

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
BUDGET PLANNING MEETING
APRIL 8, 2014 @ 9:00 AM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING ROOM

Present at the meeting was Mayor H.L. Beam, Councilmember's Puett, Kiser, Parker and Dalton. Staff that was present, City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Police Chief Chad Hawkins, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, EDC Director Richard Randall, Fire Chief Jeff Cash, Wastewater Plant Superintendent Larry Wright, Water Plant Superintendent Patty Hall, and Finance Director Dixie Wall.

Mayor Beam called the meeting to order at 9:03 am and welcomed everyone.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

CONSIDERATION OF AUDIT CONTRACT, COLLIS & ASSOCIATES:

Mr. Rob Collis of Collis & Associates was present at the meeting to give an update on the audit contract. Mr. Collis shared that the BB&T building is not on the City's account records. The building was in the records around 2007 but it disappeared in 2008. The value was no longer recorded. The City will need to come up with a value for the building and it will need to be put back into the records. Mayor Beam asked if it could have been part of the absorption from Ballard Park. Mr. Collis stated that it did occur around the time Ballard Park was being completed. Mr. Collis also stated that the former auditor was not able to share with him why it had went away. He did not have an answer for why it had been taken off the books.

Mr. Collis also shared that his firm had a peer review committee and he was under the impression that he could write his own audit programs about what needed to be looked at during an audit. He has since learned that he cannot write the programs. Mayor Beam asked Mr. Collis if he would be able to look at certain things on his own. Mayor Beam commented that the City of Cherryville was back to square one if they could not look at whatever they wanted to. Mr. Collis explained that it is not that simple. He would have to give explanations as

to why he looked at certain items. He has to be able to state why he feels the need to look at certain items. Mr. Collis explained that the reason behind this was to make sure everyone is working at the same level and to be able to support your work in court if you would need to.

Councilmember Parker asked Mr. Collis to document the fact that the BB&T building was once on the books and it disappeared from the audit records in 2008.

The City of Cherryville's Audit Committee can recommend what the auditors look at as well.

The contract will be placed on the agenda for the April 14, meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF THE JUSTICE WAR MEMORIAL, VETERANS PARK:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor and City Council with an update on the Justice War Memorial. Originally the war memorial was to be placed in front of City Hall. The gravel pavement in front of City Hall was going to be removed and brick pavers were to be laid in and around the memorial. Mr. Todd Landers works at the ADS Plant in Bessemer City along with Specialist James Justice's father. Mr. Landers is currently putting together a fund raiser for this memorial. The family has been told about Veterans corner and the work that is in place by Boy Scout Josh Garren for his Eagle project. Mr. Landers will be present at the City Council meeting April 14, to give more of an update on this.

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Finance Director Dixie Wall addressed the Mayor and City Councilmember's with a budget amendment for the police department. A total of \$1,318.00 was given in donations to the police department. This amendment will be put on the April 14th agenda for approval.

CONSIDERATION FOR ATTENDING TOWN HALL DAY:

City manager Ben Blackburn shared with Mayor Beam and Councilmembers that Town Hall Day will be held Wednesday June 4, 2014 in Raleigh. If anyone is interested in going please let Ben or Paige know so they can get you registered.

PRESENTATION ON SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET:

Richard Randall did a power presentation on the Small Town Main Street. He updated everyone on the progress being made by the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Parker expressed concern about the sand that is still on Main Street from the snow storm. Public Works will get this cleaned up.

Councilmember Kiser asked for an update on the July 4th celebration. City Manager Blackburn shared that the plans have been made for the July 4th celebration.

Councilmember Parker asked where the City stands with grants. Commissioner Alan Fraley contacted him and the Mayor about possible grants that the City needs to apply for. City Manager Blackburn shared that he has looked into the grants and they are tied to creating jobs. Peak the new nursing home facility received rural grant money for their facility. Councilmember Parker asked how others receive grant money for water & sewer improvements when that is not creating jobs. Blackburn shared that it deals with failing infrastructure. Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy shared that the City of Cherryville would have to meet certain criteria and they would have to be identified by the State. Blackburn shared that money is in the proposed budget for matching grants. Richard Randall commented that Farris Fab and Peak had to commit to twenty new jobs in order to receive the grant money.

Mayor Beam shared that Modern Polymers may expand and would want the road beside them closed. Brandon Abernathy shared that Modern Polymers would be responsible for having the electrical lines moved. The electrical lines belong to REA not the City of Cherryville.

Councilmember Puett shared that she has been contacted by Peggy Houser. Ms. Houser lives on Harrelson Road and she is concerned that she is still paying availability fees. Ms. Houser says she was told once the water line extension was paid off, she and others would not have to continue paying the availability fees. City Clerk Paige Green has researched minutes and cannot find any documentation supporting this. More discussion will be held at the work session on April 28. Councilmember Puett feels like a vote needs to take place in order for this to be final. Blackburn shared that the availability fees that Ms. Houser has paid in do go toward her tap fees. The availability fees are for maintenance on the line and the fact that our services are there in case a customer would need them.

Mayor Beam has been approached about the old Peak facility being given to the City along with \$100,000 to the CCDC. Councilmember Dalton feels like the City should stay out of the real estate business.

The Work Session portion of the meeting ended at 11:06.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED FY 2014-2015 BUDGET:

City Manager Ben Blackburn and Finance Director Dixie Wall address the Mayor and City Council with the revenue and expenditures year end estimate. Dixie went over the revenue and expenditures starting with July 2013 thru February 2014. Mr. Blackburn and Mrs. Wall has met

with each department head and went over their budgets. Together they put together a proposed budget for each department and Mr. Blackburn went over each department's capital request and explained the need for what was being proposed.

After much discussion from Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers, staff was directed to make more cuts. Mr. Blackburn and Mrs. Wall along with staff will continue to work on the budget for the 2014/2015 year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Beam called for the adjournment of the meeting, which was accepted unanimously by the Council. The Work Session/Budget Planning meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm.

Adopted this 14th day of April, 2014

H.L. Beam

Mayor, H.L. Beam

Paige H. Green

City Clerk, Paige H. Green

(SEAL)