



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 14, 2022 @ 6:00 PM
CHERRYVILLE COMMUNITY BUILDING
W. J. ALLRAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
106 S. JACOB ST. CHERRYVILLE, N.C. 28021**

The Honorable Mayor H.L. Beam called the meeting to order at the community building in the W.J. Allran Council Chambers. Councilmember's Jill Puett, Gary Freeman, Jon Abernethy, and Malcolm Parker were present. City Manager Brian Dalton, City Clerk Paige H. Green, City Attorney Palmer Huffstetler Jr., Planning & Zoning Director Alex Blackburn, Public Works Director Brandon Abernathy, Downtown Director David Day, Finance Director Dixie Wall, Fire Chief Jason Wofford, and Police Chief Cam Jenks were also present. Michael Powell was present for media coverage.

INVOCATION: PASTOR BOB HOLTSCLAW, MISSIONARY METHODIST CHURCH:

Pastor Bob Holtsclaw gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilmember Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting held on February 14, 2022. Councilmember Abernethy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Several weeks ago, City Manager Dalton and I attended a breakfast in Bessemer City at Blossoms Restaurant sponsored by the Gaston Business Association. The meeting's topic was

on economic development for the western area of Gaston County. City managers from Bessemer City and Kings Mountain gave updates on their respective cities, followed by Cherryville City Manager Dalton presenting a very informative power point update on Cherryville. The meeting was well attended with over 70 attendees and City Manager Dalton received a standing ovation after his presentation.

The city has received \$372,800 from the N.C. grant to complete Westgate Park and to buy a new building for the recreation department. We should be receiving an additional \$50,000 later from this same grant. Our City Contractor Recil Wright is making plans for development of this park.

We are happy to announce that the city has two new employees. Chris King from Sea Land has accepted a position to start working in streets/sanitation. Chris has 10 years' experience working for DOT and has been working recently with our downtown project.

In addition, Alex Blackburn, son of former City Manager Ben Blackburn, has accepted the full time position as head of our zoning department. Alex will be a great addition to our city staff, especially with all the proposed development that will be taking place in Cherryville in the coming years. Welcome Chris King and Alex Blackburn.

City Manager Dalton has been very busy with contractors who are interested in building additional neighborhoods within our community. One potential development would be off Requa Road with up to 500 plus homes in the \$300,000 per home range. Another would be 29 acres off Academy that would house 70-75 homes also in the \$300,000 range per home.

In other news, the contractor has started working on the pipe below the road on Academy Street, where the road is beginning to collapse. The price tag for repairs to this project is around \$90,000 and will require closing this part of Academy.

The city's Chamber of Commerce has Ribbon cuttings four of the five Thursdays in April. The first was Tony T's Grill on Wheels, second was Turner Animal Hospital, and third will be Frank Zayas Photography this coming Thursday, followed by the YMCA on the 24th of this month. We want to wish success in the future for all these businesses and thank them for choosing Cherryville for their locations.

City Manager Dalton has announced this week that the city is going to be awarded at least \$810,000 from a Federal Grant through Senator Burr's office. Some of these funds will be restricted for certain uses, but it is not exactly clear where all the funds will be spent.

This past Saturday, I was honored to give the welcoming address at the N.C. American Legion Hall of Fame Banquet held at Post 100 American Legion. Four inductees were presented at this banquet, and Cherryville was happy to have two of the four. Sam Homesley and Mike Robinson were two from Cherryville and one from Ahoskie and one from Greenville rounded out the four inductees. In addition, the N.C. Senior American Legion Player of the Year was recognized as well as the N.C. Junior American Legion Player of the Year.

In closing, I would like to announce that the ElectriCities rate committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow in Concord. City Manager Dalton, Council Member Jill Puett, and Finance Director Dixie Wall are all planning to attend. This meeting will determine via weighed vote by all member cities of ElectriCities what the wholesale rate will be for the future years. We are expecting a decrease in wholesale rates for the first year and are not sure what the rates will be after that.

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 CITY CLERK AT THE MEETING BEFORE THE MEETING BEGINS):

Mr. David Whitesides of 119 Summers Place approached the podium to share the following:

Thank you for allowing me to represent the Cherryville Ministerial Association (CMA) here in our beautiful town of Cherryville, NC. The CMA is writing this proposal to request the opportunity to supply our town with a Community Prayer Box. The Cherryville Ministerial Association would be greatly honored to pray over the needs of our neighbors, friends, and families. The Community Prayer Box provides a great pathway for this to happen. There are many reasons to have a Community Prayer Box, but the CMA is focusing on reaching out to Cherryville and its surrounding citizens, town visitors, and/or people that are just passing through our wonderful town. In addition, this provides an avenue to have their prayers seen by a person of dignitary across all Christian denominations. Sometimes a person just wants to say a prayer, stay anonymous, in their time of need and we believe that there is nothing wrong with that.

Now, if you Google, "Prayers Boxes," there are tons of pictures, articles, and I think there is even a book written about the ways these little GOD helpers assist their surrounding communities, but I will keep it simple for respect of the Mayor and City Council Members' time, and let you look those up for yourselves. The Prayer Box can also be used to report on how GOD heard and answered needy prayers by writing and submitting a note of thanksgiving and dropping it into our Community Prayer Box. Thank you and we hope everyone has blessed day!

