



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JANUARY 13, 2025 @ 6:00 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. Councilmembers Gary Freeman, Jill Puett, Jon Abernethy, and Janice Hovis were present. City Manager Brian Dalton, City Clerk Paige H. Green, Police Major Dan Renn, Asst. Fire Chief Colby Heffner, Downtown Director David Day, and Finance Director Dixie Wall were also present. Lincoln Times News and Wise News was present for media coverage.

INVOCATION: PASTOR KEITH HUSS, MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH:

Pastor Keith Huss 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 Hovis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular December 9, 2024 meeting. Councilmember Hovis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Calico Creek development off Requa Road has started building and several houses are in the dry and are expected to be finished by next month. Construction management has stated that around six to ten houses will be ready by April 2025. A ribbon cutting has been scheduled for January 23 at 11:30 a.m.

The Larry and Carolyn Summer Recreation complex construction is moving along nicely with the gym and playground area nearing completion. We have 21 teams in the basketball league

with approximately 195 kids signed up to play. The official season will begin this week. The total cost for the complex was \$1,813,121. \$1.5 million is being paid through the inter-local agreement with Gaston County and \$150,000 was from the Piedmont Lithium CDA. The city's cost for the project was \$163,121 of city funds. The city believes this was a great investment for our citizens. A January 21st ribbon cutting at 11:00 AM has been announced for the grand opening of the new gym. We invite all citizens to attend this event.

Our wastewater Superintendent Larry Wright has retired as of December 31, 2024. Congratulations to Larry on his retirement and he will be greatly missed. However, he has agreed to be listed as a part time employee until one of the other employees can hopefully get certified. Chris Heedick was promoted to superintendent as of January 1, 2025.

Planting pots for uptown have been chosen by the Main Street design team. The pots have been ordered and are to be received within six to eight weeks. We are anticipating they will be here for the April planned planting. Thanks to Steve Patton for chairing this important project for our Main Street beautification.

American Legion has sent the city a check this week in the amount of \$40,000 toward the new turf installed at the high school baseball field. Another \$10,000 check will follow later.

City staff will begin the yearly budget process soon. Finance Director Dixie Wall and City Manager Brian Dalton will meet with all department heads to discuss the upcoming budget, and they will present a mid-year review shortly thereafter.

It is with great trepidation and somewhat hesitancy that I make this announcement. After countless prayers, consultations with my medical team, and with many discussions with my immediate family members I have made the decision to not seek another term as mayor of this great city. I have loved and enjoyed every minute of these past twelve years, and let me emphasize that I have no regrets what so ever in any decisions that I have made over these many years. I have three things in my life that I truly love, my GOD, my family, and my city. I might also add that I put these last two in reverse order sometimes as my two daughters will attest to.

Our city has made great strides in a positive direction over these eleven plus years and I feel this will continue with the great leadership that we have in place. I want to say that I have had the best council members that any mayor could have asked for. I want to thank past Council Members David Kiser, Brian Dalton, and Malcolm Parker as well as current Council Members Gary Freeman, Jon Abernathy, Jill Puett and Janice Hovis. These are the true individuals that have made many tough decisions that have moved our city toward a brighter future.

Thanks go out to all our city workers and city staff for their support. Paige Green has been such a great friend and supporter throughout these years and always available to help me in any capacity. I have worked with great City Managers like Ben Blackburn, Jeff Cash, and now with

Brian Dalton who is doing an incredible job as our current City Manager working closely with our current Finance Director Dixie Wall.

In closing, I want to wish the next elected Cherryville mayor in November of this year to have as much enjoyment and success as I have had in this leadership role as mayor of the greatest city in North Carolina. Thank You to all the great citizens of Cherryville and the surrounding area for their loyalty and support.

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):

No citizens spoke.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEE'S YEARS OF SERVICE, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam recognized Colby Heffner for five years of service.

RESOLUTION RE: SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MRS. PAT SHERRILL, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

City Councilmember Hovis read a resolution honoring Mrs. Pat Sherrill for her years of service at the Cherryville Historical Museum. Mrs. Sherrill volunteered at the museum for over thirty years.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CHERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL "POWER PLAYERS", CHERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MATT POWERS & PIEDMONT LITHIUM COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER EMILY WINTERS:

Mrs. Emily Winters read the power players for January. The girls power player was Raylei Gidney, and the boys power players was Darrius Pullen.

