

DATE: 9/7/16 FILE NO: DATE210
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting, 9/6/16

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Tuesday, 9/6/16, 5:00 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Steven Blanton leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Admin. Holland Belue, Attorneys Jim Thompson & Joe Mathis and Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda being in accordance with the SCFOIA and 2 was present. There were 15 visitors.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to adopt the agenda for PH & Regular Meeting of 9/6/16 with the removal of Item 9 No. 2 – 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2016-23 and in accordance with the SCFOIA. Councilman Steven Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 8/15/16 as received. Councilman Steven Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the public hearing on 2 matters: 1) Ordinance No. 2016-21 to amend the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg & Cherokee Co. so as to include additional property in Spartanburg Co. as part of the Joint County Industrial Park and other matters relating thereto. No one was present to speak. 2) Ordinance No. 2016-23 authorizing the execution & delivery of one or more Incentive Agreements by & among Cherokee Co., SC, and a company known to the county as Project Clean and one or more existing or to-be-formed or acquired subsidiaries, or affiliated or related entities, to provide for Special Source Revenue Credits for the Project; authorizing the inclusion of the Project in a Joint County Industrial & Business Park formed with Spartanburg County; to provide for the addition of one or more project affiliates; and other matters related thereto. No one was present to speak and Chairman Spencer closed the public hearing.

Petitioner Cindy Gardner regarding scholarships for disabled students. I have 7 special needs children that we adopted as babies. My son Matthew graduated this year and was accepted into the Winthrop Think College Program. He raised the money for this semester; he will accept Pell Grant & state monies for the next semester but there is still a great need for future funds. I am requesting County Council to consider setting up a scholarship fund for Intellectually Disabled Children in Cherokee County. Dr. Jennifer Wall passed out pamphlets telling what the Winthrop Think College Program offers for students with intellectual disabilities to prepare them for competitive employment and active participation in local communities with as much independence as possible. Mike Fowlkes stated this is something that this council needs to talk with our State Delegation about toward funding. Dr. Wall stated this is good time to reach out to our local legislation because other states are offering these programs and we are too but, we need help in paying for them. Jim Hawkins stated that Matthew is the 1st Student from Cherokee County to be in this program. Chairman Spencer stated that we will get in touch with our legislation to see if they can help with funding of this program.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to pass the 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2016-21 to amend the agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg & Cherokee Co. so as to include additional property in Spartanburg Co. as part of the Joint County Industrial Park and other matters relating thereto. Rufus Foster seconded and council voted in favor.

JSC Chair Mike Fowlkes reported that the Judicial Service Committee met at 4:30 today and have nothing to report at this time.

Administrator Holland Belue formerly commended Jim Cook on receiving the Upstate Alliance Economic Developer of the Year 2016. It is an award given on the basis of his peers and I thank County Council for your support and congratulate Jim Cook on receiving this award.

Administrator Holland Belue presented a list of items that need to be sold on govdeals.com which consists of radios, brackets, sirens, used emergency lighting, old vehicles that have been salvaged out, pallets of obsolete inventory in the Vehicle Main. Shop, etc. **[Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow Administration to put these items on govdeals.com for sale. Steven Blanton Seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Holland Belue presented a groundwater monitoring contract for the Class III Landfill with S&ME for \$30,000. **[Steven Blanton made the motion to allow Admin. to sign this contract with S&ME for the groundwater monitoring for the Class III Landfill for \$30,000. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Holland Belue requested permission to issue a PO for Magistrate Howell to purchase 7 chairs for his office staff at a total cost of \$1,670.76 to be paid from the capital contingency. **[Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow Admin. to issue this PO to purchase these 7 chairs. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Holland Belue requested permission to allow for the purchase a paper shredder to be shared between the Treasurer & Auditor Offices for the price of \$1,854.36 and to pay this from the specified budget account. **[Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow for this purchase of a paper shredder in the amount of \$1,854.36. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Holland Belue reported that there has been discussion with the Town of Blacksburg regarding Cherokee County collecting their property taxes for their real estate within the municipality. Cherokee Co. currently has a contract that is many years old that they will collect vehicle taxes for the municipalities including the City of Gaffney. This contract is for 50 cent per unit. Actual cost for the county to do collections for all entities for all tax bills which is about 87,996 units; if you take the cost of operations for our DTC & Treasurer Office and divide that into this number it is about \$5.09/unit for us to collect. Across the county are real estate tax, delinquent tax sales which can involve 3 different tax sales. We already collect for vehicles substantially under what it cost us. They are

