

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
 MONDAY JUNE 24, 2013 @ 3:00 PM
 FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM

Present at the work session, Mayor Austell, Councilmember's Campbell, Kiser and Parker. Councilmember Dalton was not present. Staff present, City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Finance Director Dixie Wall, Police Chief Chad Hawkins, Fire Chief Jeff Cash, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Planning & Zoning Director Richard Elam, Wastewater Superintendent Larry Wright, Water Plant Superintendent Patty Hall, and EDC Director Richard Randall. Media Present, Michael Powell with the Cherryville Eagle.

Mayor Austell called the meeting to order welcoming everyone.

ITEM #1 CONSIDERATION OF FY 2012-2013 BUDGET AMENDMENT, DIXIE WALL:

Attached is the budget amendment that Councilmember Campbell made a motion to adopt and Councilmember Kiser seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

2012-2013 BUDGET AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDANIED by the City Council of the City of Cherryville:

Section 1. The 2012-2013 Budget Ordinance of the City of Cherryville adopted on June 11, 2012 is amended by increasing and decreasing the following appropriations.

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES

Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
10-3010-0000	CURRENT YEAR AD VALOREM TAXES	\$35,000.00	
10-3010-0100	1ST PRIOR YEAR		\$10,000.00
10-3010-0200	2ND PRIOR YEAR		\$1,000.00
10-3010-0300	3RD PRIOR YEAR		\$7,000.00
10-3050-0000	VEHICLE TAXES	\$6,000.00	
10-3050-0100	PRIOR YEAR VEHICLE TAXES	\$5,000.00	
10-3070-0000	VECHICLE TAG FEES	\$200.00	
10-3430-0000	POWELL BILL ALLOCATION	\$4,500.00	
10-3980-0000	APPRO FUND BALANCE (POWELL)		\$4,500.00

Total Increase/(Decrease) in General Fund	\$50,700.00	(\$22,500.00)
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Total General Fund Revenue Budget	<u>\$28,200.00</u>	
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EXPENDITURES

Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
10-4200-1300	UTILITIES	\$5,000.00	
10-4200-2100	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$1,050.00	
10-4200-3000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,100.00	
Administration		<u>\$7,150.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
10-4400-1400	TRAVEL	\$200.00	
Economic Development		<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
10-5100-0200	SALARIES	\$7,000.00	
10-5100-0300	OVERTIME	\$3,000.00	
10-5100-0610	DENTAL	\$200.00	
10-5100-0700	RETIREMENT EXPENSE	\$5,000.00	
Police Department		<u>\$15,200.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
10-5500-3200	FUEL & MOTOR OIL	\$2,500.00	
Public Works		<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
10-6200-1300	UTILITIES	\$2,500.00	
10-6200-1510	MAINT. - GROUNDS	\$400.00	
10-6200-1910	CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS	\$250.00	
Recreation		<u>\$3,150.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Increase/(Decrease) in General Fund		\$28,200.00	\$0.00
Total General Fund Expenditure Budget		<u>\$28,200.00</u>	

Section 2. This ordinance is effective upon its adoption this June 24, 2013.

City Clerk

Mayor

ATTEST

ITEM #2 DISCUSSION OF N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAX REFORM BILL,
MAYOR AUSTELL:

Mayor expressed his concern about the tax reform bill and how it could affect our community. This will not affect this years budget but if passed could affect us in the 2014-2015 budget. He asked Ben and Dixie to stay on top of this and keep up with any changes.

ITEM #3 DISCUSSION OF CITY CHARTER FOR ELECTION ELIGIBILITY,
MAYOR AUSTELL:

Currently the City of Cherryville Charter states no person shall be eligible to be a candidate or be elected as mayor or as a member of the city council or to serve in such capacity, unless he is a resident within the city and in the ward from which he is elected for a period of twelve (12) month next preceding his election.

City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler has looked into this and shared that our charter is unconstitutional. Mr. Huffstetler feels like if this became an issue, it would be up to the Board of Elections or the State to make a final decision. Mayor Austell and the Councilmember's all agreed to let this issue lay and see what happens.

ITEM #4 CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, BEN BLACKBURN:

City Manager Ben Blackburn requested the authority from Council to give pay increases to deserving employees. The increases would be for certifications, probationary periods, and extra work loads that are expected of employees. Mayor Austell pointed out why this policy was put in place. He feels like the Council made the right decision at the time because raises were given to employees at the police department for no reason. Mayor Austell asked if the Council had ever viewed a copy of the pay scale program. Mayor Austell feels like this is a good program and shared that we do want our people to be as qualified for their jobs as possible. Mayor Austell and the Council shared that they support Ben and his recognition of employees. They also expressed that they want to be informed of all raises.

ITEM #5 DISCUSSION OF DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF PROPERTY AT 401
E. ACADEMY STREET, RICHARD ELAM:

Richard Elam shared a time line of events for the property at 401 E. Academy Street. He shared all the complaints, notices and violations with the property. Mr. Elam gave the Mayor and Council a complete update of this property to get permission for City Attorney to do a title search before the property will be demolished and removed. Mayor Austell and the City Council all agreed that Mr. Elam should move forward with the title search.

ITEM #6 OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Campbell shared that he had attending the meeting with the ABC Board and that they have been updated the store with new shelving, new camera system, and carpeting. These capital improvements were very much needed and because of these improvements the ABC Board will present the City with a check for \$5,000.00. The ABC Board will try and give the City another check by the end of the year. Councilmember Parker asked what fund the money would go in. He shared that he would like to see some up grades to City Hall. Mr. Blackburn shared that up grades for City Hall will start after July and the money would be placed in the general fund.

Councilmember Parker also asked City Manager Ben Blackburn to share an update on Woody Burgess. City Manager Blackburn shared that Mr. Burgess was to plead guilty Tuesday in Federal Court at 2:00 pm. He also shared that the City of Cherryville would receive money from the sale of the guns for restitution. Mr. Blackburn will keep the Mayor and Council update as he finds out more information.

Rodney Bowyer of 305 Mark Street asked if Bonny Alexander was going to have to pay back all the money she stole from the city. City Manager Ben Blackburn shared that the court has a process they go through. The probation office is evaluating her and then it will be up to the judge to rule on this at sentencing. Mr. Bowyer wanted to know if the IRS would get involved. Mr. Blackburn shared that he could not answer that. Mr. Blackburn did share that the City of Cherryville has stopped her health insurance that a retiree with 25 or more years gets and stated that the City will be asking for full restitution.

Councilmember Kiser shared that he saw the inmates working and asked how that program was going? Brandon Abernathy gave an update saying the program was going well and we should get two more inmates next week.

ITEM #7 ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Austell asked for a motion to adjourn the work session meeting. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Councilmember's Kiser and Parker. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Adopted this 8th day of July, 2013

Paige H. Green
Paige H. Green, City Clerk

Robert Austell
Robert Austell, Mayor

