



**REGULAR WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2023 @ 5:30 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. Councilmember's Gary Freeman, Malcolm Parker, Jon Abernethy, and Jill Puett were present. City Manager Brian Dalton, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Downtown Director David Day, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Fire Chief Jason Wofford, Public Works Director Chris J. King, and Planning & Zoning Director Alex Blackburn were also present.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 13, RE: CITY'S RELINQUISHMENT OF ETJ PROPERTIES TO GASTON COUNTY FOR PIEDMONT LITHIUM, PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR ALEX BLACKBURN

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to remove item number six from the agenda. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

DISCUSSION OF POSITION CHANGE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE CHIEF BRANDON HUNSUCKER:

Police Chief Brandon Hunsucker approached the podium and asked for consideration to When appointed as the Chief of Police I was made aware through a questionnaire of issues concerning structure, guidance and leadership rolls within the Police Department. With those issues in mind, we immediately went to a Command Staff and Chain of Command leadership style at the Police Department, which is in line with other Police Agencies throughout our State and Country. The Command Staff was created to assist in the decision making process and help

with employee issues that may arise. The Command staff currently consist of **Chief, Captain and two Lieutenants**. The Command Staff has already been instrumental in making several changes throughout the department including our evidence room, bulletproof vest changes and the way certain things are handled throughout the Police Department.

To better align the rank structure of the Cherryville Police Department with other agencies throughout the State and Country I am asking for approval from the Mayor and Council to make changes to the Titles of (3) three employees within the Police Department. The title changes would only be a **title change** with no change to job description or job functions and would require no change of salary or benefits.

The title changes being requested are as follows: Captain Brian Doolittle would become a **Major** Lieutenant Mark Stout and Lieutenant Brandon Parker would both become **Captains**.

After some discussion, Councilmember Parker made a motion to approve the position of major in the police department. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF SURPLUS VEHICLES TO BE SOLD ON GOV. DEALS, POLICE CHIEF BRANDON HUNSUCKER:

Chief Hunsucker asked for consideration to surplus six vehicles that are currently past their use period. He explained that two of these vehicles are former military vehicles and have been approved through letter from the Federal Government to be sold. The four other vehicles are worn and outdated vehicles that they no longer need or use.

A list of the vehicles are as follows:

1985 Chevrolet Truck White in color VIN #1GCHD34J4FF441387 (former military vehicle)
1984 Chevrolet K5 Blazer Camo in color VIN #1G8ED18J2EF101858 (former military vehicle)
2000 Honda Accord white in color VIN #1HGCG225XYA016498 (former undercover car)
2002 Chevrolet Tahoe Grey in color VIN #1GNEK13V22R290437 (former undercover car)
2011 Ford Escape Hybrid White in color VIN #1FMCUSK38BKA69401 (former patrol car)
2004 Ford Crown Vic White in color VIN #2FAPF71W9X125965 (former patrol car)

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to surplus all six vehicles. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF CHERRYVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to remove from agenda. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the vote and the vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF WEST GATE PARK, CITY MANAGER BRIAN DALTON:

Mr. Dalton gave an update on Westgate Park and shared that decisions for the park will need to be made soon. Mr. Dalton will keep everyone updated.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Freeman asked, "When Jeff did the last budget that I voted against, he built into the budget how we were going to pay for the bond package. I know it was a water increase but do you remember what the other factors were?"

Mrs. Wall, "We were going to use some of the Bob Barker money and really some of the million dollars was to go toward the bond but the auditors told us we needed to get that in the general fund, so we used it for expenses for downtown."

Councilmember Freeman, "So where Bob Barker gave that money did he say it could be used for debt services?"

Mrs. Wall, "He said it could be used for downtown. He would never specify or never write a letter, which I prefer, because that stipulates what you can do with the money, but he specifically said at the chamber that it was to be used for Main Street."

Mayor Beam agreed that Mr. Barker stated he would leave it up to the consensus of the city council.

Mrs. Wall shared that a meeting was held with Davenport regarding the funding of downtown. It was agreed that taxes would go up six cents as well to help fund the new fire truck, the salary increases and debt service down the road.

Councilmember Freeman, "So we increased water rate and taxes by six cents."

Mrs. Wall confirmed that he was correct. Councilmember Freeman stated that he looked back at the budget and he was surprised to see that in the budget. He thought the money from Mr. Barker would go to buy things for Main Street, not necessarily help pay for the bond. Mrs. Wall shared that the money was used for the last payment and \$87,000 last year. Councilmember Freeman asked if the rest of the million dollars would continue to be used for debt service. Mr. Dalton shared that the money is gone and he can show where the funds have been used.

Councilmember Parker shared that other business owners that are not downtown are telling him that they are not getting anything for their tax dollars that are going for downtown.

Councilmember Abernethy asked if the city is still increasing the three peak customer's rates. Yes we are.

After some discussion, Mayor Beam asked for a motion to set a date for a budget work session. Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to set a date for a budget work session on April 29, at 8:00 am at the fire department. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Adopted this 13 day of March 2023.

Paige H. Green
Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

H.L. Beam
H.L. Beam, Mayor

