



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JULY 8TH, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING
W. J. ALLRAN JR. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
106 S. JACOB ST. CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021**

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Jill Puett called the regular scheduled meeting to order at the community building in the William J. Allran Jr., Council Chambers. The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam was absent due to sickness. Councilmembers Jon Abernethy, Gary Freeman, and Janice Hovis were present. City Manager Brian Dalton, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Yansea Taylor, Planning and Zoning Director Richard Elam, Water Plant Superintendent Bryan Williams, Downtown Director David Day, Wastewater Superintendent Larry Wright, Police Chief Brandon Hunsucker, and Fire Chief Jason Wofford, were also present. The Lincoln Times and Wise News Network were present for media coverage.

INVOCATION: PASTOR ZACK CHRISTY, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

Pastor Zack Christy gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilmember's Freeman and Hovis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approve the minutes below:

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JUNE 10, 2024
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING JUNE 25, 2024

Councilmember Hovis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

At this time the mayor, as you know, is not with us tonight due to being in the hospital. He has been there since last Monday night, so as part of the mayor's comments, I'm going to be updating a little bit about mayor Beam. One of the things that we just hate he had to miss due to this sickness was our 4th of July celebration. Mayor Beam was instrumental and wanted to have the swinging medallions here. And so, they knew that he was missing it and that he was very ill and they so graciously took it on themselves during their break to make a little video for me and gave it to me. And I sent it to him and his daughter. And they said it lifted his spirits. He missed it, but yet they let him know that they were thinking about him. Also, the mayor did have a procedure today. And they now have the pump in place that is pumping the infection out and we certainly expect to see a good turn around here. He's eating and he's progressing and he has related through his girls to thank everyone for their continued prayers because he said, he sure has felt the prayers. John would like to deliver a prayer for our mayor.

Councilmember Abernethy said a prayer for Mayor H.L. Beam.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEE'S YEARS OF SERVICE, MAYOR PRO TEM JILL PUETT:

Mary Beth Tackett was recognized for ten years of service with the city of Cherryville. Mary Beth is the Program Coordinator and her office is located at the chamber building on Main Street. Below is a copy of her certificate:



CITIZENS TO BE HEARD CITIZENS THAT WISH TO SPEAK MAY DO SO BY COMING TO THE PODIUM AND STATING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BEFORE YOU SPEAK. COMMENTS WILL BE HELD TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON. (PLEASE SIGN UP WITH THE CITY CLERK AT THE MEETING BEFORE THE MEETING BEGINS. IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK ON A MATTER WHERE A PUBLIC HEARING IS BEING HELD, YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO DO SO DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING AND DO NOT NEED TO SIGN UP):

Ms. Stephanie Caldwell of 503 N. Pine Street, approached the podium to share that N. Pine Street is over run with feral cats and turkey buzzards. She said the house across the street that the city took possession of, has high grass and so does the two vacant lots in front of her. The lots have trees that have fallen, and vines growing out in the road that she has sprayed to keep them back. She shared that there are around 200 feral cats around her house, and the turkey buzzards wake her up in the mornings as they set on top of her house. Ms. Caldwell shared that cat feces are all over the yard.

Mr. Dalton shared that the cats will be a Gaston County animal control issue and we can contact them about this issue. Mr. Dalton shared that he understood that you have to catch the cats and take them to the shelter. He was not sure of the day to take them but he can find out and he will do that and let Ms. Caldwell know. Mr. Dalton also shared that the house with the high grass should have been cut today.

Mr. Rick Shaw of 109 S. Depot Street, approached the podium to ask if one of the gates at Rudsill Stadium could be opened so citizens could walk the track.

Councilmember Abernethy shared that Gaston County Schools makes that decision and they have the gates locked because of the construction in the parking lot.

DISCUSSION OF CODE OF ORDINANCE APPEAL RE: 500 N. MOUNTAIN STREET, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR RICHARD ELAM:

Mr. Elam approached the podium to give a history on the property located at 500 N. Mountain Street. Mr. Elam shared the following, "The dwelling at 500 N Mountain St. from June 5th this year, I call the property owner advise that a notice of violation letter would be both mailed and e-mail to her. The letter addressed the current state of the property that has existed since January of this year when a fire broke out. There was fire damage debris in the yard, safety factors, etcetera? And the letter further stated that the structure will no longer be allowed to sit there in its current position, and that steps needed to be taken to demolish it and clean it up. So, that was June, the 5th. On June 11th, my office received a letter from the property owner requesting an appeal to the city manager, and that's the reason we're here tonight. Since that appeal, the property owner has received correspondence and compensation from the insurance company. The owner obtained a letter from my office to take the Gaston County Building Department to obtain the demolition permit. The owner now has a demolition permit from Gaston County and the owner is also working with a contractor to have the structure demolished as well as an accessory building to the edge of North Mountain Street

demolished, because you can't have an accessory building on a vacant lot. The contractor or property owner will also clear the property of all trash, rubbish, debris, and I'm asking the City Council to please set a date, at which all demolition and cleanup should be completed by, say, 30 days from now, August the 7th and my office will gladly work with the property owner and the contractor to stand by that date. I now ask if you have any questions. Looks like it's going to get taken care of."

