

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

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order welcoming everyone. Present was Councilmember's Parker, Kiser and Puett. Councilmember Dalton was unable to attend. Also present was City Manager Ben Blackburn, City Clerk Paige Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Finance Director Dixie Wall, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Police Chief Chad Hawkins and Fire Chief Jeff Cash. Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

**CONSIDERATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHERRYVILLE DEPOT MUSEUM:**

Mr. Bill Robinson of the Cherryville Depot addressed the Mayor and Council explaining to them that they appreciate the donation of \$3,500 from the City of Cherryville. Mr. Robinson also explained that the Depot had made several mistakes on the planning of installing air conditioning at the Depot. When Mr. Bob Fanter of the Depot asked the Council for the \$3,500 donation the group did not realize that some of the figures were off. After explaining where the differences were Mr. Robinson explained that the difference of \$1,036.00 would be needed but the Depot will not be back in the spring as planned to ask for another donation. The amount of \$4,416.00 will cover the cost of the air conditioning installation. Mayor Beam and the Council thanked Mr. Robinson for coming and shared that this would be placed on the agenda for the December City Council Meeting.

**CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING RE: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT:**

City Manager Ben Blackburn addressed the Mayor and Council explain that a Public Hearing needed to be set for the January 12, 2015 City Council meeting for a rezoning change. The change would be from R-9 (single & two family residential) to B-3 (general business) for 110 Black Ave., 108 Black Ave., and 107 Huss Ave. This will be placed on the December agenda to set the Public Hearing for January.

**CONSIDERATION OF POWELL BILL PAVING BIDS:**

Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy prepared a bid tabulation sheet for the Mayor and Council for consideration. Four bid packages were sent out but only three contractors responded. The first was

Mike Still Grading, second was Beam Grading and the third was Asphalt Paving. After some discussion this will also be placed on the agenda for the December City Council Meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF PURCHASING/PROCUREMENT POLICY:

Finance Director Dixie Wall addressed the Mayor and Council sharing with them that a copy of the policy was in their agenda packages. She explained that the Audit Committee had also reviewed the policy as well as the Auditor. The only recommendation from staff was an increase in amount of a purchase order. Currently any purchases over \$200.00 require a purchase order. That amount will be changed from \$200.00 to \$500.00. The audit committee and the auditor were also comfortable with this increase. This will be placed on the agenda for the December City Council meeting.

City Manager Blackburn addressed the Mayor and City Council sharing with them that as they were aware the telephone system at City Hall had been down all week. The City had been working with another carrier and getting quotes. This week a decision had to be made to install a new system. For that reason he wanted to add a Budget Amendment to the agenda. Finance Director Dixie Wall passed out the budget amendment and explained that the new telephone system would be for City Hall, Police Department and the Fire Department. This will also be placed on the agenda for the December meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Parker shared that his cable went out at his house so he called Time Warner to find out why. Time Warner told him that there may be an accident in his area that caused the problem. Councilmember Parker heard sirens so he called the police department. The dispatcher on duty was not aware of any accidents. The police had not been dispatched to any. Councilmember Parker later found out that the call was for the fire department. It was for a mal-functioning alarm at Peak Resources. Councilmember Parker feels like if a call goes out for the fire department, the police should also know what is going on.

Chief Hawkins explained that unless the call is police related the County will not dispatch them. They only dispatch the departments that are needed.

Chief Cash commented that for the two departments to be able to communicate with each other and know what calls are being dispatched to each other it would take an 800 MHz communications and we do not have that capability. The only way for the departments within the City of Cherryville to communicate is by cell phone. Councilmember Parker feels like the departments should be able to communicate with each other.

Councilmember Parker asked who was paying the power bill at the old Peak Building because there are lights on. Mr. Blackburn responded that it should be in the Cherryville Community Development Corporation should they now own it. Mr. Blackburn will check and make sure it is in their name.

Councilmember Parker shared that several months ago he challenged the Mayor and Councilmembers to step up and do what is right for the citizens. He shared with everyone an invoice that he received from Ms. Georgia Jefferies at 719 S. Mountain Street. He explained that Ms. Jefferies is 92 years old and the City charged her \$50.00 to pick up some brush that she had cut in the right-a-way. Councilmember Parker feels that we should not charge our citizens to pick up limbs and brush that have been removed from our right-a-way. Councilmember Parker discussed this matter with Mr. Blackburn who explained to him that Ms. Jefferies paid someone to cut down the limbs and brush. Councilmember Parker explained that Ms. Jefferies is not able to get outside and do the work herself so she paid someone to do it and now the City is charging her to pick it up. Councilmember Parker does not feel like it is right.

Mayor Beam shared that he understood what Councilmember Parker was saying but he asked where do we draw the line. You cannot go by age or income.

Finance Director Dixie Wall explained that the contractor was responsible for hauling off the limbs and brush because the citizen paid the contractor. If a citizen pays a contractor than the contractor is responsible for the cleanup. The City does not pick up contracted work. Mrs. Wall shared that Ms. Jefferies should collect the \$50.00 from the contractor to pay the invoice.

Councilmember Parker asked how many limbs there were. Mr. Blackburn shared that the pile was big and the contractor stacked it across the road on someone else's property.

Councilmember Parker shared that Ms. Jefferies is on a fixed income and she probably paid him all she had just to get the limbs cut.

Mayor Beam asked if Ms. Jefferies contact him. Councilmember Parker shared that he had two or three families around her get in touch with him saying it was not right.

Councilmember Puett asked why the contractor did not remove the limbs. Councilmember Parker responded by saying that it was probably only one guy and Ms. Jefferies did not know that he was responsible for removing it. Mr. Blackburn shared that if it is the contractor that he is thinking of he does not have the capabilities of removing the limbs.

Councilmember Parker shared that he was going to tell the customer that he feels like it is a shame that the City of Cherryville is charging them because that is how he feels about it.

Mayor Beam shared with Councilmember Parker that he is taking personal responsibility for the charge also because he is part of the City's policies.

Councilmember Parker shared that the limbs were not even on Ms. Jefferies property, the contractor stacked them across the road on someone else's property which is a whole new issue. Councilmember Parker asked how the City even knew the limbs were Ms. Jefferies. The City knew because she and others called City Hall. A neighbor that called also told who the contractor was. This contractor knows better. He knows that he is responsible for the removal but he does it anyway. Mr. Blackburn shared that it was not fair to the McQuaige property either. Councilmember Parker shared that he watches the city crews do things all day long and he wonders why they don't do the same for him.

Councilmember Puett asked if we knew the contractor. Yes we do. She asked if the contractor would be willing to pay for the removal. Probably not. Councilmember Puett asked if the contractor has a privilege license. City Clerk Paige Green answered no he does not have a privilege license.

Mr. Blackburn shared that Councilmember Parker had talked to him about Cherryville native Jerry G. Gantt and recognizing him with a resolution and a key to the city. Mr. Gantt was raised a Master Mason at the Cherryville Lodge 505 and since that time he has been honored with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree of the Scottish Rite and is now a member of the Arabia Shriners in Houston, Texas, where he has held numerous offices and levels of great responsibility. Mr. Gantt will be at the American Legion on Wednesday November 26, 2014 @ 7:00 pm and Councilmember Parker would like for him to be recognized at that time. Everyone agreed and a resolution and a key will be presented to Mr. Gantt.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Kiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Councilmember Puett. Vote was unanimous. The work session adjourn at 4:00 pm.

Adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

Paige H. Green  
City Clerk, Paige H. Green

H.L. Beam III  
Mayor, H.L. Beam III

