



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY AUGUST 9, 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 Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Police Chief Cam Jenks, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Planning & Zoning Director Derrick Mackey, were also present. Michael Powell of the Cherryville Eagle was present for media coverage.

INVOCATION: PASTOR DR. BILL LOWE, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Pastor Dr. Bill Lowe 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 Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

The first information I want to share with our citizens is the announcement that I will be seeking another two-year term as your Mayor on November 2, 2021. At the present only one other candidate has filed in opposition for this office, it is our Fire Chief/City Manager Jeff Cash. A rumor had surfaced that I had decided not to seek reelection and had told Chief Cash that I would not be seeking this office in November. That statement was true at one time, but when I discovered that Chief Cash was going to file, I called Chief Cash four days before the filing and told him after an examination and lengthy discussion with my cardiologist I had decided to file for reelection. I just wanted to clear up this rumor and state the true- facts of this matter.

There is a lot going on in our city as many of you may have noticed. Our downtown projects are going well. The sewer contractor Cajen has been hard at work and is currently ahead of schedule. Our water line contractor has begun installing connection valves throughout our downtown area. We have been doing our best to keep our merchants informed as to the impact of these projects and have had few complaints concerning these proceedings.

We have good news coming from the state that we will receive our first ARP monies very soon for \$967,565.44 that can be utilized for restricted expenditures based on federal protocols. The Council will be prioritizing where these monies will be spent.

The City will receive another check next year with similar amounts.

Following President Biden lifting the moratorium on evictions, we were finally able to clean up the property at 903 East Church Street. Boarding up the structure hopefully will deter anyone from trying to enter the property. The neighbors in this area are going to keep an eye on the house and notify the Police Department if there is any trespassing on this property.

On July 22, I gave the welcoming address for the Main Street Kick Off Event held at the community building. All volunteers were eager and enthusiastic about the coming year and all the immediate plans for our Main Street Program.

Congratulations go out to our Dixie Girls Angels for winning the 2021 World Series in Moncks Corner, S.C. Our city is proud of your accomplishment.

On July 20, Chief Cash and I attended the meeting of the Gaston County Commissioners. Piedmont Lithium executives gave a presentation on their progress of bringing 500 jobs to our area in reference to mining for lithium in a large area of our ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction). Following the presentation about 30 or more individuals spoke in opposition of Piedmont Lithium and their plans for expansion and development in this area. On August 6, Gaston County Commissioners put a moratorium of 60 days on future development of mining within the county.

On August 5 Chief Cash, Brandon Abernathy, and myself met with Gaston County EDC Director Donnie Hicks, his assistant Richard Randall, and CEDC member Robert Brown to discuss future Economic Development for Cherryville and our surrounding community. Director Hicks talked about county water lines coming to Cherryville and the impact it would have on future economic growth for our city. Discussion of the new Sunbeam industrial park to be developed across from Keystone Carbon and Wal-Mart was addressed by Richard Randall and several covenants are still to be completed before maturity of this county project.

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):

Former Mayor Wade Stroupe, of 210 S. Dixie Street, approached the podium to express his concerns regarding Piedmont Lithium. Mayor Stroupe shared that Cherryville has a water line that would feed Piedmont Lithium and he hopes that Cherryville will offer water to the company because they are in the ETJ. Mayor Stroupe shared that he hopes the city does not let Piedmont Lithium slip through Cherryville.

Mr. Michael Fess of, Brookwood Drive Huntersville, approached the podium to express his support of the zoning text amendment for Stroupe Acres. Mr. Fess also express his support in annexing the Stroupe property into the City of Cherryville city limits. Mr. Fess shared that his company will be responsible for installation of all water and sewer taps and any pump stations that are need for the development of the neighborhood. Mr. Fess also shared that the water and sewer taps as well as any pump stations will be donated to the City of Cherryville.

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

The following employees were recognized for their years of service with the City of Cherryville:

Chris King	20 Years	Water Sewer Maint. Crew Leader
Jon Mark Rudisill	30 Years	Police Tele communicator

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN NATHAN BOWMAN, WESTERN NC ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTER’S FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD, MOORESVILLE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SHANE LACOUNT:

Postponed.

