



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11th, 2023 @ 6:00 PM  
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING  
W. J. ALLRAN JR. COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
106 S. JACOB ST. CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021**

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the regular scheduled meeting to order at the community building in the William J. Allran Jr. Council Chambers. Councilmember's Jill Puett, Jon Abernethy, Gary Freeman and Malcolm Parker were present. City Manager Brian Dalton, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Public Works Director Chris J. King, Planning & Zoning Director Alex Blackburn, Wastewater Superintendent Larry Wright, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Downtown Director David Day, Asst. Fire Chief Colby Heffner, and Police Chief Brandon Hunsucker were also present. Michael Powell with the Cherryville Eagle was present for media coverage.

**INVOCATION: PASTOR SCOTT HOMESLEY, ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

Pastor Scott Homesley gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilmember Puett made a motion to approve the August 27<sup>th</sup>, and August 29<sup>th</sup>, minutes as written. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Welcome to all attendees here tonight. I have some exciting news to announce concerning the new gym to be built in our city. This past Friday, City Manager Brian Dalton, City Councilman Malcolm Parker, and I met with the Larry and Carolyn Summer family. After several prior phone discussions and requests from the city, the Summer family have agreed to donate the land on Academy Street across from Dr. White's office on Oak Street for construction of a recreation park to house a new gym, a dog park, and a play area for children. Paperwork including some

stipulations by the Summer family is in the process of being drawn up to be signed by all parties. Mr. Tom Summer is going to have the land appraised for tax purposes and the city has agreed to pay for this. The plans have already gone out to Custom Builders, Beam Construction and Walker Construction for bids and pricing for construction. This complex will certainly be an exciting and needed recreation addition and parking area for our city and its citizens.

Also in recreation news, City Manager Dalton and I met with Bean Brothers several weeks ago at the H.T. White field to discuss repairing or building a new Little League monument at the entrance of the walkway to the baseball fields. Dr. White has agreed to cover the cost of this project. Dr. White also has expressed interest in getting involved and helping the city's Little League program to make it more successful.

The final two basketball goals have been installed at Aaron Moss Park. The city has two new ones at Westgate and four new ones at Edwards Park for a total of eight new goals at three different city parks. The basketball courts will be newly painted at Edwards Park with Chavis Middle School colors.

The Main Street design team has voted to go with Paradise Landscaping to redo the flower beds on Main Street. They will be redesigning all the beds from Depot to Mulberry with new plants, mulch, and a maintenance program. The city will have the responsibility of watering the beds.

The long-awaited opening of Pete's Fish box is now a reality. The business has experienced an overwhelming success for the opening and looks forward to continued success.

The future Mexican restaurant to be located at the old Pepperoni Express has received their permit for the remodeling and has plans to open as soon as December of 2023.

A new golf shop has opened in the Belk Building and a new florist shop is starting remodeling at the old Bella Verda building and will open soon.

The city has received the plans for the new Piedmont Lithium Splash Pad to be located just above the city swimming pool. The new facility will have a baseball theme and completion is expected for early Spring of 2024.

This past Thursday, City Manager Dalton and I met with Lincolnnton Mayor Ed Hatley and Lincolnnton City Manager Richie Haynes to discuss the interconnect agreement that we currently have with the city of Lincolnnton. This agreement is due to expire next year. After a lengthy discussion, all parties came to a new agreement that will aid both cities for future expansion. City Manager Dalton and I are very thankful for this new agreement that will result in substantial savings to Cherryville when we are forced to use the interconnect. This new negotiation will be presented to our council at the October Council Meeting.

In my 10 years as mayor, I do not think I have seen so many new businesses deciding to make Cherryville their home. I want to say that this council has been working overtime to move our city in a positive direction and they deserve the support of all our citizens. This council has and

will continue to make bold decisions that will benefit our citizens and the city's future development.

**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 5 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):**

No citizens spoke.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION RE: ADVANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATE, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:**

Mayor Beam and Police Chief Hunsucker recognized Jason Parton for receiving his Advance Law Enforcement Certificate.

