

The Hayesville Town Council Monday presented a check for \$3,300 to Joanna Atkisson and Paul Price to help defray incoming costs for a professional videographer who is scheduled to develop a presentation on Hayesville and Clay County.

Price, president of Clay County Communities Revitalization Association and board member Atkisson, accepted the check. Sandy Zimmerman said Historic Hayesville Inc.'s Economic Vitality Committee had allocated \$1,000 to the project.

The videographer, who is from the Asheville area, is expected to show up with equipment soon to work with some of Hayesville's popular events beginning with Steins & Wine.

At last month's meeting, the council learned the videos would be marketed throughout the southeast and beyond to try to promote Hayesville and the Clay County area.

"We want to promote the town, the businesses, the arts and crafts, our heritage, the Peacock, places to stay in the area and things to do," Atkisson told the council last month. Because visitors often come through Clay County but go on to Towns County and other areas, she said pointing up the Hayesville area's many possibilities for activities and entertainment might entice them to stay longer.

The town is poised for the kickoff of multiple events on the square - the Mayor's Yard Sale this weekend, Steins & Wine the following weekend, in June the Car-B-Que and in July the very popular Festival on the Square.

Thanks to Councilman Harry Baughn and metal sculptor Joe Miller, new arms on lampposts on the square are ready for hanging plants, Zimmerman said. The square, gazebo and other areas have been the recent focus of extensive cleanup and flower planting.

Zimmerman said Ingles Market had given the town a 60 percent discount on plants to be used around Town Hall and the courthouse square.

At the meeting the council discussed several grant possibilities for various projects. An application is in for a grant from Volkswagen settlement funds for an electric vehicle charging station in Hayesville.

Several years ago Volkswagen settled with federal authorities for violating emissions laws in vehicles advertised as having low emissions. The settlement included funds for Environmental Mitigation Trust, to be distributed to states where the offending vehicles were sold. The funds are to be used for projects that reduce pollution.

Mayor Joe Slaton said the town should hear about the status of the grant pretty soon.

The council was presented with a preliminary budget and will advertise it and schedule a preliminary hearing next month, Slaton said.

A paving project on Sanderson Street has been completed.

After the regular meeting, the council met in closed session and authorized Slaton to make an offer on property where a former antique shop was located near the town entrance. The action the council took only authorized the mayor to make an offer. He said later he was not sure the offer would be high enough.