Here is the plan to make this Community essential project a reality.

What: A Prayer Box for Community Members and other to use to write a prayer at any time they see fit. A member of the Community Ministerial Association will collect, read, and pray over each request weekly. The request will also be shared with their congregations for prayer.

Who: Cherryville Ministerial Association and All Community Members.

When: Good Friday, April 15th, 2022

Where: On Main St. in front of the Cherryville Chambers of Commerce

How: There are several ways to do build a Prayer Box. The one way that we really like is to repurpose an old outside post office mailbox. If we cannot find one of these, we have plans to build one using an old toolbox and hammer. It needs to be weatherproofed, provide writing material, provide a writing surface and be easily accessible by Prayer writer and reader.

Mayor Beam shared that he thought the prayer box was a good idea and in front of the Chamber of Commerce was a good location. He asked Mr. Whitesides when the prayer box would be in place.

Mr. Whitesides is hoping to have the prayer box in place by Good Friday.

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

Mayor Beam recognized the following employee for her years of service:

- Brittany Bingham Fire Dept. Administrative Asst. 5 Years

CONSIDERATION OF END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE CHERRYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, FIRE CHIEF JASON WOFFORD:

Fire Chief Jason Wofford approached the podium and gave an end of year report. The report consisted of activities and inspections for the period of January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021. Chief Wofford explained that numbers on this end of year report are extremely low do to the ongoing pandemic.

Chief Wofford shared that the fire department has experienced a mandatory halt of running lower-lever medical calls (excluding CPR incidents) to keep first responders from being exposed to the virus at a higher rate. Chief Wofford stated that the fire department is a small department and they needed to ensure they were healthy enough to remain in operation for fire suppression, which is their primary function.

If you wish to obtain a copy of this report, please contact the Cherryville Fire Department at 704-435-1730 or stop by the station at 411 W. Church Street.

CONSIDERATION OF END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE CHERRYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE CHIEF CAM JENKS:

Police Chief Cam Jenks approached the podium and gave an end of year report. The report consisted of an organizational chart, a call log, incidents and investigations, and the number of calls between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. If you wish to obtain a copy of this report, please contact the Cherryville Police Department at 704-435-1717 or stop by at 704 W. Church Street.

Councilmember Freeman shared that he had breakfast with a man that morning and he suggested that some of the younger officers needed to be friendly to the citizens.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Beam shared that the opening day for Dixie Youth Softball was for this Saturday but that has been rescheduled to April 2 at 9:00 am. The opening day for Little League will be Saturday April 9 at 10:00 am.

Downtown Director David Day approached the podium to share the events that will be going on in the upcoming months. Mr. Day wanted everyone to know that the events are also on the City's website at cityofcherryville.com under events. Some of the upcoming events are:



The graphic is a colorful calendar for 2022, set against a background of a street scene with buildings and a blue sky. The title 'The City of Cherryville 2022 Events Calendar' is prominently displayed at the top in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title, the calendar is organized into a grid of boxes for each month, with the month name in a black header bar above each box. The events are listed in a clear, sans-serif font within each box.

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
14th-17th Pot of Gold Hunt 17th St. Patricks Day	11th-14th EGGSTRAVAGANZA Golden Egg Hunt 15th Good Friday City Offices Closed 17th Easter Sunday	2nd: 5th Cinco De Mayo: Sombrero Hunt 19th 3rd Thursday 5 - 8 pm 24th: 30th - Memorial Day Flag Video
JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
16th: 3rd Thursday 18th: Juneteenth Celebration 10 - 2 pm	1st: Independence Day Celebration 6-10 pm 16th: 3rd Thursday 5-8	Back To School Apple Hunt 22nd - 26th 18th: 3rd Thursday 5 - 8 pm
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
16th: 3rd Thursday 5-8pm 23rd: Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening of Main Street 5-8 pm	7th: CHS Home Coming 14th: Hocus Pocus Parade 6-9 pm 20th: 3rd Thursday 5 - 8 pm 21st: Scary-Ville 6-10 pm 28th: Monsters March 10 am	Veterans Day Flags on Main Nov 1 - 13th 25th: Late night shopping on Main Street 26th: Holiday Market / Small Business Saturday 10-2 pm 26th: Christmas Tree Lighting - New Main Street Decorations
DECEMBER		
2nd: Who-Ville 6 - 10 pm 8th: Sip and Shop on Main Street 10th: Cherryville Christmas Parade 10:30 am 10th: Santa and Rides on Main Street. 6 - 8 pm 17th: Santa and Rides on Main Street 6 - 8 pm		

Councilmember Freeman shared that he teaches a class at GWU the rest of this semester that last until 5:20. He asked that the work session meeting time be changed to 6:00 so that he can make it on time for the March, April, and May work session meetings.

Councilmember Abernethy made a motion to change the work session time in March, April and May to 6:00 pm. Councilmember Puett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.


City Manager Dalton gave the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2022. He went over the report and asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Dalton was happy to report that every department is doing a great job and all funds are in the positive.

Mayor Beam asked if a date has been set for the budget meeting. After some discussion, Councilmember Puett made a motion to hold a budget meeting on Sunday April 10, 2022 at 1:00 pm. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Puett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Adopted this 11 day of April 2022.



Paige H. Green, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk



H.L. Beam, Mayor

