



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JANUARY 11, 2021 @ 6:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
411 E. CHURCH 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., Finance Director Dixie Wall, Police Chief Cam Jenks, and Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, were also present. No media coverage was present.

INVOCATION: PASTOR JERRY LAIL, SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH:

Pastor Jerry Lail gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilmember Parker 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 from the December 14, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

"On Saturday January 9th the City of Cherryville held its annual Strategic Planning meeting at the city's local fire department. The session began at 8:30 a.m. and lasted until approximately 4:00 p.m.

All department heads except one were in attendance along with your City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor, all Council Members, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Brittany Bingham, and Assistant Fire Chief Jason Wofford. A massive amount of planning with equal amounts of

discussions was accomplished by all present. A huge thanks goes to City Manager Jeff Cash for his leadership during this meeting.

Part of the agenda noted the city's accomplishments over the past year. I would like to share the majority of these with our citizens tonight:

Eaker Drive Paving

Wert Street Paving/Patching

Hicks Street Improvements and Re-opening with new Paving

Skate Park Repairs and Stripping

(3) CSX Railroad Crossing Upgrades

Sanitation Truck Delivery

Gold Street Drainage

Customer Survey Completed

Bill Edwards Park/Jane Street Park Upgrades

Roof Repairs at City Hall and Water Plant

Filed Multiple Grants

Received Site Assist Grant

Boom Truck Delivered

Did Studies-Electric, Water, Sewer, Salaries

Budget Planning & Adoption for 20/21

EDC Strategic Plan Completed

Downtown Director Hired

Bond Project Planning & Development

Bond Vote Passage by Voters

GEMS Relocated

AMI Meters Installed

Main Street Electrical Upgrades

Kiosk—CARES Act Approved and Under Construction

These are just some of the accomplishments over the past year. We experienced quite a remarkable year, especially when you consider dealing with the shortage of man power due to the COVID Pandemic at the same time. I want to commend our workers and staff for the exceptional job they did throughout this past year. I also want to thank this Council for their support and encouragement in making these accomplishments come to fruition.

To further summarize Saturday's retreat, we have a huge amount of planned activities and undertakings for the year of 2021. Our hope is that these endeavors will produce as much success this year as those of the past year.

My final comment tonight is to remind all our citizens of the ribbon cutting to be held on January 20th at 11:30 a.m. for the "Butter Me Up" business at 200 East Main Street."

PRESENTATION RE: GASTON COUNTY VISION PLAN, MS. GINA SHELL:

Ms. Gina Shell joined the meeting via zoom and gave a presentation regarding Gaston County's Vision Plan. Ms. Shell shared why Gaston County was in the process of creating a vision plan. She went over the expectations for the visioning process and product, the creation of a community data dashboard, a timeline, and endured involvement of Cherryville residents. Ms. Shell shared that the following Community Vision Work Team consist of the following members:

- Donna Lockett, Gaston Together
- Del Murphy, Caro Mont Health
- David Williams, Gaston County Manager's Office
- David Fogarty, Gaston County, Gaston County Cooperative Extension
- Matt Blackwell, Gaston County Economic Development Commission
- Gina Shell, Gaston County Manager's Office

Ms. Shell explained that the visioning process will move quickly and all parts of the community will be heard by an engaged, energetic diverse steering committee. There will be a vision document, a vision website, and a vision statement. An online dashboard will be shared with all communities displaying census data, educational attainment and average annual pay for Gaston County manufacturing jobs. The Vision Plan has four phases of the process and currently they are at phase one. The phases are:

PHASE 1:

Outreach to stakeholders and creation of leadership structure
Funding strategy: public/private approach
Selection of experienced consultant
January 2021

PHASE 2:

Community engagement, dialogue, ownership ; organizational stakeholder dialogue

Spring/Summer/Fall 2021

PHASE 3:

Creation of vision, establishment of goals, accountability, and implementation approach

Winter 2022

PHASE 4:

Vision In Action

Ongoing

Moving forward there will be on-going communication with Cherryville and City Manager Jeff Cash will keep everyone informed of what is taking place.

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):

Mr. Tom Moss of 607 W. Church Street approached the podium to express his concerns about his water consumption. Staff will be in touch with Mr. Moss about his concerns.

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY, MAYOR H.L. BEAM:

Mr. Jody Fowler of, 1002 Rocky Ridge Drive, approached the podium to share the Miles Gantt Community Food Pantry Project. Mr. Fowler shared that he spoke with Chief Cash several months ago about something that had been laid on my heart and for some reason he could not quit thinking about it. Mr. Fowler shared that he has felt like we needed a community food outreach project that could be easily accessible to those in need. Mr. Fowler shared pictures of the project that he has completed. Mr. Fowler stated that Chief Cash had mentioned that a good place for it may be somewhere around the Heritage Park uptown, I tried my best to create something that would blend with that setting as much as possible.

Mr. Fowler explained what an honor to him if the City of Cherryville could put this up in a location of your choice, and name it "The Miles Gantt Community Food Pantry". He went on to explain that Miles Gantt passed away several weeks ago at the age of 97 and that Miles was his Great Uncle and the person who sparked his passion for construction. Mr. Fowler shared that somewhere around the age of 12 Mr. Gantt would let him work with him for reasons I only now can understand. One of the things he made me do was straighten out every nail that he either pulled out of an old piece of lumber or that was bent. Miles grew up during the depression and did not waste anything. He always knew that everything had a purpose and could be repurposed at-a-later time. Mr. Fowler shared that he has certainly inherited that trait from him because he did not throw away anything, especially if, it was in anyway related to construction. Mr. Fowler stated that the pantry has been built with 100% recycled material. All the exterior wood, tin roof, post, latches, nails and screws have either come from barns he has torn down, houses her has remodeled or picked up off of job sites. Mr. Fowler shared that Mr. Gantt would be so proud of him for recycling all the materials used to build the pantry.

