

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION/BUDGET PLANNING  
MAY 20, 2014 @ 3:00 PM  
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
TRAINING ROOM

Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Councilmember Kiser, Councilmember Dalton, Councilmember Puett, and Councilmember Parker were present. Also present was City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Police Chief Chad Hawkins, EDC Director Richard Randall, Wastewater Superintendent Larry Wright, Water Plant Superintendent Patty Hall, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, and Fire Chief Jeff Cash. Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor, Council and Department Heads with an overall view of the major changes in the upcoming FY 2014-2015 budget. The proposed budget includes a 2 ½% increase on electrical rates and a 4% rate increase on sales tax that was approved by the NC General assembly. The 4% increase is being passed down by the State. The proposed budget also includes a 2 ½% pay increase for all full time employees. The total of the proposed budget is \$12,091,743 which is a decrease from last years \$12,175,222. Mr. Blackburn explained that with a 2 ½% increase in electric is would cost a customer that has an electric bill of \$150.00 an extra \$10.00 each month.

Councilmembers discuss the electrical increase as well as the pay raise for employees.

Another proposed change in the budget was a decrease in the part time fill in pay for the fill in firemen. Fire Chief Jeff Cash had a handout for everyone showing why the part time fill in firemen are needed. He also went over the handout to explain his concerns. Many questions were asked by Councilmembers and this will continue to be looked at.

The Mayor, Council and Staff continued going over every departments proposed budgets.

Finance Director Dixie Wall shared with the Mayor and Council that the REPS sheet will need to be approved.

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that the rental rates of the community building will need to be looked at. We seem to be getting many out of town renters because our rental fees are

low. The City offers the building free of charge to any clubs and organizations in the community.

Councilmember Dalton asked about deposits for utility services. Mrs. Wall will look at how well our deposits cover final bills and get back to Council with this information.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that the Public Hearing that was scheduled for June 9, for the closing of the Sweetree Street (portion) will need to be changed due to G.S. 160A-299. It requires a resolution that must be ran in the local paper for four successive weeks prior to the hearing. The Public Hearing will be rescheduled for July 14, 2014 @ 9:00. Modern Polymers will be notified of this change.

Mr. Blackburn also shared that at the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting a Public Hearing date would need to be scheduled to amend two sections of the Zoning Ordinance after the Planning Board voted to make changes to it.

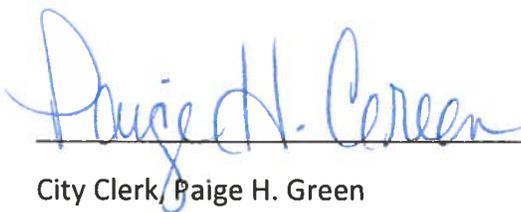
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Beam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Dalton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Parker seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

  
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Mayor, H.L. Beam

  
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City Clerk, Paige H. Green