**PROCLAMATION HONORING CHERRYVILLE LITTLE THEATRE'S 50 YEARS, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:**

Mayor Beam read the following proclamation recognizing the Cherryville Little Theatre for celebrating 50 years. Below is a copy of the proclamation:



## **PROCLAMATION HONORING 50 YEARS**



**WHEREAS**, the Cherryville Little Theatre was formed by a group of local citizens in 1972. In May of 1973, the first production, Barefoot in the Park, by Neil Simon was held in the auditorium at Cherryville East Elementary School and;

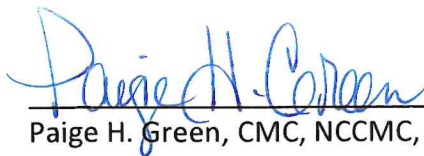
**WHEREAS**, the Theatre then used the West School auditorium for five years through a lease agreement with the Gaston County School Board. In the late 1970's, the City of Cherryville purchased the West School buildings and properties from the County. Upon the City's purchase, the auditorium was officially named the Cherryville Municipal Auditorium. The building is commonly referred to as the 'Little Theatre' as the Cherryville Theatre has been the


primary occupant and still calls the facility 'home' today. The Cherryville Little Theatre was incorporated in 1978, and still operates and as an IRS 501c not-for-profit corporation and;

**WHEREAS**, The Cherryville Little Theatre has remained consistently active since its first production in May of 1973. For the past 50 years there has been a dedicated and vigorous membership, working with an active board of directors that provides oversight and management of Theatre operations. There have never been any paid positions, with volunteers providing all the work and effort to sustain the organization and;

**WHEREAS**, the Theatre has produced 140 different plays/shows with the average of 3 performances per play, and around 420 performances on the Theatre stage. On average, with an estimate of 80 audience members present per performance, over 33,000 people have attended Theatre performances. Though difficult to quantify, an estimated 20 people assist with every play, so more than 2800 people have worked as cast and crew members. Over the years, the Theatre has averaged almost 3 productions/shows per year. In 2016, the Theatre produced 6 different plays on stage. This number was equaled in 2019 as well and;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cherryville Mayor and City Council hereby recognizes the Cherryville Little Theatre with 50 years of consistent operation. The theatre has far exceeded the life expectancy of most community theatre groups and Cherryville is proud that the theatre is a large part of our community.

  
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Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

  
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H.L. Beam, Mayor

(SEAL)

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR RICHARD ELAM:**

Planning & Zoning Director Richard Elam, asked for consideration of appointment to the planning & zoning board. Mrs. Veda Jackson would like to fill the seat of an ETJ member. Councilmember Parker made a motion to appoint Mrs. Veda Jackson to the planning & zoning board. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**CONSIDERATION TO SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING RE: REZONING OF 518 N. MULBERRY ST., FROM GMC TO R-9, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR RICHARD ELAM:**

Mr. Elam asked for consideration to set a date for a public hearing regarding the rezoning of 518 N. Mulberry Street from GMC to R-9.

Councilmember Puett made a motion to set a date for a public hearing for October 9, 2023. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**CONSIDERATION OF STREET/ALLEY CLOSING APPLICATION FEES, PLANNING & ZONING**  
**DIRECTOR RICHARD ELAM:**

Mr. Elam ask for consideration for fees regarding street/alley closings. Below is a copy of what other municipalities charge and what is being recommended for Cherryville:

**CHARGES FOR CLOSING OF A STREET or ALLEY**

**GASTONIA, NC**

**\$560** This fee covers application and advertising costs

**SHELBY, NC**

**\$750** This fee covers application and advertising costs

**LINCOLNTON, NC**

**\$50** This \$50 fee is for the application, then all advertising costs are added to that fee

**HIGH POINT, NC**

**\$500** This fee covers application and advertising costs

**SUGGESTED FEE FOR THE CITY OF CHERRYVILLE**

**\$500** for a street or alley that is not paved. Fee would cover application and advertising.

**\$1,000** for a paved street or alley. Fee would cover application, advertising, and any lost Powell Funds associated with the street/alley.

After some discussion, Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to set a fee of \$500.00 for a street or alley that is not paved, and a \$1,000 for a paved street or alley. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Freeman shared that he has received complaints regarding the issue at Depot and Academy. Mr. Dalton shared that this work is scheduled for October 20, 2023.

Councilmember Puett asked about the water line from Roma to Food Lion and when it may be completed. Mr. Dalton reported that the city engineer is looking over plans and trying to determine the distance and direction of a new line and how it will best benefit the citizens.

Councilmember Freeman asked when the road would be paved at the corner of Pine Grove Ave. and Hwy 150. Public Works Director Chris J. King shared that Piedmont Paving is scheduled to pave this area soon.

Mr. Dalton shared that Mike Steele is putting down stone at West Gate Park to prepare for paving and should have this project wrapped up in a couple weeks. Mr. Todd Sosbee should be here this week to start on Edwards Park and the pickle ball courts.

Councilmember Freeman asked about the paving on the corner of Depot St. and Main St. Mr. Dalton shared that it may be next week before it will be paved but it is on the list and should be done soon.

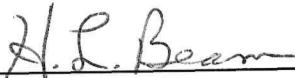
**CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED SESSION RE: NCGS 143.318.11(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Adopted this 9 day of October 2023.

  
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H.L. Beam, Mayor

  
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Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

