



**RESCHEDULED WORK SESSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2016 @ 6:00 PM  
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
411 E. CHURCH ST. CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021**

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the rescheduled work session meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilmember’s Jill Puett, David Kiser and Brian Dalton were present. Also in attendance, City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Finance Director Dixie Wall, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Fire Chief Jeff Cash and Water Plant Superintendent Patty Hall. No media was present.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING RE: REZONING CHANGE FROM B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS) TO R-15 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 303 N. CHERRY STREET. (GASTON COUNTY PID #129272) – CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Blackburn shared that Mr. Edward Gibson, property owner of 303 N. Cherry Street, has requested to have the parcel rezoned. Mr. Gibson is requesting the parcel be rezoned from B-3 (general business) to R-15 (single family residential). The planning board met and unanimously recommended that the parcel be rezoned. A public hearing date will need to be set for the rezoning. This will be placed on the February 8 agenda for a date.

**CONSIDERATION OF END OF YEAR REPORT FOR CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE CHIEF JEFF CASH:**

Chief Cash shared that he will have his end of year report prepared for the February 8 meeting. This will be on the agenda.

**CONSIDERATION OF RECOGNITION OF CHERRYVILLE PART TIME ENGINEER KURT BLACK FOR RECEIVING THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS AWARD – FIRE CHIEF JEFF CASH:**

Chief Cash shared that he would like to recognize part time employee Kurt Black for receiving the Western NC Association of Firefighters award. This will be placed on the February 8 agenda.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MID-YEAR REPORT – CHAIRMAN PETE CRAFT:**

City Manager Blackburn shared that Pete Craft, Chairman of the Board for the Chamber of Commerce, will be at the February 8 meeting for a mid-year report. This will be on the February 8 agenda.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 2016 CHERRYVILLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL – EDC DIRECTOR RICHARD RANDALL:**

City Manager Blackburn shared that an ordinance would need to be approved by the Council declaring road closure for the Cherry Blossom Festival. This will be on the February 8 agenda.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 2016 CHERRYVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE – EDC DIRECTOR RICHARD RANDALL:**

City Manager Blackburn shared that an ordinance would need to be approved by the Council declaring road closure for the Cherryville Christmas Parade 2016. This will be on the February 8 agenda.

**DISCUSSION OF HYDRANT FLUSHING & FLOW TESTING – FIRE CHIEF JEFF CASH:**

Chief Cash and Brandon Abernathy had several handouts for Mayor Beam and the City Councilmembers regarding hydrant flushing. City Staff performed a hydrant-flushing project in 2012 on the city's water distribution system. Hydrants were flushed in all quadrants of the city in approximately 61.50 hours. Approximately 2.5 million gallons of water was used and 21 staff members completed the project. Staff is proposing another hydrant flush sharing that it will greatly enhance water quality and help lower the ISO rating to help save on commercial insurance rates. Chief Cash also shared that the only way to lower the ISO rating is for the hydrant testing to be certified. Chief Cash had a proposal from a company that can do the flow testing and inspection of the city's hydrants. This would then give us the points that we need for lowering the ISO rating. The proposed price is \$9,450. This will be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF SAFETY COMPLIANCE CONTRACT – CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Blackburn shared that Mr. Shane Calaway had approached him regarding the safety compliance contract for the City of Cherryville. Mr. Calaway gave Mr. Blackburn a proposal offering his expertise in work place safety. The proposal was one thousand dollars less than the current contractor. Currently Compliance Training is the contractor for all safety training. After discussion it was determined that, the City of Cherryville is happy with the current contractor and does not feel the need to change at this time.

**DISCUSSION OF RECREATION POSITION – CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:**

City Manager Blackburn asked Mayor Beam and Councilmember’s to consider moving the parks director position to July 1 for the new budget. Mayor Beam and Councilmembers agreed. City Manager Blackburn will notify all applicants.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mayor Beam shared that he and City Manager Blackburn attended the Gaston County Commissioners meeting regarding the Gaston County Health Lease proceeds. The Cherryville Township was allotted \$500,000. There was an application process that had to be followed by anyone requesting money. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the following for the Cherryville Township:

Cherryville High/Nixon Gym Floor (BOE)	\$ 88,500
Cherryville Crisis Pregnancy Center	\$ 20,000
American Legion Post 100 Renovations	\$ 25,000
City of Cherryville Projects/ * Proposal B	\$ 366,500
* Water line Upgrade (after match) - \$73k	
* Police Dept. Water Problem - \$75k	
* Park Upgrades - \$46.5k	
* Water Plant Upgrades - \$160k	

**Total:** **\$ 500,000**

Mayor Beam and City Manager Blackburn both spoke at the meeting and thanked the County Commissioners for the grant money. Council asked Mr. Blackburn to find out when the funds would be distributed so the city can get started on projects.

City Manager Blackburn shared that the City of Cherryville will again receive an award for the Main Street Program. The conference this year will be held March 16 – 18 in Goldsboro NC. City Manager Blackburn asked if anyone would interested in attending and if so to let him know for registration.

City Attorney Huffstetler shared that he had received a call from Vicki Spurling regarding utility deposits. She was concerned about the way deposits were determined. Finance Director Dixie Wall explained how and why utility deposits are determined the way they are. Mr. Huffstetler shared that he would get back in touch with Mrs. Spurling to help clear up any confusion.

Councilmember Kiser asked if any money had been received from Bonny Alexander for restitution. Councilmember Kiser shared that she has been out of prison for more than thirty days and her money for restitution should be coming in. Council asked Mr. Blackburn to get in touch with the Clerk’s office and find out where Bonny Alexanders restitution is at and when we will receive it.

City Manager Blackburn shared that he and Brandon Abernathy will be showing the BB&T building Thursday at 2:00 pm.

Mayor Beam shared that he and the Council had received comments from citizens about the snow on Main Street. Mayor Beam asked if a policy needed to be approved for snow removal. City Manager Blackburn shared that he and Brandon would be meeting about this in the morning.

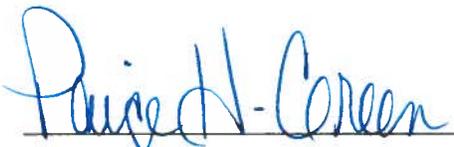
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Adopted this 8 day of February 2016.

  
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H.L. Beam, Mayor

  
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Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

(SEAL)

