

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2014 @ 3:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM

Present at the meeting, Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam, Councilmember's Jill Puett, David Kiser, Malcolm Parker, and Brian Dalton. Staff that was present, City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, EDC Director Richard Randall, Planning & Zoning Director Richard Elam, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Police Chief Chad Hawkins, and Fire Chief Jeff Cash. Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDERATION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF CHERRYVILLE AND GASTON COUNTY, RE: TAX COLLECTIONS, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed Mayor Beam and the Council with an Interlocal Agreement between Gaston County and the City of Cherryville for the collection of taxes. Beginning with the 2013 tax bill for 2013-2014, the County shall prepare, bill and collect all taxes due. This will cost the City approximately \$7,600.00 annually.

Councilmember Dalton asked if the City ever audits the amount that we get from the County. We do not.

Mayor Beam shared that the re-evaluation of taxes and the increase will be collected in 2015.

This will be placed on the City Council Agenda for the March 10th, meeting.

PRESENTATION OF EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT, JOSH GARREN TROOP 78:

Mr. Josh Garren of Scout Troop 78 presented the Mayor and City Council with a project that he will do to earn his Eagle Scout Award. Josh handed out a sketch of the area located on the corner of Pink Street and Church Street. This area is also known as Veterans Park. Josh would like to place benches in the area surrounded by gravel honoring each branch of the military.

Councilmember Jill Puett is on the ladies auxiliary of the American Legion and she explained that she is very excited about Josh's plans and they would also like to help with this. Roses that

were once in the area were diseased and had to be removed. New plants will be brought in and they can be worked around the benches. Councilmember Puett thanked Josh for the work his plans on doing.

Josh also shared that he would like to place a plaque at the sight, hold a ceremony with a guest speaker and have a rededication of the area. Josh will also give this presentation at the City Council meeting on March 10.

CONSIDERATION FOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CITY EMPLOYEES, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers with a Code of Conduct for City Employees. Mr. Blackburn asked Mayor Beam and the Councilmembers to consider the Code of Conduct for City Employees and ask that it be put in place.

Councilmember Parker shared that certain circumstances should call for an employees to be fired immediately.

City Manager Ben Blackburn explained that the Personnel Policy was in place for disciplinary action. He went on to explain that this policy was no different than the Whistle Blower Policy or the Technology Policy. All employees will get a copy of the Code of Conduct, it will be explained to them and they will sign it acknowledging they understand it.

This item will be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting held March 10.

CONSIDERATION OF ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT PART 15, RICHARD ELAM:

Mr. Richard Elam, Planning & Zoning Director explained that the North Carolina State Legislature recently enacted Session Law 2013-125, (House Bill 276), "An Act to Clarify and Modernize Statues Regarding Zoning Boards of Adjustment." The bill originated as a proposal from the North Carolina Bar Association and provides for uniform notice requirements for hearings on quasi-judicial matters, changes the standards for granting a variance, updates the provisions for judicial review of decisions and makes other changes designed to simplify or clarify the statues. Mr. Elam Explained that this was basically house cleaning that we have to do. Mr. Elam requested that the Planning and Zoning Department staff amend the City of Cherryville Zoning Ordinance to make changes to the provisions regarding the Board of Adjustment.

This will be placed on the agenda for the March 10th City Council meeting.

UPDATE ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, RICHARD RANDALL:

EDC Director Richard Randall addressed Mayor Beam and the Council and shared that the hours of the Cherry Blossom will be extended this year. On Saturday the festival will end at 8:00 pm not 4:00. There will be a band on both Friday and Saturday nights and the Fantastic Shakers are in the process of signing up now. Saturday night's entertainment is still being worked out at this time. Terry Fisher manager of the ABC Store is in the process is getting permits lined up for the sale of alcohol. The Chamber will provide the labor for the beer garden that will be in a confined area. Mr. Randall explained that anyone that works the booth for the sale of alcohol will have to take a class to do so.

Councilmember Dalton shared that ABC Laws are very strict and regulated.

Mr. Randall went on to share that the Chamber has worked out a deal with Pepsi and only Pepsi products will be sold this year.

Mayor Beam shared that he feels like the citizens are being misled and need to understand that the beer garden will be in a confined area.

Councilmember Dalton spoke up and shared that in years past everyone brings coolers and their own alcohol. This will help control it better.