Ms. Collette Anderle, owner of 500 N. Mountain Street approached the podium to say that she is going to proceed with demolishing the property herself. She explained that she owns her own construction company and has done this type of work for over 20 years. She also shared that she is in talks with an investor that will be working on the mill and since they are doing work in the area, he may want to have the work done anyway. Ms. Anderle shared that her goal is to have the home demolished and cleaned up in 30 days.

Councilmember Hovis set the date of August 15, 2024, that the house would be demolished and cleaned up. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF LEASE AGREEMENT RE: CHERRYVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM, CITY MANAGER

BRIAN DALTON:

Mr. Dalton stated, "I just wanted to let you know that obviously with the new board that you appointed for the historical museum, we will need to have a new lease drawn up. Mrs. Taylor is working on the lease agreement at this time, we're still looking at the same conditions that we had previously. You know, there will be no monthly rent payment, they will not be responsible for the utilities, anything like that? The only thing that we've talked about is like basic maintenance issues that happen on the interior of the building, that maybe they be responsible for those, that's it. But pretty much it will be a similar lease agreement that we had before. With the historical museum and once we get that drawn up, we'll get it signed by both parties. Also, I sent you an email on your laptop earlier today that Mr. Craft forwarded to me. The museum board had added two new members. This was part of the agreement, we started off with five members and when they came up with two more that they thought might would want to bring on to the board, or they could have a vote themselves and then bring it before you to decide on those other two additional members, and they have voted between the board to bring on Anita Millwood and Alice Dellinger. And if you remember, they both were very good members previously and would be a great addition."

Mr. Pete Craft, Chairman of the museum board approached the podium to share the following. "Mayor Pro Tem, City Council city manager, just as I had stated in that note from our meeting, I think it would be a benefit to our board to have a couple members that have served previously. We talked about the pros and the cons of that and you know did we want to go back that way? Did we want to create new board members? Whatever the case may be, with that

being said, we felt like we needed some continuity and some people on the board that knew about the operations of the museum because, really, the current board doesn't know all the particulars that need to be known about the museum and these two ladies do and they are happy that they were asked. They agreed to serve and they have been there helping in various ways like cleaning up the museum and making it presentable. We recently had a group of around 20 people from First Baptist Church in Mount Holly, that came to visit and they were very complimentary on the museum and how things looked, and these folks have just worked good together and good work environment and happy and just been pleasing for sure. But that's why we asked about these two board members in particular.”

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approve the appointments of Anita Millwood and Alice Dellinger to the museum board. Councilmember Hovis second the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Dalton shared that the splash pad opened on July 5, and the hourly currently are 12:00 till 6:00 pm. The splash pad will be open every day this week.

Mr. Dalton shared that the steel beams are going up at the new gym on Academy Street.

Councilmember Abernethy said that he would just like to recognize Brian Dalton. He said that they had the ABC Board meeting last month, where the board members met with the state auditor, and there was some paperwork that they needed to have on file. Mr. Abernethy called Brian on my way back to work from the meeting, and told him what was needed. He stopped in the next day to let Alan know that Brian was going to get that paperwork him as soon as he can and he said, “He's already dropped it off.” So, thank you very much for doing that research and getting that so fast.

Mr. Dalton said, “Thank Paige because she is the one that got the information together.”

Councilmember Hovis shared that she would like to publicly thank Mike McSwain. Mr. McSwain works for a company called Calaway and they do industrial maintenance. Mr. McSwain brought two of his workers up to the pool concession stand where the two bathrooms were absolutely terrible, and he furnished the paint and the labor to upgrade the concession stand area. Ms. Hovis shared that Mr. Mcswain has two children that attend Cherryville schools and he has taken his resources and time, that he has donated to the city of Cherryville. He has saved the city several thousand dollars and I wish we had more volunteers like him.

Mr. Dalton shared that Mr. McSwain is also the one that provided the labor for the police department to be painted. Mr. Dalton shared that he would also get a thank you note out to Mr. McSwain.

Councilmember Puett asked about the recycling center and stated that someone had said something to her about the cardboard boxes.

Mr. Dalton said that he and Chris J. King had been out to the recycling center and they are trying to get a different container for the cardboard boxes. Currently every box has to be broken down in order to fit in the container. Citizens get frustrated with having to break down every box and then they just leave them on the ground. He hopes that we will get a different container soon.

Councilmember Puett thanked staff for their help with the July 4th celebration and she reminded everyone about the American Legion State Tournament that starts Friday July 12. There will be a parade welcoming the teams to town. There will be a free homerun derby and the Band of Oz will perform. Everyone is welcomed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hovis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Adopted this 15 day of August 2024.

J. L. Beam MAYOR

Jill P. Puett, Mayor Pro Tem

Paige H. Green

Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

(SEAL)