. The Council then endured much public pressure of who to hire in each position. Instead they complied with state statues by letting the City Manager meet their goals with his choice of new staff members. This Council also did a great job in their choice of a new City Manager and City Clerk. They further endured the criticism of mishandling the discharge of the City Manager when they were representing the City's best interest within the law. Their handling along with City staff of these wrong doings have brought about the separation of six employees and guilty pleas from three for embezzlement.

I want to give my personal thanks to the staff members left standing and for their sacrifices to deal with these unfortunate circumstances. I wish to especially thank all Councilmembers for the way they accepted criticism and yet guided this City through these troubling times. All decisions made by Council and staff were in the best interest of this City and contributed not only to the detection of the wrong doings but to the guilty pleas that followed.”

Mayor Austell shared that more would be heard next week in all that this Council has accomplished. He commended the Council for two great budgets and two great audits. Mayor Austell asked Councilmembers, City Manager and the Finance Director if his report was acceptable and if they had any changes or additions. Finance Director Dixie Wall stated the Utility Supervisor Jennifer Hoyle was suspended on May 24, 2012 and terminated on May 30, 2012. The investigation on Jennifer Hoyle began in April. (The correct dates have been placed in the minutes) Mayor Austell once again asked if Council had any comment. Councilmembers Campbell, Dalton and Kiser all shared that they felt like Mayor Austell covered it very well. Councilmember Parker shared that the only comment he had was it had been a rough two years. Mayor Austell agreed that it had been rough but a lot had been accomplished by this Council.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, ANDREW WEST, CHAIRMAN AUDIT COMMITTEE

Andrew West approached the podium to give a brief history on the Audit Committee. He shared that the committee was formed in June and gave a list of the members. The members are Chairman Andrew West, Mayor Austell, Tamara Hardin, Bob Faires, Scott Harrill and Brian Dalton. Mr. West also gave an update on the recommendations going over each one and explaining them. The recommendations are listed below:

#		Description	*Difficulty	*Cost	*Benefit
1.	<b>Recommendation</b>	That the City of Cherryville develops and publishes an organizational "code of conduct" and provide initial and annual refresher training to all employees.	Low	Low	Moderate
	<b>Discussion</b>	Every organization has a standard of conduct, whether it knows it or not. One way or another, explicitly or implicitly, every organization communicates its values, acceptable criteria for decision making, and its ground rules for behavior. Leading organizations understand the importance and benefits of explicitly communicating their values and guiding principles to their employees in a published code of conduct. The code typically addresses the organization's underlying values, its commitment to employees, standards of doing business, and its wider relationship with the external community. The increased emphasis on ethics, governance and organizational responsibility has led many organizations to adopt a code of conduct. Ethical dilemmas can impair an organization's reputation and ultimately do harm to its financial performance. Clear core values are essential to high performing organizations. Good conduct and integrity lead to success. By adopting written standards of conduct and requiring each employee to subscribe to those standards, the City is sending a loud and clear message as to the boundaries in which employees may operate. Annual refresher training will continue to emphasize the importance of ethical behavior. Good, ethical behavior strengthens internal control.			
2.	<b>Recommendation</b>	That the City of Cherryville improve the process of contracting for the annual financial audit by better describing in the request for proposal (RFP) those areas requiring additional scrutiny and testing.	Low	Low	Moderate
	<b>Discussion</b>	The city has an excellent opportunity when contracting for an audit firm, to specify those areas that require extra scrutiny. With the improved scrutiny, management can better assert as to the accuracy, occurrence, ownership, authorization, and completeness of its transactions and assets. In so doing, the city helps to define better the scope of the audit. The city's management team and the audit committee should work together to develop the scope of work for the auditors.			
3.	<b>Recommendation</b>	That the City of Cherryville change its payroll period for all city employees from weekly to bi-weekly.	Moderate	Low	Moderate
	<b>Discussion</b>	City policy currently requires the city to pay employees weekly on every Wednesday. While this is convenient for city employees, it creates an additional burden on the accounting function. Indeed, with the various withholding requirements for each employee the number of accounting entries and calculations grows. By moving to a bi-weekly pay period, the city will reduce the accounting entries for payroll by 50%. This will free up limited staff to work on more pressing requirements. This change has a "change management" component to it. City Management should consider implementing it in phases starting with higher paid employees and working down. Sufficient notice must be given to workers, especially those accustomed to managing their money week-to-week.			
4.	<b>Recommendation</b>		Moderate	Low	Moderate

