



**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 @5:30 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING
W.J. ALLRAN JR. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
106 S. JACOB STREET CHERRYVILLE, NC 28021**

I. Call to Order

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Gary Freeman, Jon Abernethy, Jill Puett and Janice Hovis were present. City Manager Brian Dalton, City Clerk Mary Beth Tackett, Police Chief Brandon Hunsucker, Recreation Director Lance Hudson, Assistant Fire Chief Colby Heffner, and Finance Director Dixie Wall were also present. Lincoln Times News and Wise News was present for media coverage.

II. Agenda Approval

Councilmember Puett made a motion to approve the agenda as written

Councilmember Hovis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

III. ABC Board Presentation

Councilmember and ABC Board Liaison Jon Abernathy reported that the state audit was recently finalized and the ABC Board had been advised they could distribute \$18,000. However, the Board voted unanimously to give \$30,000 to the City. A check in that amount was presented to the City on Thursday.

City Manager Dalton noted that the funds will be used to remodel the community building, including new flooring, countertops, and appliances in the kitchen. Work is expected to begin Monday October 6th. Council members discussed the timeline and noted the project should be completed before upcoming community events.

IV. Recreation Board Appointments

City Manager Dalton presented five nominees to serve on the reinstated Recreation Board:

- Mike Harrill
- Steve Owens
- Janet Fiser
- Lynette Roberts
- Dennis Tate

Councilmember Freeman will serve as liaison to the Recreation Board, with Councilmember Hovis as the alternate.

Councilmember Hovis made a motion to approve all nominations to the recreation board

Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Following the vote, Recreation Director Lance Hudson provided an update on upcoming recreation programs. Basketball registration will begin at the end of the week, with practices starting in late October and games running through December. Plans are also being made to start youth volleyball and explore lighting improvements at the old Chavis Middle School field for flag football and soccer programs.

V. Electric Rate for Churches

City Manager Dalton reviewed the City's electric demand rate policy, noting that in 2021 churches were approved to be charged under the demand rate but the change was never implemented. The current rate for small industry and churches is \$8.64 per kW after 30 kW.

Mr. Dalton proposed reducing the rate for churches to \$5.00 per kW after 30 kW, recognizing the community service and non-profit nature of local churches. Council discussed the legality and fairness of the proposal and confirmed similar rate structures exist elsewhere.

Council Member Hovis made a motion to approve a \$5.00 per kW demand rate for churches, effective October 1, 2025.

Council Member Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

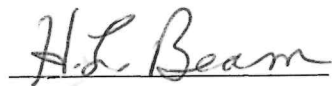
VI. Other Business

- Councilmember Abernethy thanked Recreation Director Hudson for assisting the Little Ironman cheerleaders.
- Council discussed maintenance at the Depot parking lot, including removing overgrown vines and replanting pots for the fall season.
- Councilmember Hovis mentioned that the light post arm at Depot and Main Streets needs painting to match others along Main Street. Staff confirmed that it would be looked into.

- Councilmembers noted positive feedback from visitors regarding Main Street beautification efforts. The City recently received a \$5,000 Electric Cities grant for Main Street landscaping and \$100,000 donation from Mr. Barker for the Cherryville Museum.
- City Manager Dalton reminded everyone that Five Spurs Steakhouse would officially open Thursday October 2nd, with dinner service beginning at 4:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilmember Abernethy, seconded by Councilmember Freeman. Meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.



H.L. Beam, Mayor



Mary Beth Tackett, City Clerk

(SEAL)

