REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING

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

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Councilmember's Malcolm Parker, Jill Puett, David Kiser and Brian Dalton were present. City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, EDC Director Richard Randall, Fire Chief Jeff Cash, Police Chief Chad Hawkins, and Finance Director Dixie Wall. Michael Powell of the Cherryville Eagle was present for media coverage.

Rev. Joe Collins of the First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

First, I want to send out a sincere thank you to all that sent cards, made hospital & home visits, phone calls, and emails showing your concern for my recovery from my recent surgery. I was truly overwhelmed by so much love and care that was given to my family and me during this time.

My recovery has been progressing and I am back at work on a limited time schedule and feeling much better at this time.

City Manager Ben Blackburn and City Clerk Paige Green have kept me informed of important happenings within the city. Each of them has made visits to my home to see that necessary business for the city was kept up to date. I want to thank each of them personally for their visits.

On August 31, I want to share an email I received from City Manager Ben Blackburn stating that Cherryville's downtown historic district application has been officially accepted and listed in the national register. This is great news for our City and our downtown business community. Through this designation, Cherryville's downtown business owners and operators can apply for state and federal tax credits for any qualifying building improvements.

On September 8, I attended and spoke at the ribbon cutting for one of our newest business openings, the agency located at 100 E. Main Street. I congratulated owners Kim & Trent Beam on the remarkable refurbishing they completed on the old Houser Drug building. We wish them success in their new business adventure.

On September 9, I was privileged to speak at the 15th annual 9/11 remembrance ceremony held at the John L. "Buck" Fraley Field. Mr. Jon Abernethy, who was present in New York City on that date 15 years ago, was the guest speaker. A large crowd was on hand and the students from W. Blaine Beam Intermediate School attended.

Later on that evening, I attended the first annual "Lotta Burger Festival" held on Main Street and the mini park as well. All though the crowds were somewhat small, a great time was enjoyed by all present. We hope to expand this festival for next year and hope for a larger turn out.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to approve both sets of minutes from August 8, 2016 and the August 30, 2016 meetings. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

AGENDA APPROVAL/REVISION:

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to revise the agenda and add the General Assembly Funds of $94,000. Councilmember's Kiser and Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. This will be item number thirteen.

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. Larry Robertson of 101 Benbrook Drive approached the podium to share that he loved the mural painted on Mountain Street. He also shared that he has heard citizens talk about how high electric bills are in Cherryville. Mr. Robertson wanted to let everyone know that he pays less for electricity here than he did in New York. Mr. Robertson stated that his home in New York was smaller than his home here and his bill here is cheaper to heat and cool. Mr. Robertson also ask everyone to think about increasing the water and sewer rates to improve infrastructure. Mr. Robertson shared that many cities and town have poor infrastructure because no one thought ahead and made plans for the cost.

RECOGNITION OF FIREFIGHTER QUENTIN CASH, 2016 NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam read the following Resolution honoring Quentin Cash for being named North Carolina's Firefighter of the Year 2016:

RESOLUTION HONORING FIREFIGHTER QUENTIN A. CASH FOR BEING NAMED THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION 2016 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Quentin A. Cash has served the Cherryville Fire Department with distinction for seventeen (17) years and,

WHEREAS, Quentin A. Cash has dedicated himself to further his education by graduating from Appalachian State with his Political Science Degree, from Cleveland Community College with his Fire Science Degree, and from Columbia Southern University with his Master's Degree in Public Administration and,

WHEREAS, Quentin A. Cash has been an active member of a number of regional, state, and national organizations, many in leadership and service roles, and he has brought positive exposure to Cherryville, and

WHEREAS, Quentin A. Cash has dedicated himself to the betterment of the Cherryville Fire Department through his activities, service, training, education, and professional commitment to improving himself, his team, and the department and,

WHEREAS, Quentin A. Cash annually logs over 400 hours of training and education, not only for the Cherryville Fire Department, but also in his role as Battalion Chief for the City of Shelby Fire and Rescue Department and,

WHEREAS, Quentin A. Cash comes from a long family tradition of public servants, including community service in serving as a volunteer for his church, as an Umpire Consultant for the Cherryville Little League, and as a volunteer at the Cherryville Area Ministries and,

WHEREAS, the 53,000-member North Carolina State Firefighters Association recognizes one of its members on an annual basis for his or her contributions to the profession by designating that individual as Firefighter of the Year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cherryville City Council hereby congratulates Firefighter Quentin Cash upon being named the North Carolina State Firefighters Association 2016 Firefighter of the Year.

Duly adopted the 12th day of September 2016.

H. L. Beam

H. L. BEAM, MAYOR

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

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PAIGE H. GREEN, CMC, NCCMC, CITY CLERK

PROCLAMATION FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 2-8, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam read the following proclamation for Fire Prevention Week 2016:

City of Cherryville

Mayor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the city of Cherryville, North Carolina is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting the City of Cherryville; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home fires in 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and

WHEREAS, U.S. home fires resulted in 2,745 civilian deaths in 2014, representing the majority (84 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths;

WHEREAS, in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, the smoke alarms are not working; and

WHEREAS, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without smoke alarms (38 percent) or with no working smoke alarms (21 percent); and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, many citizens don't know how old the smoke alarms in their homes are, or how often they need to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, all smoke alarms should be replaced at least once every ten years; and

WHEREAS, the age of a smoke alarm can be determined by the date of its manufacture, which is marked on the back of the smoke alarm;

WHEREAS, the City of Cherryville's Fire Department staff are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cherryville's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of replacing the smoke alarms in their homes at least every ten years, and to determine the age of their smoke alarms by checking the date of manufacture on the back of the alarms.