		That the City of Cherryville develops standard operating procedures for the finance and accounting function.			
	<b>Discussion</b>	For years the City's Finance Department has operated on an ad hoc basis with little or no written procedures, defined standards or documented processes. The lack of documentation is a major weakness in the finance function and impairs the consistency in recording transactions. The City should review procedures manuals from other North Carolina municipalities and adopt the best and most appropriate procedures for its own use. Standardizing procedures will reduce errors and improve accuracy and consistency.			
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	That the City of Cherryville acquire an industry standard integrated finance and accounting system to replace the outdated, non-integrated system in use today.	High	High	High
	<b>Discussion</b>	An integrated finance and accounting system (FAS) is essential for maintaining accurate records of financial transactions and assets. There are several commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) packages that can meet the city's requirements for an up-to-date, integrated system. The city should contract an IT firm to develop a requirements definition and then select a package that will best meet the city's needs. In developing the requirements, management should consider including a cost accounting capability for select areas. An integrated finance and accounting system is a capital investment and involves a time consuming process. However a reliable system is essential to assure the accuracy of the city's financial information. The payoff of improved internal controls, increased accuracy, and auditability will be enormous.			

**\*Key:**

**Difficulty:** Low – days to implement; Moderate – weeks to implement; High – months to implement

**Cost:** Low - \$100 to \$1,000; Moderate \$1,000 to \$10,000; High - \$10,000 to \$100,000

**Benefit:** Low – improves internal control; improves staff efficiency; Moderate – improves internal controls; increases staff efficiency and effectiveness;

helps to avoid costs; High-

significant improvement in internal controls, dramatic increase in efficiency and effectiveness; avoids costs and saves money; provides measurable return on investment.

**TABLE OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>#1 Code</b>	<b>#2 RFP</b>	<b>#3 Pay</b>	<b>#4 SOP</b>	<b>#5 FAS</b>
<b>Improvement</b>					
Accuracy		X	X	X	X
Valuation		X		X	X
Completeness	X	X		X	X
Existence		X		X	
Rights & Obligations	X	X		X	
Classification	X	X		X	X
Internal Control	X	X		X	X
Efficiency	X	X	X	X	X
Effectiveness	X	X		X	X

Mayor Austell explained that these recommendation had been presented to the Council at the previous work session and that he and Councilmember Dalton have been involved with this committee. Discussion was held about each of these recommendation at the work session. Mayor Austell asked if City Manager Ben Blackburn had any comments and he had none. He then asked Council for any recommendations. Councilmember Dalton recommended that items number 1, 2, 4, and 5 be adopted immediately. He explained that all of these cannot be put into place right away because of cost but we need to work toward putting them in place. Councilmember Dalton feels like the procedures need to be put in place so that all employees know what is expected of them and what the boundaries are. He shared that if employees know the rules then it makes it better for everyone. Councilmember Dalton shared that there had been a lot of discussion on item number 3, changing the payroll from weekly to biweekly. He shared that it is going to affect the lower paid employees more with adjusting and that he has talked to Mr. Blackburn about some of the issues being corrected. He shared that if these issues can be worked out then maybe we need to leave it weekly. But if not, he is for the payroll going to biweekly because we cannot have issues. Councilmember Dalton shared that this is something that can be looked at later, but his motion was to adopt the other recommendations.

Mayor Austell asked if staff was working on these issues. City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that a Code of Conduct was being worked on, SOP's are being worked on, and the integration of new financial software are being looked at. Councilmember Dalton shared that procedures need to be in place so that when an employee goes to make a purchase for the City, they know that if it is a certain dollar amount that they need to call the finance office for a purchase order before making the purchase. In the past employees have made purchases and then got the purchase orders. Councilmember Dalton stated that employees need to know what the procedures are and they are clear on them.

