



**REGULAR WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 28, 2023 @ 5:30 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING
W.J. ALLRAN JR. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
106 S. JACOB STREET CHERRYVILLE, NC 28021**

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order. Councilmember's Gary Freeman, Malcolm Parker, Jon Abernethy, and Jill Puett were present. City Manager Brian Dalton, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Downtown Director David Day, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Fire Chief Jason Wofford, Public Works Director Chris J. King, Police Chief Brandon Hunsucker, and Planning & Zoning Director Alex Blackburn were also present. Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approve the consent agenda as written. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 10, RE: CITY'S RELINQUISHMENT OF ETJ PROPERTIES TO GASTON COUNTY FOR PIEDMONT LITHIUM

PUBLIC HEARING RE: PROPOSED MURALS AND SIDEWALK PAINTING ORDINANCES

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

YMCA UPDATE, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOSEY MESSER:

DISCUSSION OF WEST GATE PARK, CITY MANAGER BRIAN DALTON:

City Manager Dalton shared that the work at West Gate Park is ready to begin, after receiving a letter from the State saying we were good to go. Mike Steel will be doing all the paving and repairing the culvert going into the park, but he cannot start until June or July. Todd

Sosebee will be resurfacing the tennis courts and making the pickle ball courts. Mr. Sosebee can start in the new two to three weeks.

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET WORK SESSION, CITY MANAGER BRIAN DALTON:

City Manager Dalton asked for consideration to have the budget work session on Tuesday April 25, 2023 following the regular work session at the community building. The work sessions begin at 5:30 pm and immediately we can move into the budget work session.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to hold the budget work session after the regular work session on Tuesday April 25, 2023 at the community building. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Freeman asked if any teams were using the senior league field? He would like to see the middle school games move to that field because of the seating, concession stand, and it is a better field.

Manager Dalton responded saying Treadway's teams use it for a practice field He went on to say that we are the only County in North Carolina that plays middle school at 55/80 and not 60/90 on a regulation field. Mr. Dalton stated that he is hoping Gaston County will change that and go to the 60/90 fields and then we could move the middle school up to the senior league field. If the County does not change the problem with that field would be the grass infield.

Councilmember Freeman stated that we could cut into the grass and adjust it, but it would be better if the County makes that change.

Councilmember Puett thanked staff for fixing the home plate for Dixie Youth.

Mayor Beam shared that he talked to Bob Barker and he does plan on attending the ribbon cutting for Main Street this Saturday.

David Day approached the podium to give an update on the Main Street Conference. He shared the following:

"Thank you, Mayor, Council and City Manager Dalton, for asking me to give you an update on the recent North Carolina Main Street Conference.

The conference was held in Statesville this year on March 14 – 16th. Main Street Chairperson Donna Beringer and Economic Development member Vickie Spurling and I attended.

There was a Record number of 754 who attended this 1st in live conference since 2020. During the closing session it was confirmed that North Carolina had the largest conference of all 50 states and The Main Street leaders Liz Parham, Sherry Adams, and Naomi Riley were ecstatic.

The conference begins with opening remarks and welcomes by the Mayor of Statesville and other dignitaries from Main Street. The kickoff featured speaker was Mr. Brett Legg a national know speaker and executive Director of African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and Senior Vice President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Wednesday was full of Toolkit Sessions we attended. I along with Vickie we in "Creating and Implementing An Vacant Building Policy. Which was extremely important as we are looking into implementing this in Cherryville soon. There were four different sessions each period lasting about 45 minutes.

The Keynote speaker was Phil Eich. Phil presented "It's Your Story to Tell" about the importance of each merchants and their story and how to use economic development strategy by telling the stories and implementing the human side of the owners to the community. VERY informative as our Promotions team and Economic Development team is implementing this for our Swing into Spring On Main Street focusing on our merchants weekly. He was one of the BEST speakers I've heard at any of these conferences and moved the entire room to tears at times. He had a very specific toolkit session I attended as well.

Sessions on Community Preservation, History Building upgrade ideas and about 45 others were offered and since we could not attend them all they are available for download on the NC Main Street Website.

During the late afternoon hours, the City of Statesville offered walking tours of their award-winning parks, building, Art/Sculpture's and other sites. We observed many of these walking to and from lunch and in the evenings following dinner.

On Wednesday evening, they did the awards ceremony for the towns across NC who nominated building, events, parks etc., for main street awards. The city of Belmont won several awards this year. We were not able to enter any of ours this past year due to their completion date was in late 2022 following the deadlines. This coming year I will nominate at least three of our building, two of our events and the revitalization of Stroup Park.

Thursday morning was the awards Ceremony for Main Street Champions. Our own Vickie Spurling was nominated and won a Main Street Champion for Cherryville. Vickie's entire staff took the day and attended this ceremony. I will do an article soon for the Eagle and other social publications recognizing her accomplishment and how proud the Cherryville Main Street Program is of her.

The Cherryville Main Street Program was once again accredited for the NC Main Street Program. A few local towns were not accredited this year due to the new guidelines implemented by them, which took effect this year.

In conclusion, all of the Main Street teams are looking forward to this weekend's Celebration and years of vision work coming to fruition. We are estimating over 70 cars based off the calls and verbal commitments. Mr. Barker and Pat have confirmed their attendance and we are please they are able. *Mr. Barker called me on the way to Statesville and asked me to meet his daughter, introduce myself and say hey. Of course, I did and sent him a selfie of Nancy and I both.* We are excited for the future of Main Street and all the new business that committed over the past few weeks and some we've been working with, praying about, and hoping for are now becoming a reality. We are truly blossoming each week with more and more blossoms to come."

CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION RE: N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes:

Councilmember Parker made a motion to enter into a close session at 5:58 pm. Councilmember's Abernethy, Puett seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to exit the close session and return to the work session meeting at 6:42. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Adopted this 10 day of April 2023.



Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk



H.L. Beam, Mayor

