



**REGULAR WORK SESSION MEETING
MONDAY AUGUST 31, 2015 @ 3:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
411 E. CHURCH STREET CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Councilmember's Malcolm Parker, Jill Puett and David Kiser. Councilmember Brian Dalton was not present. Also attending, City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Street and Sanitation Superintendent Jason Black, and Fire Chief Jeff Cash.

Michael Powel of the Cherryville Eagle attended.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE 300 BLOCK OF E. MAIN STREET:

City Manager Blackburn shared that property located in the 300 block of E. Main Street is for sale and the owner has offered it to the City of Cherryville. Ms. Hilda Bates currently owns the property and she is asking \$17,000. After discussion by Mayor Beam and the Council, they decided to hold off on the offer at this time.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT 2015 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:

Mayor Beam and Council were asked to consider a resolution recognizing the Cherryville Fire Department for Fire Prevention Week 2015. The resolution will be on the agenda for the City Council meeting on September 14, 2015.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COMBINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE OFFICE OF THE NC STATE FIRE MARSHAL:

Mayor Beam and Council were asked to consider a resolution recognizing the combined relationship between the City of Cherryville and the Cherryville Fire Department. This will be on the agenda for the September 14, 2015 meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DOWNTOWN PIGEON ABATEMENT:

City Manager Blackburn shared that Ms. Jean Skibo and members of the design team (Small Town Main Street) have been working hard to find a solution to downtown Cherryville's pigeon problem. Ms. Skibo contacted the North Carolina Wildlife Commission and she learned that they do not deal with pigeons. Ms. Skibo was referred to the District Wildlife Biologist, Danny Rail who is located in Morganton and Gaston County is in his district. Mr. Rail informed Ms. Skibo that pigeons are not native to N.C. and are not a regulated bird. Ms. Skibo learned that pigeons can be excluded and there is no license needed to shoot them. Mr. Rail then referred Ms. Skibo to Mr. Andy Moore at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Statesville office. Mr. Moore defended pigeons as urban birds that love old buildings. Mr. Moore shared that if the pigeons are to be excluded, they should be excluded in a non-lethal way. Some of the non-lethal ways would be netting, prevent roosting and nesting by making flat surfaces unavailable using devices that can be used to change flat nesting spots. This can be done by using wood metal sheathing at a 45-60 degree angle, spikes, mild electric shock etc. The USDA will also come out and trap pigeons by baiting and confining them in containers. They take them away and euthanize them. There is a charge for this and it is usually thousands of dollars. Flocks soon return and the process starts over again.

The third option is the Ovocontrol P, or birth control for pigeons. Ovocontrol P representative Eric Wolf has supplied information that will answer any questions. The cost for this form of birth control is \$6.25 a day and is available 365 days a year. If used exactly as directed, it works. Flocks gradually decrease; hence, costs decrease. Mayor Beam and the Council were given case studies on Ovocontrol P in their packets of information. This will be an agenda item for the September 14, 2015 meeting.

DISCUSSION OF THE DISPOSITION OF THE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE LOCATED ON THE CITY'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROPERTY:

City Manager Blackburn shared that the residential property located at 814 Tot Dellinger Rd., is also located on the same property as the water plant. Mr. Blackburn contacted Mr. Willie King with the Planning and Development Services of Gaston County and he explained several

options for the residential property. Mr. Blackburn shared that one option for the home is to keep it, renovate it and rent it out. Option two, is to have the land around the home surveyed with a minimum lot size of 12,000 square feet and then put it on the market to sale as is. The home would be considered residential and have both city water and sewer available to it. Option three, would be either to expand the 12,000 square feet increasing the minimum lot size to allow the homeowner the room for expanding the home footprint or to place a detached garage in case 12,000 square feet is inadequate. Mr. King did say that the recommended footage is 20,000, which would give the property about ½ acre of land. Twenty thousand square feet has been a typical footage for a lot with access to either one or the other municipal water utility. This will be on the agenda for the September 14, 2015 meeting.

**CONSIDERATION OF SETTING DATE FOR DEDICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE PLACQUE
RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION BY THE AARON B. MOSS FAMILY:**

City Manager Blackburn shared that the commemorative plaque honoring the Moss family is now on the BB&T building. Mr. Blackburn received some dates and times from Mayor Beam and the Council to plan a dedication of the commemorative plaque. Mr. Blackburn will get in touch with the Moss family to set a date.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Manager Ben Blackburn introduced Mr. Jason Black. Jason was promoted on August 18 to Street and Sanitation Superintendent. He is replacing Mr. Doug Black who recently retired. Mr. Blackburn shared that he is very confident that Jason is the best employee for the job. Everyone welcomed Jason to his new position with the city and congratulated him on his promotion.

Councilmember Parker asked why the sanitation truck does not have a plug in the bottom so that trash liquids cannot run out on the streets. Councilmember Parker shared that he receives many complaints from citizens concerning this.

Mr. Blackburn stated that he would like to share why. Mr. Blackburn reminded everyone that the sanitation truck is for solid waste pick up only not liquids. Citizens should not be putting liquids in the garbage can. When the sanitation truck is full and taken to the landfill we are charged by the weight of the solid waste. If our truck is full of liquids then we are paying for liquids and not actual solids. In addition, the sanitation truck has to have a way to let the liquids out of the truck because if not, the liquids would splash out on the employees when the solids are compacted. There has to be a way for the liquids to run out and that is the only way to do it.

Councilmember Parker shared that he had a conversation with the new Preacher at the Methodist Church about the lower lot at the back of the church. Councilmember Parker shared that this property would be a good location to expand the City Memorial Cemetery. Councilmember Parker stated that the church might not want to sale the whole lot but maybe half of it. Councilmember Parker asked City Manager Blackburn if he could put something in writing on letterhead letting the church know that we are interested in the property. City manager Blackburn stated that he would take care of the letter.

Mayor Beam shared that he had received a letter from Carpenter's Real Estate about the housing development they proposed on the property beside of Food Lion. Mayor Beam shared that the letter stated that the project did not get the State funding. Without State funding the project will not happen.

Mayor Beam and Councilmember Puett gave an update on the recent MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) meeting. Dallas Cherryville highway is still on the list for passing lanes.

Finance Director Dixie Wall explained the irrigation fees to Mayor Beam and Councilmembers. Mrs. Wall explained that it would save the city money to consolidate the irrigation bill with the utility bill. Currently customers with irrigation meters receive two bills. Mrs. Wall stated that we have approximately 20 to 25 customers that this would affect. The change for the customer would be that once the irrigation meter is consolidated with the utility bill, the city would not be able to inactivate the irrigation billing like we do currently. Most customers with irrigation systems call to have their systems turned off in the winter months when the system is not in use so they do not have to pay the minimum fees. Once it is turn off, the customer does not receive a bill until it is requested by the customer to have it turned back on. Our customers are not charged for the service of having the irrigation turned off and on. Once the irrigation service is added to the utility bill, the city will not be able to inactivate the account like we have in the past, and the customer will have to pay the minimum on the irrigation system every month even if there is no usage. All electric and water meters are read regardless if they are on or off. After some discussion Council directed staff to move forward with adding the irrigation water meters to the customers main account and only send out one bill.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.

Adopted this 14 day of September 2015.

H. I. Beam

Mayor, H.L. Beam

Paige H. Green
City Clerk, Paige H. Green

