CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSESSION/BUDGET PLANNING
MAY 28, 2013 @ 9:00 AM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING ROOM

Present at the meeting, Mayor Robert Austell, Councilmember's Campbell, Kiser, Parker and Dalton. Also present City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Water Plant Supervisor Patty Hall, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Larry Wright, EDC Director Richard Randall, Planning and Zoning Administrator Richard Elam, Police Chief Chad Hawkins, Fire Chief Jeff Cash, and Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Austell called the meeting to order at 9:00 am thanking everyone present for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

2. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 18-1, SUPERVISION OF REGULAR AND RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS, CHIEF CHAD HAWKINS:

City Manager Blackburn explained that the amendment needed to be brought before the City Council for approval so city insurance purposes. The police department has to have a policy in place for reserve officers. Councilmember Dalton made a motion to approve the policy and Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

3. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manger Ben Blackburn made Mayor Austell and Councilmember's aware of the proclamation stating that a presentation will be given at the Next City Council meeting on June 10, 2013. This will be placed on the agenda.

4. DISCUSSION OF FALLEN SOLDIER MEMORIAL, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Blackburn shared a sketch of the fallen soldier's memorial that the Justice family wants to place in front of City Hall. Councilmember's asked questions about the memorial wanting to know if any names would be placed on it. Some were under the impression that all the fallen soldiers from Cherryville would have a place for their name on the memorial. Councilmember Dalton made a motion to approve the memorial and it was seconded by Councilmember Campbell. No vote was taken.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Austell asked if anyone had any other business.

Councilmember Parker commented on the Water Quality Report that is run in the Eagle ever year. Councilmember Parker shared that he had citizens comment that they

did not understand the report. The report has to be published in the local newspaper according to state guidelines. Patty Hall the water plant supervisor shared that she understand that most people do not understand the report and that is why she puts her name and phone number at the bottom of the report. She welcomes anyone to call her that may have questions.

Councilmember Dalton shared that Drew Reynolds is a Junior at East Carolina University and was a member of the Conference USA Tournament Team, First Team All Conference, First Team Academic All Conference, and Second Team All American.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to recognize the John Chavis Middle School baseball team for being the Gaston County Champions at the City Council meeting in June.

The work session portion of the meeting ended at 9:20 am.

6. REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED FY 2013/2014 BUDGET:

The budget planning session of the meeting began at 9:20 am.

City Manager Ben Blackburn presented the FY annual budget for the 2013/2014 budget year. He shared that all staff had worked very hard to put together a budget that will remain very tight for the upcoming year. He feels good about what he and Dixie have put together and feels confident that if the city can stay true to this budget, next year will be even better. Mr. Blackburn shared that all funds are self supporting and the $50,000 check for Bonny Alexander's embezzlement has come in and will be put in the current year's budget. Mr. Blackburn feels that next year we will be in a better position to look at city employee's benefits.

Councilmember Dalton feels this budget is an improvement from the past budget.

Mayor Austell shared that he was a part of the past when things were bad, and he feels bad that there is no room for a pay increase for city employees. He shared that there has been no increase since 2009 and the city has very deserving people. Mayor Austell shared that this was no fault of the new Councilmember's.

Councilmember Campbell asked about restitution money for the city.

The proposed budget reflects a 5% increase in electric that is recommended by Electricities. Councilmember Parker feels like it is not fair to ask only electric customers to pay an increase, he feels like the customers that have only water and sewer should also pay. He would like to see a lower increase in electric and an increase in water and sewer as well.

City Manager Blackburn shared that bids were taken on the cleaning at City Hall and the lowest bid was to ACS. Blackburn asked the council is they had a preference. Chief Jeff Cash feels like ACS has missed something when pricing. He does not feel like they can provide the same services for the price they presented. Councilmember Dalton feels like if we budgeted for the lowest, then we need to go with it. Councilmember Dalton feels good about the decision.