Councilmember Parker shared that it needs to be made clear that the Chamber is the one in charge of the sale of alcohol not the City of Cherryville. The Chamber needed permission from the City Council to move forward with this. He also commented that anyone can apply for a daily permit to sale alcohol if you are a nonprofit organization. Councilmember Parker also shared that he feels like the City of Cherryville was done unjustly in the Eagle the previous week. He feels like it was not presented as though any organization could sale alcohol.

Mr. Randall shared the Chamber was responding to the request of the public. Mr. Randall shared that there have been request to have better food vendor, better rides, and a beer garden. Mr. Randall wants to continue building the Cherry Blossom and money has to be made to put back into the festival to make it bigger and better. The thought of having a beer garden has been talked about for several years now. Mr. Randall also commented that a winery has offered to come and serve wine and the Chamber would get a cut of the profits. This would be in the same confined area. Mr. Randall shared that anyone wanting to buy alcohol would have to purchase a wrist band for \$1.00 then they would buy tickets to purchase the alcohol.

Mayor Beam shared that he and Councilmember Puett recently attended a class in Hickory and they had the opportunity to speak to other reps from different cities and towns. They asked them about the sale of alcohol at their festivals and they shared that they have had no incidents or very little issues involving the sale of alcohol. It has been profitable for others around us.

Mr. Randall shared that the Cherryville Eagle could help promote this event.

Mayor Beam shared that this should be on the City Council agenda for March 10th.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Dalton wanted to know when we were with putting in the sidewalk on E. Church Street.

Brandon Abernathy shared that he has talked to Murray Beam Jr. and they will start measuring next week.

Councilmember Kiser asked for an update on the soldier statue. City Manager Ben Blackburn has not heard from the family. The last time he talked to the family they were putting together a fund raiser.

Councilmember Puett asked about setting dates to work on the budget. Councilmember Dalton feels like we will need more time to work on the budget this year because so much has been put off.

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that he will start with the department heads and their list and then bring the list to the Council.

Councilmember Dalton feels like the \$3.00 fee that is on the utility bills should go toward electric cost. He shared that he will not vote to pass another budget if this fee does not get applied to the electric increases.

Councilmember Kiser feels like the budget work shop can be held in one day.

This will be put on the March 10, agenda for a date to be set for a budget work shop.

City Manager Ben Blackburn gave an update on the sand removal on Main Street. He explained that the recent snow is a rare event for us. We have received some complaints but the sand has now been removed.

Mayor Beam shared that his phone has rang off the hook over the sand on Main Street. He shared that he is disappointed in how we handled the cleanup of Main Street. Mayor Beam called Chief Cash Thursday and he was told that he was calling the wrong place to have the sand removed. He then called the City Manager. Mayor Beam wanted to know if we had a plan in place for these type of events. He did share that we don't have this amount of snow every year but a plan needs to be in place.

City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that he and the Public Works Director will be getting together to put a contingency plan in place for such events. He explained that we get calls about why are not putting sand down and then we get calls about why we put the sand down.

Mayor Beam shared that he understood exactly what Mr. Blackburn was saying because he has received the same calls. Mayor Beam felt like the simplest way to remove the sand would be for the fire department to hose the streets down.

City Manager Blackburn shared that the sand will settle in the catch basins and then we could face flooded streets. Mr. Blackburn and Councilmember Kiser thanked Brandon and his department for what they did during the recent snow storm.

City Manager Ben Blackburn that there were three proposals for the roof at the Cherryville Rescue Squad building. One was for a basic repair of the leak for \$2,850.00, the second proposal was for \$4,400.00 which consist of repairing the leak and also areas on the roof that will cause future problems. The third proposal was for \$14,250.00 for a new roof. Staff is recommending the second option for \$4,400.00. We have money coming in for the rent and the utilities.

Councilmember Kiser agrees with the second proposal and to repair the problem. With money coming in this needs to be addressed.

Councilmember Dalton asked about a warranty.

The company Gastonia Sheet Metal gives a one year warranty on their work.

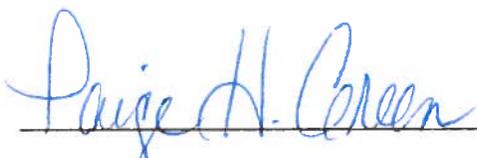
City Council gave staff permission to proceed with repairing the roof.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to enter in closed session. Councilmember's Kiser and Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The work session ended at 4:25 pm.

Adopted this 10th day of March, 2014.



Mayor, H.L. Beam



City Clerk, Paige H. Green

(SEAL)

