

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY AUGUST 26, 2013 @ 3:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING ROOM

Present at the meeting, Honorable Mayor Robert Austell, Councilmember's Kiser, Parker, Campbell, and Dalton. City Manager Ben Blackburn, and City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Department Heads, Dixie Wall, Patty Hall, Richard Elam, Richard Randall, Jeff Cash, Chad Hawkins and Brandon Abernathy. Also present Captain Cam Jenks. Michael Powell of the Cherryville Eagle was present for media coverage.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

CONSIDERATION OF GASTON/LINCOLN/CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEMORANDUM(MPO) OF UNDERSTANDING, JACK KISER, CITY OF GASTONIA, BEN BLACKBURN & RICHARD ELAM:

Mr. Jack Kiser with the City of Gastonia addressed the Mayor and Council and discussed the changes that have taken place with the MPO Boundary Expansion. The MPO consist of elected officials and staff from local governments within Gaston County. The cost for the city to be a part of this is \$1,265 annually. Currently Mayor Austell is a board member and Councilmember Dalton as set in for the Mayor when he has been unable to attend. Mayor Austell shared his thoughts about the widening of Hwy. 279. He shared that Hwy. 279 had been moved down on the list because of the garden parkway. Everyone understood that the garden parkway was very much needed however so is the widening of Hwy. 279. He expressed his concerns about it becoming a reality. Mayor Austell shared that he has attended the meetings and he has been very vocal for Cherryville. He stressed that who ever takes his place in the near future will need to continue being very vocal. He shared his concern about his replacement being at the meetings and staying of top of the issue of Hwy. 279. This will be placed on the September agenda.

WATER PLANT UPDATE:

Water Plant Supervisor Patty Hall addressed the Mayor and City Council sharing with them the process of testing at the water plant. Patty passed out handouts of her daily report logs. She explained that fluoride is a good additive as long as it is tested and applied correctly. The state requires plants to test the fluoride once a day but our water plant tests the fluoride twice a day. One of the handouts that Patty shared was what she sends to the State. Once a week we are required to sample the finish product that leaves the plant. A sample of this goes to the state every week for testing. We are also required to get ten samples a month from different locations and the chlorine, P.H., and fluoride are all tested when these samples are collected. Additional test are done quarterly and annually. Patty keeps records of all tests that are run on file at the water plant. In 1990 our water plant started feeding fluoride and every water plant uses it in their water. Patty recently received a letter from the United States Environmental Protection Agency congratulating her on meeting goals set by EPA. Mayor Austell asked Patty to have DENR to attend the next City Council meeting and give a presentation on the water plant. Ben Blackburn spoke to the Clint Cook a state inspector who shared that our quality of water is some of the best in the state. Patty will put together a presentation for the next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF ESTABLISHING A METHOD OF PAYING UTILITY BILLS WITH CREDIT CARDS:

Dixie Wall Finance Director addressed the Mayor and Council with costs that are associated with credit card use. Dixie had a handout of a quote showing the different fees and options that are available. With the quote the City of Cherryville can limit the types of credit cards to accept because some have a higher fee than others. With this new component customers can pay their utility bills over the phone and the payment will credit to their account immediately. Customers will also be able to access their account online and see their bills that will display payment amount, consumption, and history. Dixie has collected several quotes that she will share with Mayor Austell and the Council. Currently the city processes approximately 250 credit card transactions a month. This will be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR CITY ISSUED CREDIT CARD:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor and Council regarding city credit cards. Mr. Blackburn shared that currently the city has four credit cards. The city needs a credit card that only the City Manager and Finance Director can give authorization to. The card is needed for purchases when the city does not have an existing account with a business but needs the supplies. The card is also needed for registrations. Councilmember's Campbell and Kiser shared that they were told one credit card was left for use. Dixie shared that she thought the card had been cancelled because she has not received any statements for it. Councilmember Dalton shared that we have not had any problems with the other four cards that the city has and the city does need a major credit card at certain times. City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler recommended that a limit be put on this card and all agreed. Councilmember Campbell shared that employees could use their personal card and get reimbursed. Mayor Austell shared that even though the city had been through a lot with previous credit cards, it did a lot of cleaning up that was needed. Mayor Austell stated that the previous issues got us to where we are today and now controls are in place and we are only getting better. On April 13, 2013 a Use of City Credit Card Policy was put into place. This will be put on the September agenda.

DISCUSSION OF ATTENDANCE RE: NCLM ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Mayor Austell shared that October 13-15, 2013 in Hickory the North Carolina League of Municipalities will hold it annual conference. Mayor Austell pointed out some of the work shops that will be held and shared that he will be attending some of these and bringing back information to all. Ben encouraged all to attend stating that it is a benefit to see peers and know that we are not alone in situations. It is a great opportunity for networking. Mayor Austell asked everyone that is interested to let Mr. Blackburn or City Clerk Paige Green know so they can get the registration in place.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Austell shared that Economic Development was discussed briefly at the last meeting. He shared that a great article appeared in the magazine Gaston Life Skills. He has asked Richard Randall to order more copies so everyone will have the opportunity to see it. Fleetnet a local business in town will appear in the next edition.

Councilmember Kiser asked for an update on the Memorial that will be placed in front of City Hall. Ben shared that the family is holding fund raisers at this time.

Mayor Austell shared that their will be a Cemetery update at the September meeting.

Councilmember Kiser asked for an update on the paving and sidewalk construction. Brandon Abernathy explained that Asphalt Paving has 90 days from the signing of the contract to complete the paving or they will have to pay us a daily fee. Mayor Austell stressed the urgency for this project to begin. A meeting will be held at 10:00 am on August 27, 2013 for the final meeting on the sidewalk construction. This meeting has to be held in order to set up payment information and then work can begin.

Councilmember Parker asked about the water pressure at the old BB&T building. The fire department did a flow test on the building and Chief Cash feels like a new tenant would need a small pump that would cost between \$2,500 to \$5,000. This pump would be needed because the building is technically a four story building counting the basement. Brandon Abernathy shared that a hydraulic study would be needed in order to know where the low and high pressure lines connect. It has been recommended that the city have this test done and the test has been asked for, for more than ten years. Brandon Abernathy shared the DENR would be able to provide us with companies that can do a hydraulic test.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Austell asked for a motion to adjourn the Work Session meeting. Councilmember Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Adopted this 9th day of September, 2013.

Robert D. Austell
Mayor, Robert Austell

Paige H. Green
City Clerk, Paige Green