Councilmember Parker shared that he feels like the Chamber of Commerce should be self supporting. He shared that he has never been asked to join the Chamber and he owns a business in town. Councilmember Dalton shared that the City of Cherryville pays for the July 4th celebration and he will never vote to have it again. He stated that he only voted for it this year because of the gaming sweepstakes money. He shared that the recreation department use to handle all the festivals. Councilmember Campbell stated that he had to send a business to the Chamber because they were never approached by the Chamber. Mayor Austell explained that more takes place in Economic Development than people realize and for us not to have this would be a gross mistake. Mayor Austell shared that communication with our business in town is critical. Councilmember Dalton feels like we would get more for our money by having a recreation director rather than and EDC Director. Councilmember Kiser feels like the Chamber & EDC is involved in many things and feels like that are a benefit to the City.

Councilmember Parker questioned the volunteer and part time fill in pay for the fire department. The line item totals $62,000. Chief Cash explained to the Mayor and Councilmember's why he need the volunteers and part time fill in employees.

City Manager Blackburn shared that Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy has had a lot of duties put on him and he had to deal with a lot of petty issues that spread him very thin. Mr. Blackburn feels like Brandon could use more help in day to day operations. Mr. Blackburn has put a new employee in the proposed budget to help Brandon with day to day operations. Councilmember Dalton asked Mr. Blackburn if he was willing to take full responsibility of this new employee and Mr. Blackburn stated that he would take full responsibility. Councilmember Dalton also stated that he wanted to apologize to Brandon Abernathy in public because he can see where so much has been dumped on him and he has fewer employees to get jobs completed.

Councilmember Campbell asked if the leaf machine is in the budget and it is.

Councilmember Kiser asked why the salaries were different in this budget. Finance Director Dixie Wall explained that the salaries in last year's budget were wrong.

City Manager Ben Blackburn and Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy put together a list of streets that need to be paved. Together they feel like $200,000 will repair the most serious streets in need of new paving. Councilmember Dalton made a motion to start paving the streets that would be covered under the $200,000. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Councilmember Dalton shared that is will only cost more next year to do so why not get in as many as we can this year in the paving. Mayor Austell asked Ben and Brandon to put another $50,000 in the same paving list and present it to them at the June 10, meeting.

Councilmember Dalton shared that he is concerned about our recreation programs. He shared that he ran for election so that he could make a difference in this area. Councilmember Dalton feels like an area that money can be saved and put in the recreation programs is the insurance benefit that some elected officials still receive.

Councilmember Dalton shared that he has stopped receiving this benefit and hopes that this money can be put in parks and recreation.

Councilmember Parker asked what benefits the City of Cherryville gets from the YMCA. Councilmember Dalton feels like the majority of the YMCA funds come from the County.

Councilmember Dalton shared that we have lost the pride factor in our parks and recreation. He stated that putting pride in our parks and recreation will go along way.

The budget was reviewed page for page and any questions that were asked were answered by Mr. Blackburn or Dixie Wall. The budget will be presented at the next City Council meeting on June 10, 2013 for approval by City Council. Below is an estimate of all three funds, the electric, water & sewer, and general.

FY 2011/2012

FUND BALANCE	96,865.00	528,308.00	65,563.00	(5,169.00)

FY 2012/2013 PROPOSED FUND BALANCE

	GENERAL FUND W/OUT POWELL	GENERAL FUND W/ POWELL	ELECTRIC	WATER/SEWER
REVENUE	3,962,161	4,148,681	5,815,132	2,792,531
EXPENDITURES	3,747,738	3,812,521	5,668,026	2,257,046
DIFFERENCE	214,423	336,160	147,106	535,485
BUDGET	3,796,562	3,796,562	5,713,132	1,929,293
% FUND BALANCE	8.20%	22.77%	3.72%	27.49%

FY 2013/2014 PROPOSED FUND BALANCE

REV/EXP DIFF	130,000.00	69,800.00	201,270.00	112,345.00
BUDGET	4,183,117.00	4,183,117.00	6,039,390.00	1,985,400.00
% FUND BALANCE	10.55%	22.33%	6.85%	32.37%

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Austell asked for a motion to adjourn the budget planning session. Councilmember Kiser made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The budget planning session adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Adopted this 10th day of June, 2013.

Brian Dalton

Mayor, Robert Austell (sick)
Mayor Pro Tem,
Brian Dalton

Paige H. Green

City Clerk, Paige H. Green

SEAL