PUBLIC HEARING RE: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR 1444 W. ACADEMY STREET, GIS PARCEL ID #130320, 219066, 130314, 130318, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR DERRICK MACKEY:

Councilmember Parker made a motion to enter into a public hearing. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Planning and Zoning Director Derrick Mackey asked for consideration for a conditional use permit for GIS Parcel #'s 130320, 219066, 130314, and 13018.

Mayor Beam asked if any citizen would like to speak and no one did.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to exit the public hearing. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Beam read the Condition Use Permit and the Findings of Facts. Councilmember Puett made a motion to answer yes to all four findings of facts. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING RE: REZONING 114 CONE STREET GIS PARCEL #129448, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR DERRICK MACKEY:

Planning and Zoning Director Derrick Mackey asked for consideration to set a date for a public hearing re: rezoning 114 Cone Street, GIS Parcel \$129448. Property owner is asking for the property be rezoned from B-2 to R-0.

Councilmember Puett made a motion to set a public hearing date for September 13 re: rezoning of 114 Cone Street. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE RE: ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR DERRICK MACKEY:

Planning and Zoning Director Derrick Mackey asked for consideration in setting a date for a public hearing for September 13, 2021 re: zoning text amendment. Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to set a date for September 13, 2021 for a zoning ordinance amendment. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE, COUNCIL LIAISON JILL PUETT:

Councilmember Jill Puett, liaison to the cemetery committee, asked for consideration to appoint two new members to the cemetery committee. Councilmember Puett explained that two members wish to be removed as members. Councilmember Puett expressed her appreciation to the two members that wish to be removed and thanked them for their service to the City of Cherryville. Councilmember Puett shared that she has talked to two citizens that are interested in being on the cemetery committee and they are Billy Crews and Linda Hudson.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to appoint Billy Crews and Linda Hudson to the cemetery committee. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

UPDATE ON COVID POLICY/RESTRICTIONS, CITY MANAGER FIRE CHIEF JEFF CASH:

City Manager/ Fire Chief shared that staff have come together to revise the current Covid Policy. Mr. Cash is asking for consideration in the updates of the policy. The changes would be effective January 1, 2022 and they are:

- Only 80 hours of Covid time will be allowed to an employee and any time taken after that employee will have to use sick, vacation or comp. time.
- Would like to give a Covid incentive to employee to get there vaccination. If an employee gets the vaccine, they would receive 3 days off with pay. Employees that have already had the vaccine will also receive 3 days off with pay. This agenda item will be on the August 30, 2021 agenda for consideration.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Beam mentioned that the flowerbeds on Main Street had weeds. He also mentioned that the community building window on the meeting side needs a blind or to be tented. Mayor Beam also asked what could be done about the bees in a storm drain on Vista Drive. He said the bees would cover your car when you get out of it.

Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy shared that they have been made aware of the bees and he has ordered so spray but it has not come in yet. They plan to spray at night.

Councilmember Freeman asked for an update on the trees on the corner of E. Academy and S. Jacob Street.

Mr. Cash shared that the city arborist looked at the trees and determined they are viable and healthy but could use a trim. Mr. Cash shared that the trees are the owner's responsibility.

Mr. Cash shared that the ARP money will be in the city's account on Friday August 13, 2021. Mr. Cash shared that he will have an ARP list ready for the August 30, work session.

CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION RE: NCGS §143-318.11. (a)(4):

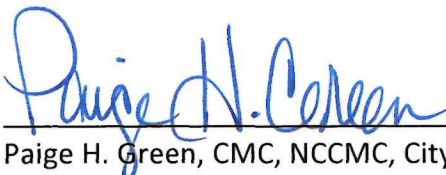
(4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment. Any action approving the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to enter into closed session. Councilmember Abernathy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The closed session began at 7:00.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Adopted this 13 day of September 2021.


Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk


H.L. Beam, Mayor



