

DATE: 10/22/19 FILE NO: DATE456

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 10/21/19

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 10/21/19, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Mike Fowlkes leading in prayer. All council members were present except Charles Mathis who is in the hospital. Administrator Steve Bratton, Attorneys Jim Thompson & Joe Mathis and Master Clerk Doris Pearson were present. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SFOIA. One news media was present along with ten visitors.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, 10/21/19 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 10/7/19 as received in the agenda package. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$314,905.41. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

DP3 Architects Mike Pry, Kunal Patel & Mack Kelly presented the Public Works Facility Master Plan. They went out and visited the existing Animal Shelter Site which is 17.5 acres; the administration office operates out of a trailer; has dog runs; Human Society is located there and operates out of a shed. Existing Recycling Center site sits on a 6-acre plot of land on 144.18 acres; is not efficient at all; traffic flow in & out is not safe; you lost part of the building during a bad storm; just need a better facility. Existing Operations & Maintenance Site sits on the 144.18 acres of land; their break area's roof has fallen in; the entire area just needs a lot of work. We met with the departments heads and asked them what would work for them. We developed a space program and the budget plan is around \$16 + million. We came back and asked them where could we share space and save money? We streamed line the proposed plan and cut it from 50,000 sq. feet to 32,000 sq. feet. We talked about sharing resources; planned for a 50-year life span. The existing public works facilities must remain in operation during construction; it can be relocated in different phases; the three depts. could co-locate to share resources; buildings should be sustainable & as energy efficient as financially feasible; buildings should minimize long-term life-cycle costs. Mike showed the Animal Shelter Concept Plan and where the site location could be located. Existing facility relationship to the new site – public works would be 8.3 miles to new site; recycling center 8.8 miles to new site; animal control 6.2 miles to new site and administrative offices 6.2 miles to new site. The proposed new public works site would be located on the county's 497.27 acres off of Lemuel Road; he showed the proposed site options; and the new SCDOT Interchange reconfiguration. Mike gave the pros & cons of Concept One – Stand Alone; Concept Two/Axis; and Concept Three/Campus. He showed the proposed overall site Concept A & Concept B. For the proposed animal shelter site, we would secure access drop off on left hand side; have two small sheds; exercise runs. Recycling Center Site – have the convenient center located where the public can just ride through with

after-hours drop off. DPW will require most of the square footage and land. You will need a large parking place just for the employees; as well as one for the cars/trucks/etc. to be serviced. Our primary goal is to create a 50-year facility; favorable life cycle costs; energy efficient; long-term durability & sustainability. You have hard cost & soft cost for this project and he showed the chart for these. We recommend Concept A to build on both sides of the road with the animal shelter and recycling center being closest to I-85 and DPW further back on the property. Steve Bratton informed council that he asked them to include at the animal shelter space for the Humane Society to have an office and adoption-out area.

Chairman Spencer asked do we collect rent from them for their space? Steve replied no and the new facility will also be free because we work together to adopt these animals out. How much do we charge the Cherokee County residents to adopt a dog? Humane Society Director Beth Osment replied \$140 + certain things they have to get done. Tim Spencer asked do you give the residents of Cherokee County the opportunity to adopt a dog before you send it out? Beth replied yes, we welcome that.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes asked about Concept B, is there anything that can be consolidated here where you can have consolidated parking and maybe one retaining pond? Mike Pry replied we did look to bring those buildings together but there is a valley there between those and the other side is fairly flat; we can shift one or the other. We did look at bringing those buildings together but we still need to keep the public separated from the heavy-duty traffic of operations. If you put the retention pond at the back of the DPW facility then you would have to pipe it all the way back here and that would cost. It is more economically to put a small retention pond here and save money on piping. Steve replied I don't like the retention pond in front of the building; I would much rather have it behind so it couldn't be seen. Mike Pry replied we can probably do that with just a little earth moving. Steve replied the Recycling Center is so much a public facility vs our DPW facility and it would be better for them to be separated. Quay asked was there a concern regarding the shooting range? Pry replied you have two issues: the shooting vs the knocking & banging of the recycling center. If we went across the road and planted trees that might lessen the noise. Quay asked if we flipped it, would it be better? Pry replied if we can get it across the road, we can put 3 buffers between the two buildings. Quay asked how many wells are on the site? Pry replied we don't know exactly but we do know of 5 wells to the left. It wouldn't cost too much if we had to cap a well. We just don't need to put a building over it. There is no buffer around a well. Lyman asked about the valley? Pry replied the valley can be filled in with dirt, no problem there. So, if you want to make that flat, it would be a matter of bringing the dirt in. If we have to build a retaining wall in the back, that could get pricy. We are trying to avoid spending any money on site infrastructure if it is not necessary. You have enough land around the proposed recycling center that you could add another building. Tim asked are all these buildings metal? Pry replied, they don't have to be; that is just the best economical way to go.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-24 authorizing the execution & delivery of an amended Fee Agreement between Cherokee County & American Decorative Fabrics Reality, LLC, including the inclusion of Home Fashions International, LLC.