Councilmember Kiser agreed with Councilmember Dalton and he asked Mr. Blackburn how the employees were responding to biweekly pay periods. Mr. Blackburn shared that the department heads were asked to pole the employees on this matter. Councilmember's Dalton and Kiser both thought that poling the employees was a good idea. Mayor Austell asked if the number of deductions in payroll were going to be reduced. Mr. Blackburn assured Mayor Austell that some changes have already been made with deductions.

Councilmember Parker thanked the audit committee and asked if there were any grants that could help with the cost of a new financial system. Mr. Blackburn was not aware of any at this time. Mayor Austell shared that a new financial system was needed and it was something the City was going to have to do to move forward into this century. He also stated that it was not budgeted for this year. However, it could be voted on tonight. Councilmember Kiser asked if this could be purchased over several years. Councilmember Dalton shared that he would like to see this purchase out of two budget years. Mayor Austell shared that is could be purchased that way. Councilmember Parker made a motion to adopt all five recommendations and give the City Manager the authority on number three. Mayor Austell stated that there were now two motions on the floor. Councilmember Dalton said he could readjust his motion because it is saying we

accept the recommendation but it does not mean we are going to go to it. Councilmember Dalton shared that it is giving staff time to look into the recommendations. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF CHERRYVILLE AND GASTON COUNTY, RE: RESCUE SQUAD BUILDING, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor, Councilmember's, and citizens explaining to them the contract that had been drawn up between the City of Cherryville and Gaston County. This contract is for the former rescue squad building. The City will accept responsibility and make repairs to this building to such issues as the HVAC (which the City has already replaced) damage from water or weather, necessary repairs to ceiling, floors, walls, plumbing, and the electrical system. Gaston County will accept responsibility to the general maintenance on this building such as replacing light bulbs, repairing leaky faucets, general cleaning, and replacing broken kitchen equipment such as refrigerators. They will also pay utility bills, and a lease of \$500.00 a month. Mr. Blackburn also shared that the NC League of Municipalities has approved this lease agreement.

Councilmember Parker asked if the \$500.00 lease payment could go into a separate account for when it is needed.

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve the contract between the City of Cherryville and Gaston County for the use of the rescue squad building. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Austell thanked Mr. Blackburn for his work on this agreement saying it would be revenue for our City.

CONSIDERATION OF CITY OF CHERRYVILLE AND GASTON COUNTY SCHOOL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor, Councilmember's and citizens explaining the Gaston County School Interlocal Agreement. This agreement is just a renewal for school – community cooperation. Some of the items in the agreement are property, procedure, terms, schools use of city property, supervision, improvements, maintenance, and right of inspections. Mr. Blackburn explained that this agreement is just a renewal of the agreement.

Councilmember Dalton asked if Gaston County had ever helped the City of Cherryville with maintenance in the past.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to adopt the agreement between the City of Cherryville and Gaston County Schools. Councilmember Kiser and Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF TEMPORARY CLOSING OF OLD HOWELL MILL STREET GRID,  
BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor, Councilmember's and citizens about the temporary closing of the old Howell mill street. There has been illegal dumping going on in this area and the road needs to be closed to prevent more dumping. The property owner Dr. Tom White has been contacted and he agrees that the street needs to be closed. Councilmember Dalton made a motion to approve the temporary closing of the old Howell Mill (Webb Street) Street and Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Former Mayor Jack Davis of 605 Queens Rd. approached the podium and thanked Mayor Austell for his service to the community. He also thanked the Council and stated that it is a difficult position to be in. Former Mayor Davis pointed out that Mayor Austell and the Councilmembers have been in place through some difficult time. He feels like the City is on the right track and is in good hands with employees like Paige Green and Ben Blackburn.

Mayor Austell thanked Jack Davis and shared that he is ready to go and he feels good about turning the City over to Mayor elect H.L. Beam. Mayor Austell shared that he has served with a lot of good people and every one of them loved the City.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Kiser asked for an update on the BB&T building. Ben Blackburn stated that he has not been told of any change.

Councilmember Dalton thanked all the Veterans for their service.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Austell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013

Robert D. Austell

Mayor Robert D. Austell

Paige H. Green

City Clerk, Paige H. Green

(SEAL)