Mr. Fowler shared that following about Mr. Miles Gantt saying that he was a very generous person, form the huge gardens he grew every year (and gave 90% of it away) to his Church that he was so involved in. Miles was a builder and built the majority of the houses in Cherryville back in his day. Back in his day, builders (now called contractors) actually built the majority of the houses themselves vs. subcontracting everything out. Mr. Gantt knew a little bit about everything and took pride in what he did.

Mr. Fowler spoke with the Gantt family last week and ran this idea by them. Son Jerry, daughter Brenda and granddaughter Teresa said it would be an honor for them to see his legacy live on through the pantry.

After some discussion, Mayor Beam asked that this an item for discussion on the January work session agenda to determine where the pantry will be placed for the community. Below are pictures of the food pantry:



**CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK IN CHERRYVILLE,
MAYOR H.L. BEAM:**

Mayor Beam read the following proclamation recognizing school choice week in Cherryville:



**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK IN
CHERRYVILLE**

WHEREAS, all children in CHERRYVILLE should have access to the highest-quality education possible; and,

WHEREAS, CHERRYVILLE recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in CHERRYVILLE to be successful adults; and,

WHEREAS, quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of CHERRYVILLE; and,

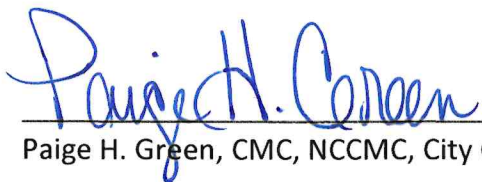
WHEREAS, CHERRYVILLE is home to a multitude of high quality public and nonpublic schools from which parents can choose for their children, in addition to families who educate their children in the home; and

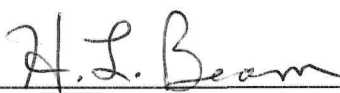
WHEREAS, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and,

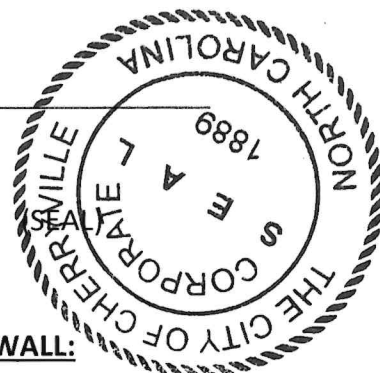
WHEREAS, CHERRYVILLE has many high-quality teaching professionals in all types of school settings who are committed to educating our children; and,

WHEREAS, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, H.L. Beam do hereby recognize January 24 – 30, 2021 as CHERRYVILLE School Choice Week, and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.


Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk


H.L. Beam, Mayor



CONSIDERATION OF PROCUREMENT CARD POLICY, FINANCE DIRECTOR DIXIE WALL:

Finance Director Dixie Wall approached the podium to ask for consideration to approve the Procurement Card Policy. Mrs. Wall explained that the policy actually has two parts. The first policy is the Internal Policy for Procurement Cards and the second is the Electronic Procurement Policy that you need in place for the first policy. Mrs. Wall went over the key benefits of the procurement cards and the security that will be in place.

Councilmember Parker shared that he is not in favor of the employees having cards because of the issues that the City ran into the last time cards were issued to employees.

Councilmember Freeman agreed with Councilmember Parker and shared that his previous employer required employees to have approved from four people within the organization before they could purchase anything.

Councilmember Abernethy shared that he is Chairman of the Audit Committee and the committee has reviewed the policy and gave the finance director approval to bring it before Council for approval.

Councilmember Puett shared that she has worked for companies before where she had a procurement card and she was well aware of the responsibility that came with it.

City Manager Jeff Cash shared that he can assure everyone that what happened in the past with credit cards will not happen again under his watch. He explained that the procurement cards would be under the watchful eyes of the finance director, accounts payable, himself and Mayor Beam.

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to approve both the Internal Procurement Card Policy and the Electronic Procurement Card Policy as written. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion. Councilmember's Abernethy and Puett voted in favor of the policy and Councilmember's Parker and Freeman voted against the policy. Mayor Beam broke the tie voting in favor to approve the policies.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy approached the podium to ask that the following items be declared surplus. Below is a list of surplus items:

1. 2007 Chevy Impala Vin #88898
2. 1998 Sterling Sanitation Truck Vin #27665
3. 2006 Chevy Impala Vin #13825
4. 2000 Buick Century Vin #56770
5. 2004 Sterling Sanitation Truck Vin #41232
6. Yanmar Farm Tractor #20689 (Red)

Councilmember Parker made a motion to declare the items listed above as surplus. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Parker shared that he would like to see a plaque placed on the Cherryville ABC Store in memory of Terry Fisher. Councilmember Parker shared that Terry Fisher was instrumental in getting Cherryville an ABC Store and he should have a memorial plaque.

City Manager has already checked on the cost of a bronze plaque and the cost will be approximately \$300.00.

This request will be on the January 26 work session agenda for more discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Adopted this 8 day of February 2021.

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

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

