



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JULY 12, 2021 @ 6:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING
106 S. JACOB ST. CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order. Councilmember's Jill Puett, Gary Freeman, Malcolm Parker, and Jon Abernethy were present. City Manager/Fire Chief Jeff Cash, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Police Chief Cam Jenks, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Planning & Zoning Director Derrick Mackey, and Downtown Director David Day were also present. Michael Powell of the Cherryville Eagle was present for media coverage.

INVOCATION: PASTOR BOBBY HOLTZCLAW MISSIONARY METHODIST CHURCH:

Pastor Bobby Holtzclaw gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor Beam asked for a motion to add a closed session to the agenda re: NCGS 143-318.11.(6). Councilmember Parker made the motion to add a closed session to the agenda re: NCGS 143-318.11.(6). Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

On June 17, City Manager Cash and I met with officials from Caro-Mont Health for photos and discussion of the new urgent care center to be built in Cherryville. The site for this facility is in the process of being cleared for development and construction will begin in the near future.

I was honored to attend and speak at the official ribbon cutting for International Express on June 23. A huge crowd was on hand including City Manager Cash, Council Members Jill Puett and Jon Abernathy. Representative Kelly Hastings and County Commissioner Allen Fraley along with City Manager Cash also spoke at this event. A meal of chicken and barbeque was available for all present. Owner Howard Shope addressed how every appreciative he was of our city's role in helping him to locate International Express in Cherryville.

Our city's Independence Day Celebration was very successful. I want to share a letter received by our City Manager Jeff Cash in regards to this event. It reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Cash, I was in Cherryville on Friday, July 2 for your celebration. That was my second visit for the 4th of July and I wanted to thank you and your town officials for a very special time. The band was just fantastic as were the food trucks, etc. However, for me the highlight of the evening was the awesome fireworks display. I have been to many displays over my 81 years but none better than what your town presented. Please thank those who were responsible for the wonderful celebration. I am proud to be an American! May you have continued success in all you do.

Joan E. King 122 Wellington Dr. Rutherfordton NC 28139.

Just one of many supportive comments that I have received in regards to our Independence Celebration.

This past Friday, I was privileged to administer the welcoming speech for the official start of the Dixie Girls' N.C. State Softball Tournament. A huge crowd of over 1,000 were in attendance for this opening day. Many of our local churches hosted meals for the teams prior to the opening ceremonies. Mr. Preston Long sang our national anthem, followed by speeches from the state tournament director and special guest Rusty Stroupe. Dr. Vince Hefner of First Baptist of Cherryville announced and recognized all teams participating in this tournament. Weather permitting the championship game is scheduled for tomorrow evening. Good Luck to all teams involved in this event.

Finally, I have been asked to clarify some statements that were made in our last council work session concerning the purchase of the city's new fire truck. The city made a loan with Trust Bank in the amount of \$700,000 at a rate of 1.29% for seven years. The payments will be \$105,226.13 annually beginning in 2022. The loan is pre-payable in whole at any time without penalty.

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 CLERK AT THE MEETING BEFORE THE MEETING BEGINS):

None.

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

Mayor Beam recognized Trevor Haynes for his five years of service to the City of Cherryville.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam recognized the following police department employees:

Vince Burluson and Derek Thom received a certificate of commendation for assisting an elderly female with a medical call.

Jessica Richardson received the exceptional duty award for rescuing a family’s pets out of a house fire.

Skyler Sisk and Brandon Parker received the meritorious service award for locating the missing non-verbal teen in Lincoln County.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR DIXIE WALL RE: ELECTRICITIES HORIZON AWARD, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mayor Beam shared that Finance Director Dixie Wall was nominate for the Electricities Horizon Award ad has won the award. She will be presented the award in August in Hilton Head.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD, MAYOR BEAM:

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to appoint Stan Stan Bumgarner to the Cherryville Architectural Review Board. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT RE: 1444 W. ACADEMY STREET, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR DERRICK MACKEY:

Planning and Zoning Director Derrick Mackey asked for consideration to set a date for a public hearing at the August 9 meeting re: Conditional Use Permit for 1444 W. Academy Street. Councilmember Puett made a motion to set a public hearing date for a conditional use permit for August 9, 2021. Councilmember’s Parker and Abernethy both seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION RE: NCGS 143-318.11.(6):

(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 Puett made a motion to enter into closed session at 6:25 pm. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. They returned back to open meeting at 6:45 pm.

Mayor Beam shared that a decision had been made in closed session regarding personnel and a vote will need to be taken.

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approved option A and option C for City Manager/Fire Chief Jeff Cash. Option A is for City Manager/Fire Chief Jeff Cash to retire January 1, 2022 and option C is for City Manager/Fire Chief Cash to become a part time employee in the fire department with the title of Emergency Manager Director or Safety Officer. This would be a salary of \$15,000 annually and he would work a minimum of 14-16 hours per week. This would include all benefits entitled to a part-time employee and would include all privileges of the Fire Chief. This arrangement would be a year-to-year review basis and the position would work under the new fire chief. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was three to one. Councilmember's Parker, Abernethy and Puett voted yes in favor of the motion and Councilmember Freeman voted no. The vote passed.

OTHER BUSINESS:


Councilmember Parker asked Mayor Beam to explain the Side Walk Café ordinance that was passed at the June 29, 2021 work session.

Councilmember Freeman named several areas in the community that have broken sidewalks that need to be repaired before someone is hurt.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Adopted this 9 day of August 2021.


Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk


H.L. Beam, Mayor

