

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 23, 2015 @ 3:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING ROOM

Present at the meeting was Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam, Council Member's Brian Dalton, Jill Puett, David Kiser and Malcolm Parker. Also present was City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Fire Chief Jeff Cash, Finance Director Dixie Wall, and Police Chief Chad Hawkins.

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the Work Session to order at 3:15 pm welcoming everyone.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CLEVELAND-GASTON-LINCOLN REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – FIRE CHIEF JEFF CASH:

Fire Chief Jeff Cash addressed the Mayor and Council and explained to them the City of Cherryville's Mitigation Action Plan that he and City Manager Blackburn have worked so hard on putting together. Mayor Beam and the Council were given a copy of the plan that will reduce or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from hazards. The plan that Chief Cash shared only pertained to Cherryville, however Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln Counties all are a part of this. A total of 29 towns, cities, and counties are participating in this plan. The plan has been deemed by FEMA to be approvable pending adoption by the City Council. The Council also had a Resolution before them for adoption of this plan. This will be placed on the agenda for the March 9, 2015 City Council meeting. Once this plan is approved, a copy of it will be in the Clerk's library for any citizen to review.

UPDATE FROM PLANNING BOARD ON PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MONDAY MARCH 9, 2015 RE: REZONING CHANGE FROM B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS) TO R-15 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 305 N. CHERRY STREET. (GASTON COUNTY PID #129271) – CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Blackburn gave an update from the Planning Board meeting that was held on February 16, 2015. He shared that the Planning Board unanimously approved the rezoning of 305 N. Cherry Street from B-3 to R-9. The Public Hearing date has been set for March 9, 2015 at the Cherryville Community Building at 7:00 pm. This will be placed on the agenda.

DISCUSSION OF MARCH 4, 2015 ELECTRICITIES RATE COMMITTEE MEETING - CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Blackburn shared the latest on the Electricities Rate Committee Meeting that will be held on March 4, 2015. The meeting will take place at 10:00 am at the Hilton Garden Inn Charlotte/Concord to consider updated cost and revenue projections, including debt restructuring options, and their impact on the wholesale rate path. The Electricities staff has completed the update of cost and revenue projections, but the meeting package is not complete as of February 18. Electricities feels like the changes that have been made to the rate path will warrant an early release of summary results. They are hoping that the debt restructuring will give everyone that is a member a change to reduce electric rates for their citizens. Council Member Dalton spoke up and shared that the proposal has changed several times. He shared that he had just received another e-mail from Electricities striking options one and two on the proposal. After much discussion from Mayor Beam, Council Members and the City Manager of the Summary of Rate Paths and Net Positions it was clear that everyone was in favor of cutting cost now for electrical customers. This will be put on the City Council Agenda for the March 9th meeting at which time an update will be given of the meeting that will be held on March 4th.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Beam asked if the City had a policy for snow and ice removal on Main Street. He explained that he had received so many calls from citizens about Main Street. He shared that business owners had told him that customers would pull up but then just pull off because they were unable to get out of the car. Mayor Beam explained that he has been on Main Street for 40 years and he can remember times when the City would send a front end loader and a dump truck down the street to scrape up the ice and snow. Brandon Abernathy answered Mayor Beam by saying there was no policy for Main Street. Mr. Abernathy explained that the City does not have salt to put down only sand. Mr. Abernathy stated that the city can remove snow but not ice because the ice gets so packed down. Mr. Abernathy shared that even if the City had salt to put down it is not effective unless the temperature gets above 20 degrees. Council Member Parker shared that he had some complaints of red mud being put down. City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that the City started working on the ice on Main Street Friday afternoon and the temperatures Saturday warmed up enough that the ice melted. Mr. Blackburn also shared that a policy for Main Street may be something that the City needs to consider adopting because the sun only hits one side of the street.

Council Member Puett asked if the city has a backup meter reader. She shared that the bills had more days this past month. She wanted to know what we could do to keep some bills from having so many days if the meter reader is out. Mr. Blackburn shared that we are training Chris King and Dean McSwain as backup readers. Council Member Dalton also shared that the holidays can cause a bill to have more days also. Council Member Dalton also shared that we know about the holidays every year and we need to have extra people in place to read so that

the bills do not have extra days. Finance Director Dixie Wall shared that some bills had 42 days. Council Member Kiser asked how a month can have 24 days. Mrs. Wall commented that it is because the meter reader reads it quicker but this month it has taken him longer because of the ice.

Council Member Parker shared that he has received a request from the Senior Citizens asking for some financial help from the City. He shared that the City has never helped them in the past and would like some help. Council Member Dalton asked Council Member Parker if they had filled out the request form since it had been discussed last. Mr. Blackburn shared that the request has been turned in and we can put it on the agenda for the City Council meeting. Mayor Beam shared that we do furnish the community building for them to meet. Council Member Parker shared that the seniors are no different than the ball teams that we provide fields for and we also give them money. Council Member Dalton stated that we have not given the ball teams money except to help build the dug outs. This will be put on the agenda for consideration.

City Manager Blackburn shared that the Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual dinner and awards presentation this Thursday night 6:00 pm. He encouraged everyone to attend and shared that Arnett Muldrow will be presenting the branding study results.

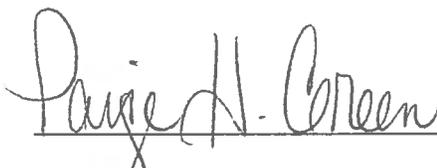
Police Chief Chad Hawkins shared that the high school wrestling team had a young man Tanner Jones to finish fourth in the State. Tanner is a senior this year.

Mayor Beam shared that we now have former police Chief Yates McGinnis's badge to present to him. Mr. Blackburn will set up the date and time for this.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Beam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Kiser made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Parker seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourn at 4:08 pm.

Adopted this 9th day of March, 2015.



City Clerk, Paige H. Green



Mayor, H.L. Beam III