as Co-Sponsor and amending the Fee Agreement dated as of 10/1/17; and other matters related thereto. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

PWC Chair Tracy McDaniel made the motion coming from the committee to allow Administrator Bratton to award Bid No. 2020-08 to purchase the road ditcher for the DPW from US Ditcher at a price of \$127,600 and pay it from the capital equipment budget account. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Steve Bratton opened the bids for Bid No. 2020-07 – Garbage truck. Four bids were received: 1) Carolina International - \$152,290.75; 2) Carolina International - \$165,500; 3) Carolina Environmental Systems - \$163,830; and 4) Amick Equipment - \$151,779.75. Lyman Dawkins made the motion to place these bids in the PWC for review & to report back to council 11/4/19. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Steve Bratton opened bids for Bid No. 2020-09 – Asphalt sealing, striping & crack sealing at the Cherokee Co. Admin. Complex parking lot and adjacent parking lot: 1 bid was received. Quay Little made the motion to open & read the bid. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor. A Plus Asphalt Sealcoat & Line Striping, Lexington, SC - \$49,647 + \$39,456 for the adjacent parking lot. Quay Little made the motion to place this bid in the PWC for review and to report back on 11/4/19. Mike Fowlkes seconded and the council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) & (a)(5) for the following two matters: 1) discussion of an economic matter relating to future proposed locations, expansions or provision of services including locations & expansions of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body; 2) to discuss a contractual matter relating to the possible disposition of county property. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor and went into Executive Session at 6:02 PM.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:45 PM and enter back into the Regular Meeting. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis stated for the records that no action was taken during executive session.

Administrator Steve Bratton requested from council funding toward widening of Hwy. 11 at the SCC/CCC. This project has been talked about for some time. August, 2018, we were awarded an ARC Grant/federal money for \$250,000 for this project. We got put on the State Transportation Improvement Plan through the Appalachian COG; and then it went to SCDOT. SCDOT has informed us that the project will cost \$1million. Henry Giles & I met with SCDOT and we asked why the increase in price? They stated basically because there is federal money involved and that triggered all kinds of requirements that we would not normally have. It will involve a lot more engineering and also stretch out the time of the project getting completed. SCDOT can do this cheaper & faster. Henry Giles & I worked out something in Washington in that the Federal Highway Improvement Committee was willing to cover the cost but it will still take about 3 to 4 years to complete. There have already been 5 accidents at that interchange. We

have been talking with Dr. Falls with the School District and we feel we can fund this among the 3 entities. We have \$30,000 in our budget from last year and I am asking for an additional \$70,000 out of the contingency. The three entities (Cherokee County Council, SCC/CCC & Cherokee Co. School District) will fund \$100,000/each for this project. This will include traffic lights at that interchange. **[Quay Little made the motion to allow Administrator Bratton to allocate \$100,000 from the contingency account toward the Hwy. 11 road widening project at SCC/CCC. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton requested permission to offer to our county employees the option of their vacation buy back. **[Mike Fowlkes made the motion to allow Administrator Bratton to offer to the county employees the opportunity to buy back their vacation in accordance to policy & procedure. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton requested permission to proceed with a ballot referendum regarding the Gaffney Fire Protection Area. The Special Election for the Gaffney Fire Protection Area would be 3/24/2020. The referendum will be asking the tax payers in that district if they would approve a 4-mil tax increase which would move them from 12 mils to 16 mils. Attorney Mathis & I have been discussing the wording that would go on the ballot and hope to bring a resolution to you at the next meeting. **[Quay Little made the motion to allow Administrator Bratton & Attorney Mathis to proceed with a resolution to have a ballot referendum regarding the Gaffney Fire Protection Area. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to authorize Administrator Bratton to research options on hiring a firm to educate the voters on the ballot referendum regarding the Gaffney Fire Protection Area. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Steve Bratton informed council that the scale house at the landfill will be moved back up the hill and that the landfill will be closed all day Saturday, 10/26/19 in order to do this. Also, security cameras will be installed. The cost for this project is \$34,000 which is in the budget.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.

APPROVED: 11/4/19

BY ITS CHAIRMAN: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Master Clerk Doris F. Pearson