

DATE: 12/3/19 FILE NO: DATE462
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, 12/2/19

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 12/2/19, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Mike Fowlkes leading in prayer. All councilmembers were present along with Administrator Bratton, Attorneys Jim Thompson & Joe Mathis and Master Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. One local news media and (3) TV Stations were present. There were 100+ visitors.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of 12/2/19 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA and with the correction made by Clerk Pearson to correct Page 2, Item 10(2) from 2019-16 to 2019-26. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 11/18/19 as received in the agenda package. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$361,350.05. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the Public Hearing on two matters: **1) to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-25** authorizing pursuant to Chapter 44 of Title 12; Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 170; Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 175; and Title 4, Chapter 29, Section 68 of the Code of Laws of SC, 1976, as amended, the execution & delivery of a Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement between Cherokee Co., SC and Project Bison; the creation of a Joint County Industrial & Business Park; and matters relating thereto. No one was present to speak. **(2) Ordinance No. 2019-26** authorizing (a) the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between Cherokee County, SC and Nestle USA, Inc. with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in Lieu of Taxes, including the provision of Certain Special Source Revenue Credits and (b) the extension of the term of an existing Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between the County and the Company; (c) and other matters related thereto. No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt Resolution 2019-08 designating & approving Hart Consumer Products, Inc. as a sponsor affiliate under that certain Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes & Incentive Agreement dated 3/18/19 between One World Technologies, Inc. and Cherokee County, SC in accordance with & satisfaction of the requirements of Title 12, Chapter 44 of the SC Code and such agreement, so as to allow the sponsor affiliate to qualify for benefits pursuant to the agreement; and other matters related thereto. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

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Administrator Bratton replied we received this request from One World Technologies, Inc. to add Hart Consumer Products on as one of their sponsor organizations so that as they spend their money and make their investments in this county; that money spent through that organization will also count toward their fee.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-25 authorizing pursuant to Chapter 44 of Title 12, Chapter 1, Section 170; Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 175; and Title 4, Chapter 29, Section 68 of the Code of Laws of SC, 1976, as amended, the execution & delivery of a Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement between Cherokee County, SC, and Project Bison; and matters relating thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Administrator Bratton revealed the name of this project – Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp. They have committed additional \$13.9 million investment in this county and the creation of 193 jobs. Representing Freightliner here tonight is President/CEO Jeffery Sather; and CFO Robert Klein. Chairman Spencer thanked them for all they do for Cherokee County.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-26 authorizing (a) the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between Cherokee county, SC, and Nestle USA, Inc. with respect to certain Economic Development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in Lieu of Taxes, including the provision of Certain Special Source Revenue Credits and (b) the extension of the term of an existing Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between the County and the Company; and (c) other matters related thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Administrator Bratton thanked Nestle and they will have \$100 million investment here in our county. Representing Nestle is Attorney Jim Price, Luca Viglione and Andrea McCraw. Chairman Spencer thanked Nestle for the partnership we have.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-27 authorizing the amendment of an existing Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement dated as of 12/1/09, by & between Cherokee Co., SC and Reeves Construction Co., as successor in interest to Sloan Construction Co., Inc. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-28 authorizing & approving the diminution of the boundaries of a Joint County Industrial & Business Park with Cherokee Co. pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13 of the SC Constitution, to exclude certain property owned and/or operated by AFL Telecommunications, LLC ,or one or more of its affiliates or other related companies; and other matters related thereof. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-29 to amend the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg Co. & Cherokee Co., SC, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto (Amaco Tool & Supply Co., Inc., SEW-Eurodrive, LLC., Carolina CC Venture XXXVII, LLC., Arlington Spartanburg, LLC., Global Commerce Park,

LLC., Belden Solar, LLC., Polydeck Real Estate, LLC., Logistics 85, LLC., and Limelight Solar III, LLC.). Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Sheriff Steve Mueller spoke regarding law enforcement/public safety for Cherokee County. I want to give you some concerns & issues that exist in my department. In the 7 years of the past 9, we have had a reduction in crime in our county. He stated that the county administration only funds 2/3rd of our phone bill leaving 1/3rd that we have to find a way to pay for which is through restricted monies. Several years ago, this department went with the records management Zuercher System and were told we would have to pay for it. We did but now you all other entities are on it but we still have to pay for the maintenance. It is not being fully funded by our administration. The fleet vehicles we asked for our department this budget year were denied; yet, you went with fleet vehicles for the rest of the county. We have roughly 77 vehicles in our fleet. At the current rate of funding 6 vehicles every year; our vehicles stay in our fleet 11 to 12 years; but what we had to do to prop up that aging fleet was to take restricted monies and purchased 16 cars to keep our fleet from falling apart. He referred to a letter from SCAC Risk Management where they recommend patrol cars come out of the fleet at 125,000 miles; but we are driving vehicles with 250,000 miles. These cars are not safe for our officers; not safe for the citizens that we are responding to; they may not stop as fast; etc. We have 26 vehicles in our current fleet that have already exceeded that 125,000 miles; another 12 vehicles have exceeded 100,000 miles. We are asking you to seriously consider the public safety needs. Another concern is our pay; our correction officers are making \$14.75/hr. and our deputies are starting out at \$16.53/hr.; that is no longer a living wage. Statically in the US, we fall in the lowest 10% in pay that we are giving our public servants. We ask you to look at the big picture of public safety and see what we need to be doing to make sure we can have a livable wage. He handed out another document that listed exactly what other counties have in their general budget. Our general budget from the SCAC report is roughly \$19.5 million and our payroll is \$7.3 million for 263 employees and 49 part-time. Looking at this paper we see that other counties are investing in their people and when if do they will give us a better job performance. We have a retention problem. I am asking you to consider raising our pay up to \$2.50/hour for our correction officers; \$2.25 to \$2.47/hour for each police officer; an additional increase of \$1.50/hour for our civilian staff. If we raise this, that would put us at \$19/hr. We actually have officers that their children qualify for reduced/free lunches in school. A lot of my employees are working side jobs to make ends meet. \$2.50/hr. is not a big increase. We have acquired \$1.5 million of equipment off the 1033 Program. We ask that you honor our request by 1/1/20. Please take care of these employees. Lt. Kenneth Sibley and Lt. Brandon Dorsett spoke in favor of this request as well.

Administrator Steve Bratton responded by saying that some of the info handed out was incorrect. Our total salary budget is \$16.7 million and our general fund is \$26.4 million. Whereas your paper is showing less than 40% of our budget goes to salary/fringe, actually is more like 65%. Also, when I brought my priority list to council a couple weeks back, it was addressing capital projects only. 2 of the top 3 items on my list were dealing with law enforcement – the detention center annex and evidence storage facility for you. Council did take on 9 SRO's two years ago through a cooperative effort with the school district and we did that with no federal/state money and this council funded all the capital equipment that went

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with those SRO's. This council also, 3 years ago implemented the longevity plan that cost \$1 million for the entire county and have funded that fully every year; and this year they gave a 2% across the board cost of living raise to all county employees. Council went with the lease program and only leased 11 vehicles on the administrative side as a test run. I recommend to council to take Sheriff Mueller's request as information and allow me to get with our Finance Director Johnny Leazer and we will study this request.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the Cherokee County Council Schedule meeting dates for 2020 as presented. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Steve Bratton reported that Bid No. 2020-17 – Scrap Metal at the Landfill will be opened at the next meeting 12/16/19.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.

APPROVED: 12/16/19

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council