requesting that we do this for real estate. Any delinquent taxes in place for property of vehicles prior to this year 2016 will be the responsibility of the entity to collect; any rollback homestead exemptions for the 2016/2017 property taxes will also be the responsibility of the entity. Administration recommends if you choose to move forward with this request to allow us and the County Attorney to work to update the contract currently in place; to include real estate and if they choose to allow us to do this we charge \$3.00/unit for each transaction. If the City of Gaffney does not want to participate and the TOB does not want to participate, then we will continue to collect that 50 cent/unit to collect their vehicles taxes until council chooses to change that contract. **[Steven Blanton made the motion to allow Administration to enter into a contract with the Town of Blacksburg & City of Gaffney for the collection of their real estate taxes by our County Treasurer Office at a cost to them for \$3.00/unit; and, to allow Admin. & County Attorney to update the current contract and bring it back before council. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.]** Charles Mathis asked how many more people will be needed to be hired to do this duty? Holland replied none.

Admin. Holland Belue reported to council that the Cherokee County Delegation has removed the authority of the CTC from Cherokee County Council and has appointed a 5 member board to run the CTC. Year to date all purchase orders have been issued prior to the notification of this to me for all county roads except for one. All 8 of the City of Gaffney roads have purchase orders issued; however 7 of those 8 had already been resurfaced. Notification given to me by the Delegation stopped PO's being issued. We will continue to complete the roads that were under the PO's already issued. The 3 roads that were to have full reclamation; those checks have been mailed to the state.

Admin. Holland Belue gave council the Lake Whelchel Master Plan on a letter drafted to you and basically outlines pending a successful advisory bond referendum & approval of \$6 million general obligation bond by Cherokee County Council and the Recreation District, the proceeds from the bond are anticipated to fund, in whole or in part, certain projects in the order of priority listed & attached. So pending successful referendum; pending successful approval by this council and the Recreation District will be the scope of the project. I have a copy of the Ethics Laws for council and the Recreation District Board, as well as the media. This will be the last correspondence other than actual questions that you may have for Admin. pertaining to the scope of the project. The County Admin. & County Recreation District Office cannot do anything beyond giving information. I cannot do promotional items, press releases, use of public funds, equipment or manpower toward this project.

Administrator Holland Belue reported that the Accommodations Tax applications are due to the Delissa Coggins on 9/9/16 by 5 PM. Committee will review those on Tuesday, 9/13/16 and we will make a recommendation to council on 9/19/16.

Cherokee Co. Development Board Director Jim Cook thanked Holland for his kind remarks. Last week when I received the award it caught me off guard but it shouldn't have because there have been a lot of people in the county working very hard to have these successful results we have had in the past

couple of years. I thank County Council on supporting us financially and on having the foresight & wisdom to work with in getting our infrastructure needs.

Development Board Director Jim Cook asked council to go into Executive Session for the discussion of matters relating to future proposed locations, expansions or provisions of services including locations and expansions of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body specifically Project Next Step and Project Kick Start. **[Steven Blanton made the motion to go into Executive Session for this stated reason. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor and went into Executive Session at 5:55 PM.]**

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting. Steven Blanton seconded and council voted in favor at 6:40 PM.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$427,776.84. Steven Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Charles Mathis made the motion for council to abandon their interest in Lori Road in Dist. 5. Steven Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to allow Administration & County Attorney to draft a purchase/sale agreement and continue active negotiations for the acquisition of land to be purchased in Cherokee Co. for the Project Next Step (Cherokee Co. Veterans Nursing Home) which will be operated by the State of SC. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion for Cherokee County Council to commit up to \$350,000 for the Project Kick Start for the construction of sewer lines that will run from Upstate Corp. to Sunny Slope Corp. Park to be paid from the Economic Development Fund. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Rufus Foster encouraged council to attend the BD Lee Elementary School ground breaking that will be held 9/12/16. Also, Limestone College won their football game big this past weekend. Council applauded them.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

APPROVED: 9/19/16

Respectfully submitted,

BY: Cherokee County Council

Doris F. Pearson, Clerk to Council