CONSIDERATION OF RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHAMBER BOARD, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam asked for consideration to re-appoint Johnny Brown and Emily Winters to the chamber board. Councilmember Freeman made a motion to re-appoint both Johnny Brown and Emily Winters to the chamber board. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2025, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam asked for consideration to set a date for a public hearing for February 3, 2025. Councilmember Hovis made a motion to set a public hearing date for February 3, 2025. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT WITH ALLIANCE CODE ENFORCEMENT, CITY MANAGER BRIAN DALTON:

Mr. Dalton asked for consideration of approval for the contract with Alliance Code Enforcement. Mr. Dalton explained that Alliance Code Enforcement, if approved, will begin working in the city limits and the extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) February 1, 2025. They will work in Cherryville ten hours a week at the rate of \$50.00 an hour. The company will handle community appearance with things such as tall grass, accumulation junk, trash & debris, junk nuisance and abandoned vehicles. Currently planning & zoning director Mr. Richard Elam is a part time employee and he oversees code enforcement for minimum housing investigation.

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approve the contract between the city and Alliance Code Enforcement. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD'S PROPOSAL FOR TWO MURALS, DOWNTOWN DIRECTOR DAVID DAY:

Mr. Day approached the podium to share that the architectural review board (ARB) met on December 18, 2024 to review the two murals being proposed. Both murals were approved by the board and are now being proposed to the council for consideration. Mr. Day explained that the murals will be paid for by a private individual and not city funds. The first mural being proposed would be placed at 114 W. First Street and the second one would be placed on the dugout at Fraley Field.

Councilmember Hovis made a motion to approve both murals. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON HWY. 150 EAST (LINCOLNTON HWY.), MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam asked for consideration to reduce the speed limit on Lincolnton Hwy., between the country club entrance to Walmart. Currently the speed limit is 55 mph and Mayor Beam ask the council to reduce that speed to 45 mph. He explained that the recommendation of the board would then be sent to the state, since it is a state road.

Councilmember Puett made a motion to reduce the speed on Lincolnton Hwy., between the country club entrance to Walmart entrance to 45 mph. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CEMETERY FEES, CITY CLERK PAIGE GREEN:

City Clerk Paige H. Green asked for consideration for proposed cemetery fee increases. Mrs. Green explained that each year there are contractors that have price increases, and the city has to re-evaluate the fees that are in place.

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approved the proposed cemetery fees. Councilmember Hovis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Below is a copy of the approved fees:



APPROVED FEES FOR CHERRYVILLE CITY MEMORIAL CEMETERY

The following fee changes for the **Cherryville Memorial Cemetery** will be effective **January 13, 2025** and will remain in effect until further notice.

<u>PURCHASE PRICE FOR ALL GRAVE SPACES:</u>	Inside Residence	\$ 600.00
	Outside Residence	\$1,000.00

FEES FOR GRAVE OPENING AND CLOSINGS: (CHARGES PRIOR TO INTERMENT)

Cremation Grave Opening	\$ 425.00
Baby Grave Opening	\$ 400.00
Adult Grave Opening	\$ 700.00
Oversized Adult Grave Opening	\$ 800.00

Maintenance Fee for Inside City Residence:	\$ 0.00
Maintenance Fee for Outside City Residence:	\$ 700.00

An additional fee will be charged to have a burial on the following holidays – New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day. \$700.00

In order to ensure quality workmanship, we ask for at least 36 hours’ notice. Notice of less than 24 hours will incur an additional charge passed on from Greene & Son, Inc.

Rock removal will be an additional charge per hour: \$225.00

Funerals scheduled to begin after **3:30 pm**, will incur an additional charge of: \$600.00

Funerals lingering in the cemetery, deterring the contractor from beginning work after 5:00 pm, will incur an additional charge from Greene & Son.

Due to the increased demand for Saturday and Sunday funerals, holding bodies for the weekend, there is an additional charge for graves on these days: \$150.00

We do not perform burials on Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving or Christmas day.



FEES FOR CHERRYVILLE CITY MEMORIAL PARK CREMATIONS

NEW CREMATION SECTION OF CEMETERY ONLY (Plots along Houser Street)

Cremation remains: (2 x 2 space)	Inside Residence	\$ 375.00
	Outside Residence	\$ 600.00
Maintenance fee only for outside residence for cremation remains:		\$ 300.00

ALL MARKERS FOR CREMATION REMAINS MUST BE A FLAT 2 x 2 MARKER.

