

CITY OF CHERRYVILLE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MARCH 25, 2013 @ 3:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING ROOM

Mayor Austell called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm welcoming everyone in attendance. Mayor Austell recognized the guest Ted Alexander, Matt Shull and the new Police Chief Chad Hawkins and explained that a work session is held once a month where items are discussed and council tries not to vote unless it is something that needs a vote. If an item is voted on, it is announced at the next city council meeting.

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor and Council and asks for a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Blackburn wanted to add budget discussion to the agenda making it item # 4 and moving other business to item #5. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to amend the agenda and it was seconded by Councilmember Kiser. Vote was unanimous.

ITEM #1 TED ALEXANDER, N.C. PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Mayor Austell introduced Ted Alexander a former Mayor for the City of Shelby and a member of the NC Preservation Foundation a non profit organization that helps to local governments and other local public agencies that end up owning historic properties for which they have no immediate use. Disposition of these properties requires special care to ensure the preservation of the historic property itself and respect its surroundings. Mr. Alexander is trying to help move the old bank building (BB&T) and find a new owner for it. Mr. Alexander spoke about the price of the building and the Cities options. Mr. Alexander shared that the city could lower the price and get more interest. He also stated that we could donate the building and if we were to donate than some requires could be put on the building if sold. Mr. Alexander feels like now is a good time to try and get something going on the ground floor of the building. He also feels like the Main Street Program will help. Mr. Alexander shared that the market sets the price for any sale, and if the price is set right then we could get it sold.

Mayor Austell explained that at the time of the purchase, the bank building was looked at as a valuable piece of property. It was purchased in 2006 by former councilmember's. Mayor Austell and the current councilmember's today feel like we need to go in another direction than the former councilmember's and sale the property.

Councilmember Parker asked Mr. Alexander if the City of Cherryville would be able to accept an offer if someone had an offer. Mr. Alexander explained that the City of Cherryville did sign a contract with the NC Preservation Foundation and it was valid until June 30, 2013.

Mr. Alexander did say they would work with any buying. The contract will automatically renew unless the city does not wants it to.

Mayor Austell asked Mr. Alexander to put his options for us in writing and get it to him. Mr. Alexander will get that for the city.

Mayor Austell along with the council thanked Mr. Alexander for coming to the meeting and explaining our options.

ITEM #2 MATT SHULL – ELECTRICITIES RATE DISCUSSION

Mr. Matt Shull was introduced to by the Mayor and asked to give an electric rate process overview. Matt has been very helpful to the city in many ways. Matt had a handout that he went over to explain what Electricities is. Matt explained that Electricities has 32 Cities and Towns in eastern N.C. and 19 Cities and Towns in western N.C. Matt also covered structured rates, budgets and debt. Mr. Shull had an overview of Cherryville and shared that our rates are not that different than other Cities and Towns. He explained wholesale rates and shared that the best thing for Cherryville would be new business. The more electricity we are able to sale, the better it is for the City. Matt was very informative and is available for the City of Cherryville at anytime.

ITEM #3 CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION PER N.C. 143-318.11 (A) (5)

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to enter into closed session. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Austell explained that he always requested that a closed session come through him so that he can get with legal council in advance and make sure it is legal to have. City Manager Ben Blackburn was not aware of this, and felt like the issue at hand had to be handles in closed session.

Mayor Austell and the Councilmember's discussed the auditor and the City's options. Information will be put together for the Mayor and Council to look over.

Councilmember Dalton made a motion to go out of closed session and Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Campbell made a motion to re-amend the agenda and make other business item #4 and budget discussion item #5. Councilmember Dalton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ITEM #4 OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Dalton wanted to know when we were going to start patching streets around town.

Councilmember Parker asked about some street light issues on Lincolnton Hwy. near Wal-Mart. The repairs will be made.

Mayor Austell noted that a budget amendment will need to be made for the Peak project.

Councilmember Parker commended all employees that had a hand in the Peak project becoming a reality.

Councilmember Kiser shared that Dixie Youth's opening day was a success and a total of 155 players make up the Dixie Youth teams.

Councilmember Campbell shared that the funds that the City gave to Dixie Youth and Little League last year have resulted in four new dugouts, and a new ball field.

April 13, opening day for little league, and April 20, relay for life. Notices will be sent out about these events.

ITEM #5 BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Manager Ben Blackburn asked Mayor Austell and the Councilmember's for their input on this year's budget. The following request were made by Mayor Austell and the Councilmember's.

- Mayor Austell asked for a list of streets to be put together that need special attention. All councilmember's will ride the selected streets and make decisions about paving. Mayor Austell also mentioned a possible pay raise for employees. He asked for figures on what this would cost the city. Mayor Austell also mentioned matching grants in Raleigh that may be available to us. Mayor Austell would like to see upgrades on City Hall as well as the community building. Mayor Austell is also aware of a new leaf truck that is needed. Mayor Austell asked for information on the YMCA and the funds that we contribute to them. Mayor Austell also asked about the Phoenix contract and wanted to see it.

- Councilmember Campbell would like to see our parks upgraded. West Gate Park is in terrible shape and needs an upgrade.

- Councilmember Kiser wanted to be made aware of any big ticketed items that we may need in the upcoming year.

- Councilmember Dalton wanted to know what it cost the city for mowing each year. He has been approached by Chesley Walls and contracting out the city's mowing may be looked at. Councilmember Dalton also mention software upgrades that the City may need. They will also be available for Mayor and Councilmember's.

- Councilmember Parker asked about the police cars that are at City Hall in the old bay. He wanted to know if they were being used. Chief Hawkins explained that the cars are in need of repair and some may be used for parts for other cars.

ITEM #6 ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember's Parker and Kiser made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting. Councilmember's Dalton and Campbell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The work session meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2013



Mayor, Robert Austell



City Clerk, Paige H. Green