



REGULAR WORK SESSION MEETING

TUESDAY JULY 26, 2016 @ 6:00 PM

CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

411 E. CHURCH ST. CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilmember's Jill Puett, David Kiser, Malcolm Parker and Brian Dalton were present. Also in attendance, City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Police Chief Chad Hawkins, EDC Director Richard Randall, and Fire Chief Jeff Cash. No media was present.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

PRESENTATION OF THE BIN BUTLER, WALT ROBERSON:

Mr. Walt Robertson of 117 Hidden Valley Street gave a presentation of The Bin Butler. The Bin Butler is a business that Mr. & Mrs. Robertson are trying to get started and would like to start with the City of Cherryville. Mr. Robertson stated that it is his family's goal to make Cherryville the most sanitary city in North Carolina. The Bin Butler is a truck much like a sanitation truck that cleans and sanitizes all hobs. The hobs would be clean, sanitized and deodorized using no chemicals only 180-degree water. The Bin Butler would follow behind the sanitation trucks and clean each hobo. Mr. Robertson proposed that if the City of Cherryville were to sign a contract with him, every city facility would have their hobs cleaned free. Mr. Robertson also proposed that the City of Cherryville would earn revenue while cleaning the city at the same time. He proposed fee would be added to current utility bills monthly or quarterly. The monthly fee would be \$5.00 for each home or business regardless of the number of hobs. Mr. Robertson stated that the City of Cherryville would pay The Bin Butler \$12.00 per quarter for every account with a hobo and the city would make \$3.00 per quarter for every account with a hobo. This price would be for a three-year contract. Mr. Robertson also proposed a five-year contract with a fee of \$15.00 to each account quarterly and the city would pay The Bin Butler \$12.00 per account quarterly.

Councilmember Dalton replied to Mr. Robertson presentation by saying that he thought he had a great business idea but he could not expect citizens to pay for a service they may not want. Councilmember Dalton shared that he would have a hard time making this a mandatory

charge. Councilmember Dalton stated that if citizens could opt out of this fee he would not have a problem with it.

Mayor Beam also commented that he had a problem with customers not having a choice.

City Manager Blackburn and Public Works Director Abernathy will get together and reevaluate this proposal.

DISCUSSION OF NAMING RIGHTS CONTRACT/BATES & ROGERS FAMILY, MS. HILDA BATES:

Ms. Hilda Bates attended the May 26 work session meeting with a proposal for lights at the Tom White fields. The Bates/Roger families are willing to donate \$38,000 for the equipment, labor and materials for the lighting and the City of Cherryville will pick up additional cost. Ms. Bates would like the field to be named "Neman T. Bates Field" Ms. Bates also shared that she would like a contract with the City of Cherryville stating that the name would never be changed. At the May 26 work session meeting, Mayor Beam asked City Attorney Huffstetler to prepare a contract for consideration. City Attorney Huffstetler prepared a draft of the contract for consideration. After some discussion, City Attorney Huffstetler will make some changes and have a final draft for the August 11 meeting.

DISCUSSION OF N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVED FUNDS, EDC DIRECTOR RICHARD RANDALL:

EDC Director Richard Randall shared that he has received information from Alan Fraley that the City of Cherryville will receive \$94,340.00 from N.C. General Assembly. The Rural Division of the N.C. Department of Commerce has granted funds to 40 cities and the funds have been appropriated for downtown revitalization. Information is forthcoming and Mr. Randall will know more soon. This will be on the August 11 agenda.

DISCUSSION OF PLAQUE RE: JACK BINGHAM @ HERITAGE PARK, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Black shared that he received a call from Ms. Rita Beam asking that the city consider placing a plaque at Heritage Park in honor of Jack Bingham. Mr. Bingham has spent countless hours of time and labor on Heritage Park. Council directed City Manager Blackburn to order a plaque in honor of Mr. Bingham and have it placed at Heritage Park.

END OF THE YEAR REPORT FOR THE MAIN STREET PROGRAM, CITY MANAGER BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Blackburn shared that Mr. Andy West, Chairman of the Main Street Program, would be at the meeting on August 11, 2016 to give the end of year report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Manager Blackburn shared that a meeting was held earlier that morning regarding water. Water Plant Superintendent Patty Hall is concerned about the water usage being up and

the creek being down. The water issue will be monitored closely and if there are, any changes City Manager Blackburn will update.

City Manager Blackburn shared that the Main Street Program would like to give a presentation next week on the Streetscape and Land Use Master Plan. City Manager Blackburn asked for possible dates and times. The meeting will be held on Thursday August 4, 2016 at 6:00 pm at city hall.

Mayor Beam shared that he has received nothing but compliments on the mural that is being painting at the corner of Mountain Street and Main Street of the New Year Shooters.

Mayor Beam shared that he has talked to Police Chief Hawkins and the media would like to recognize all police officers in Cherryville. Captain Jenks is compiling a list of all officers and this could take place at the first home football game.

Councilmember Parker shared that Noah Eaker made the All American Team. A resolution will be prepared for August 8, 2016.

Councilmember Dalton asked when a part-time parks and recreation director was going to be hired. City Manager Blackburn shared that he is preparing a job description for that position.

Councilmember Parker asked when the new paving would begin. Public Works Director replied that he is ready to start the bidding process.

Councilmember Parker asked why his neighborhood has had issues with the power going off twice in the past week. City Manager Blackburn shared that the first time the electric went off is still unknown to staff. A tree limb on the lines caused the second electric outage. Staff removed the limb and power was restored.

Chief Hawkins addressed Mayor Beam and the Council asking for a pay increase within his department. Chief Hawkins shared that he has a vacancy he is unable to fill due to the pay scale being so low. Chief Hawkins shared that the increase would help recruitment, retention and diversion. Chief Hawkins also stated that he currently has six officers that make less than \$34,000 annually. Chief Hawkins shared that some smaller surrounding agencies like Lowell, Ranlo, Stanley and Cramerton make more than \$35,000 on average. Chief Hawkins proposed bringing the current six officer up to \$34,000. That would be a budget increase of \$5,200. Chief Hawkins stated that his department has to be competitive if they want to hired qualified officers.

Mayor Beam asked if a budget amendment would be needed for this change. City Manager Blackburn shared that no budget amendment would be needed because it is so early in the new budget. City Manager Blackburn shared that some funds could be shifted around like car maintenance. Chief Hawkins stated that he has salary lag from the officer that left July 1. Councilmember Dalton stated we should have a savings of \$1,500 in salary from the officer that resigned. Chief Hawkins shared that he would have two month's salary lag from the officer that

left. Chief Hawkins stated that he is asking for \$5,200 but with the salary savings from Coleman, it would not be that much.

Councilmember Dalton shared that we have to be able to compete with Lowell and Bessemer City. We cannot compete with Gastonia or Gaston County but we have to keep up with the others.

Mayor Beam stated that if the City of Cherryville does not compete, than the good people will leave and we will not be able to keep high-level employees.

City Manager Blackburn asked City Attorney Huffstetler if this would require a vote since the City Manager is not allowed to adjust salaries. City Attorney Huffstetler stated that it would need to be voted on.

Council agreed after some discussion to grant the \$5,200 increase to the police department. This item will be on the August 8 agenda for a vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to adjourn the work session. Councilmember Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Adopted this 8 day of August 2016.



H.L. Beam, Mayor



Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

(SEAL)

