

DATE: 8/11/2020 FILE NO.: DATE487
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 8/10/2020

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 8/10/2020 @ 5:00 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Tracy McDaniel leading in prayer. Due to the COVID 19 virus, the meeting was streamlined online at www.cherokeecountysc.gov and made available by zoom. All Council Members were present along with Administrator Bratton, Attorney Joe Mathis and Master Clerk to Council Doris F. Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. One news media was present. There were 12 visitors.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, 8/10/2020 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Councilman Lyman Dawkins asked to be added to the agenda. Chairman Spencer added him at Item 15. New/Old/Other Business.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of Monday, 7/20/2020 as received. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$491,366.65. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Steve Bratton recognized R&B Employee Ronnie Owens and presented him with a gift card in appreciation for his quick response and returned to the County Shop (where one of the SW Trucks caught on fire) and he began spraying it with a fire extinguisher to keep the fire from spreading until emergency fire responders arrived.

Petitioner Patty Bloomer with the Gaffney Little Theater updated Council on its' purpose to the community. She asked council to consider helping them to revitalize the GLT and bring in a building inspector and/or architect into their current venue to inspect and report to them so they can determine if the current location can be used to go forward. **[Quay Little made the motion to allow Administrator Bratton to spend up to \$5000 to contact a professional service to access & determine to see if the GLT Building is structurally sound enough for the Gaffney Little Theater to pursue going forward. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Bratton reported on Bid 2021-01 Gravel: 2 bids were received and reviewed and the bid tabulation is enclosed for your review. Sloan was low bid in all areas. **[Tracy McDaniel made the motion to award Bid 2021-01 Gravel to Sloan for their low bid as attached. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Bratton presented a request from the Charter School requesting for an SRO. Sheriff Mueller sent me a letter stating that he had been contacted by Tony Helton of the New

Charter School in regards to having an SRO on campus. Sheriff Mueller is requesting Council to fund the 3 months for the SRO position salary/fringe benefits and the School District will pay for the other 9 months of salary & fringe benefits. Sheriff Mueller will take care of uniforms, bulletproof vest, weapons, fuel & etc. Once he receives the 6 vehicles ordered he will give one of the old high mileage vehicles for the SRO to use. **[Quay Little made the motion to work with Sheriff Mueller and place an SRO at the New Charter School Campus. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Bratton introduced Tim Hartman as the newly Assistant Administrator. He will begin his duties 8/17/2020. And will be working with Public Works Dept. and assisting on the Long-Range Plan.

Administrator Bratton introduced Cherokee Co. Treasurer Ryan Thomas. Thomas won the primary election and will be on the Nov. ballot with no opposition. Gov. McMaster appointed him to serve as the Cherokee Co. Treasurer beginning 8/25/2020.

Administrator Bratton reported on the closing of Old Stage Road (state road) off Hwy. 221. SCDOT is anticipating it to be closed through 11/30/2020. It will be closed for local traffic and they will be replacing a bridge.

Administrator Bratton reported on the closing of Mike's Creek County Road bridge which connects Oak Ridge & Ellis Ferry Roads. Due to heavy rains we have had, that bridge is deuterating and we are evaluating our possibilities now. We are looking to see if we can possibly put a large pipe in or we may have to replace that bridge.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes followed up by saying going into this Long-Range Planning, several years ago we discussed replacing bridges on county roads and were trying to do one/year, etc. We need to get back to that cause because these bridges aging and closing down really interrupts the Emergency Services, fire depts. Either in this Long-Range Plan or going into the budget year, we need to get back with those cost about replacing these bridges.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to re-appoint Eddie Dover to serve another term on the Buffalo Fire District. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to re-appoint Larry Jones to serve another term on the Buffalo Fire District. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer re-appointed Anna Moss to serve another term on the Cherokee County Development Board. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer re-appointed Carlton Bridges to serve another term on the Grassy Pond Fire District. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion for council to go into Executive Session at 5:27 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(3) for a personnel matter. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 5:40 PM and enter back into the Regular Meeting. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins expressed his concern regarding the wearing of face masks throughout the county during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Are we going to take some type of action to help protect our county? On 7/29/2020, Gov. McMaster requested all South Carolinas to wear face protective coverings and also ask that all local governments adopt some type of face covering ordinance. Our county numbers are steadily rising and we have been standing on the sidelines and not doing much. Every health organization recommends some type of face covering. The data clearly shows that something needs to be done because our cases are rising every month and today, we stand at 638 cases just here in Cherokee County. I believe as leaders we can't continue to stand on the side lines and do nothing. I would like to see this council enact some type of emergency ordinance for face covering for any/all businesses. **[Lyman Dawkins made the motion for council to adopt some type of emergency ordinance for face covering for any/all businesses. David Smith seconded.** Chairman Spencer asked is this ordinance a request or requirement for face masks? The Governor requested it; he did not require it. Lyman replied I want our ordinance to require it in local businesses. Quay Little asked are you asking for all retail stores? Lyman replied all retail stores, grocery stores, etc. Quay Little replied, I worry about are we infringing on their rights to require this? Tracy McDaniel stated he hasn't heard if Blacksburg has discussed this. David Smith stated the State Superintendent came out and said that all students will have to wear a mask this year to attend school. That was one of my concerns of sending my kids back to school when there was no requirement. It is a requirement now for students to attend school. This is going to get worse and we need to think about this. Quay Little replied, to be fair to all on this council we need time to discuss this with our constituents. Mike Fowlkes replied I will not vote for a mandatory face mask wearing. There is level of enforcing that we need to address; how will it be enforced? You already have stores making policies themselves. You will be taking the choice from the store owners and the individual on whether or not they want to shop there because they don't have a policy. Are you including churches? Fast fares/Pantry's/walk-in stores? What are you including in that definition of businesses? Chairman Spencer replied I don't believe I could vote in favor of it either. David Smith replied kids don't have to wear masks to school if they have a health situation or if you have a child that can't put the mask on themselves. If we do something on that level, it will make more people think and begin to wear them. Chairman Spencer replied, I think it is fine to request them but not to require them. Quay Little replied I don't know how you will enforce the ordinance if it is a law. Lyman Dawkins replied I have read up on this and I have not found one article where enforcement was a bigger issue than their safety. Administrator Bratton asked council to instruct him & Attorney Mathis to research this and bring back an ordinance to you at the next meeting? We don't have an ordinance prepared for you to vote on tonight. Emergency Ordinance will be for 60 days and will take a 2/3rd vote. Quay Little asked what does the state mandate now? Administrator Bratton replied the requirements to wear mask is toward state-owned buildings; and state

supreme court chief justice came out and said that masks will be required in all courthouses which includes magistrates, COC, family courts, general sessions, probate courts, etc. Also, they have to check their temperature, which we are already doing here. The Governor requested that local governments pass an ordinance that requires face masks. **[Lyman Dawkins rescinded his motion to allow Administrator Bratton & Attorney Mathis to gather more information and report back to council. David Smith also rescinded his second.]**

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

APPROVED: 8/17/2020

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council