BENCHES:

Customers will purchase bench designed to hold cremains made of granite or marble to be approved by the city.

Space for bench in the City Cemetery	\$ 400.00
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City will meet with the family and choose where benches can be placed. If a bench is moved for any reason, the City of Cherryville will assume the benches property and resale the space.



FEES FOR CHERRYVILLE MEMORIAL COURTYARD

The following fees will apply for the Cherryville Memorial Courtyard effective **January 13, 2025** and will remain in effect until further notice.

PURCHASE PRICE FOR 2 X 2 CREMATION PLOT	Inside Resident	\$ 500.00
Price includes 2 X 2 marker	Outside Resident	\$1,000.00

OPENING & CLOSING FOR 2 X 2 CREMATION PLOT \$ 500.00
The 2 X 2 markers for this section are already in place for engraving.

COLUMBARIUM PRICES

PURCHASE PRICE FOR NICHE (ROWS 2-5)	Inside Resident	\$1,500.00
	Outside Resident	\$2,000.00

PURCHASE PRICE FOR NICHE (ROWS 1 & 6)	Inside Resident	\$1,200.00
	Outside Resident	\$1,700.00

OPENING & CLOSING FOR NICHE \$ 200.00

MAINTENANCE FEE (for cremation grave space & niche)	Inside Resident	No Fee
	Outside Resident	\$ 500.00

ENGRAVING FEES

Individual Cremains (Limit of two lines of engraving) \$ 250.00

Double Cremains (Limit two lines of engraving for each) \$ 500.00

All engraving will be of uniform design and inscriptions

Additional engraving on original marker to be paid at the time of death only \$ 190.00

SCATTERING PERMIT (ISSUED BY CITY CLERK) \$ 20.00

An additional fee of will be charged to have a burial on the following holidays –
New Year's Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day: \$700.00

In order to ensure quality workmanship, we ask for at least 36 hours' notice to open a grave.
Notice of less than 24 hours will incur an additional charge passed on from Greene & Son, Inc.

Funerals lingering in the cemetery, deterring the contractor from beginning work after 5:00 pm,
will incur an additional charge from Greene & Son.

Funerals scheduled to begin after 3:30 pm, will incur an additional charge of: \$600.00

Due to the increased demand for Saturday and Sunday funerals, holding bodies for the
weekend, there is an additional charge for graves on these days: \$150.00

We do not perform burials on Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving or Christmas day.

If there are any questions concerning the above fee schedule, and the city's policies relating to
the Cherryville Memorial Courtyard, please call City Clerk Paige Green at 704-435-1709.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE AS SURPLUS, CITY
MANAGER BRIAN DALTON:**

Mr. Dalton asked for consideration to surplus a city vehicle that has been used by the fire
department. Below is the resolution for approval:



RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY/EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. Chapter 160-A-265 authorizes local government units to dispose of property/equipment in governmental use; and,

WHEREAS, THE City of Cherryville desires to dispose of certain property/equipment of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Cherryville that:

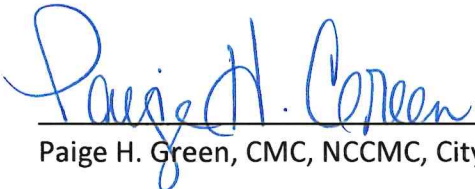
1. The following property/equipment is hereby declared to be surplus:


2011 Ford Escape (Vin #75818)

2. The city manager is authorized to dispose of the described property/equipment utilizing any means permitted by N.C.G.S. 160A-265 – 160A-270.

Duly adopted the 13 day of January 2025.

ATTEST:


Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk


H.L. Beam, Mayor



Councilmember Hovis made a motion to surplus the 2011 Ford Escape Vin #75818, a city owned vehicle. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

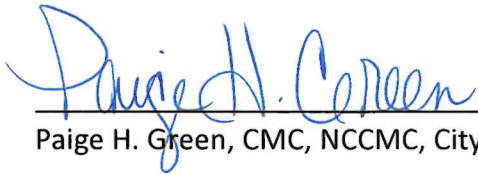
Councilmember Freeman asked about lights for the existing mural at the corner of First Street and N. Mountain Street.

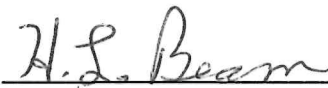
Mr. Dalton shared that he is waiting on a quote from Dellinger Electric regarding installation of a light.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Hovis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Adopted this 3 day of February 2025.


Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk


H.L. Beam, Mayor