THEREFORE, I Mayor H. L. Beam, Mayor of the City of Cherryville do hereby proclaim October 9-15, 2016, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this city. I urge all the citizens of Cherryville to find out how old the smoke alarms in their homes are, to replace them if they're more than 10 years old, and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of Cherryville Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week 2016.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

By the Council of the City of Cherryville, North Carolina, that the Council of the City of Cherryville, North Carolina hereby designates and proclaims the week of October 9th – 15th, 2016, as National Fire Prevention Week in Cherryville.

September 12th, 2016

H.L. Beam, Mayor

(SEAL)

Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

PROCLAMATION FOR PUBLIC POWER WEEK OCTOBER 2-8, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam read the following proclamation for Public Power Week 2016:

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING PUBLIC POWER WEEK, OCT. 2-8, 2016
A WEEK LONG CELEBRATION OF THE CITY OF CHERRYVILLE'S

YEAR-ROUND SERVICE TO CITIZENS OF CHERRYVILLE

WHEREAS, we, the citizens of the City of Cherryville place high value on local control over community services and therefore have chosen to operate a community owned, locally

controlled, not-for-profit electric utility and, as consumers and owners of our electric utility, have a direct say in utility operations and policies;

WHEREAS, the City of Cherryville provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates;

WHEREAS, the City of Cherryville is a valuable community asset that contributes to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness;

WHEREAS, the City of Cherryville has also taken on additional stewardship for our community's information infrastructure through a broadband network providing electric services, expanding community and economic development opportunities;

WHEREAS, the City of Cherryville is a dependable and trustworthy institution whose local operation provides reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to build strong communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the City of Cherryville will continue to work to bring lower-cost, safe, reliable electricity to community homes and businesses just as it has for many years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the week of Oct. 2-8 be designated Public Power Week to recognize the City of Cherryville for its contributions to the community and to educate consumer-owners, policy makers, and employees on the benefits of public power;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that our community joins hands with more than 2,000 other public power systems in the United States in this celebration of public power, which is best for consumers, business, the community, and the nation.

Adopted this _____ day of September 2016.

H.L. Beam

H.L. Beam, Mayor

(SEAL)

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Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

<u>CONSIDERATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY CHANGE RE: FEE SCHEDULE, FINANCE DIRECTOR DIXIE WALL:</u>

Finance Director Dixie Wall asked the Council to consider revising Section 2 of the Utility Policy. Section 2 is Establishing and Billing Services Request for Services. Mrs. Wall suggested revising number 4, Service Request for all utilities. Currently the policy reads:

Any request for utility service or a request to add another service connection by a customer will be handles as a request for all services applicable to the location. Applications and fees are shown in the accompanying Section 6, Fee Schedule.

Mrs. Wall would like to revise the policy and add the following:

By requesting service for any property with a serviceable structure by the City of Cherryville (which shall include but not limited to electricity, water, sewer, and solid waste) all services available to that structure shall become active when one or all is requested. This will include any availability fees. Every property with a serviceable structure will also receive one (1) solid waste container when service is activated but may request more for an additional charge. No serviceable structure shall request and be granted partial services unless approved by the City Manager, Public Works Director or any Public Safety Officer due to an emergency Circumstance or due to the safety of the public or resident.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to add a disconnection fee of $35.00 to all accounts when customers request services to be disconnected on a serviceable structure. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING NO PARKING SIGNS IN FRONT OF W.B. BEAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BRANDON ABERNATHY:

Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy shared that the "No Parking" signs on First Street in front of William Blaine Beam Intermediate School need to be changed. Currently the "No Parking" signs read no parking between the hours of 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. Mr. Abernathy met with the Principal Hovis to discuss times that school buses were parked in front of the school. Mr. Abernathy shared that the no parking signs should read, "No Parking" between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 am and between the hours of 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm Monday – Friday to accommodate the school buses.

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to change the time on the 'No Parking" signs to 7:00 am – 8:00 am and 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Monday – Friday. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Abernathy will order the new signs.

CONSIDERATION OF NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVED FUNDS, EDC DIRECTOR, RICHARD RANDALL:

EDC Director Richard Randall shared that the Rural Economic Division of the NC Department of Commerce along with the NC General Assembly has inform him that the City of Cherryville

has been selected to receive $94,340.00 for downtown revitalization. Cherryville along with Shelby, Forest City and Gastonia were the cities in our area chosen to receive this money. The City of Cherryville has to complete a Downtown Revitalization Proposal Form and return it as soon as possible in order to receive the money. Mr. Randall ask everyone to think about the different projects they would like to see completed. The Cherryville Main Street Program has some recommendations for consideration. After much discussion, four of the nine recommendations were decided on. One, purchase downtown gateway property at the corner of Main Street and N. Depot Street, former McCoy's lot. Two, fund additional downtown façade and building grants. Three, repave and mark the mini-park parking area. Finally, repair and paint the mini-park wall.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to approve the four recommendations listed above. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO RESCHEDULE SEPTEMBER WORK SESSION, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Blackburn shared that the next regular scheduled work session would be held on September 27 at 6:00 pm. The Streetscape Land Use Plan will be available for all citizens to see on September 27 at the community building at 5:30 pm. Mr. Blackburn requested the work session meeting be changed to 7:00 pm on September 27 in the council chambers at the community building. Councilmember Puett made a motion to change the work session meeting to September 27 at 7:00 in the council chambers at the community building. Councilmember Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Bates family contract with the City of Cherryville will be on the agenda for the work session September 27.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Adopted this 10 day of October 2016.

H.L. Beam

H.L. Beam, Mayor

(SEAL)

Paige H. Green

Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk