

DATE: 3/17/2020 FILE NO: DATE471

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting Monday, 3/16/2020

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 3/16/2020, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with Rev. Andy Cooper leading in prayer. Councilman Mike Fowlkes lead in the pledge of allegiance. All council members were present except Charles Mathis. Administrator Steve Bratton, Attorneys Jim Thompson & 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 13 visitors.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of 3/16/2020 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 3/2/2020 as received. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$505,475.50. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Gibbs Cancer Center & Research Institute Patient Lay Navigator Pamela C. Perry handed out material & spoke to council regarding getting more information out to the public in Cherokee County regarding cancer. Included in the material was a Calendar of Cancer Awareness Months; 2020 Cancer Awareness Targets; Get your Tests; magazines and other information pertaining to the different types of cancer. The 2020 four major concerns of cancer in our area are: colon cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer & lung cancer. I plan on putting on several events throughout the area to promote cancer awareness. Administrator Bratton stated he would give Ms. Perry his card and work with her in setting up these areas.

Upstate Workforce Board Associate Director/COO Dana Wood updated council regarding Operation Educate. Sheriff Mueller, Major Anderson & Candice Quinn were also present. Back in Oct., 2019, we were awarded a federal grant in partnership with Spartanburg Community College Foundation. That grant was awarded from the Appalachian Regional Commission for \$2.3 million. It was very competitive with over 130 applicants and we were 1 of the 10 recipients awarded around \$900,000 dedicated to Operation Educate for our area which is an occupational training program conducted within the Detention Facilities. This grant is allowing us to implement this program in Cherokee Co. along with Spartanburg Co. With this money we will be able to purchase a portable classroom to set up on site at the Detention Facility; computer desks, screens, whiteboards, anything needed to conduct classroom activities & training. We are going to focus our training on manufacturing. Over the course of the 3 year grant we hope to impact around 288 people between Sptg. & Cherokee Counties. This will be offered to

non-violent offenders. Administrator Bratton has offered us office space here at the County Admin. Building. We will be offering transportation, housing assistance, child care, etc. Sheriff Mueller stated this is a great program and will be a game changer for our community. We have had 4 to 6 employers who have said they would hire from this program. We are doing everything we can to keep these people from coming back and our motto is “Let’s Cut Out all the Excuses”. We may come back to council requesting help with getting some permits waived, etc. Councilman Smith asked how long is this program? Dana replied we have consolidated this program and is roughly 129 hours of manufacturing planning. We usually can get that done between 4 to 5 weeks; Monday – Friday 8 am to 5 pm; SCC is our provider. We will do interviews on site with employers; drug testing on site. Councilman Dawkins asked about their education? Dana replied we will do screening in that we don’t want to take a huge population without a GED; we’re looking at prior charges; at their behavior in the detention facility; how long will they be there; their trail date, etc. When we start screening, we may begin with 30 to 50 people and cut that down to 6 to 8; we want 8 to 10 people and can go up to 16. Chairman Spencer asked what happens if they don’t complete the 129 hours of training and then they are released from the detention center? Sheriff Mueller replied if they get out, then we will allow them to come back and complete the program; they would report everyday and attend class, etc. We also offer GED programs in-house; work-release program; etc. Dana replied we offer a lot of opportunities.

Administrator Steve Bratton updated council on the coronavirus. We have not been operating under normal situations today. We have not had a case in Cherokee County. I put in place COVID-19 Operation Plan (list attached). I held a Dept. Head meeting this morning at 10 am; and I sent this out for a press release. I have not reduced staff but I informed Dept. Heads that is still on the table; I talked with our IT Dept. to issue PC for employees to work from home if necessary. Our Public Works Dept. has not been altered; operations are up & going as usual for them. We have placed notices on the front door; info is on our website; updates sent to news media; we listed our on-line county resources. This building is not closed; however, the heaviest traffic in this building is going to the Treasurer Office so we have moved that business to their drive-thru assistance; night deposit box; etc. Auditor’s Office has an employee stationed at the window as well to handle business regarding their office. Law Enforcement is handling all their calls by phone. I have cancelled all outside agencies using this building for meetings, etc. When emergency calls come into 911, they are asking 4 major questions before they relay the call to a responder. We are doing what we feel we need to do to limit the risk for our employees and the public.

Administrator Steve Bratton presented the 1st Quarter EMS Update stating that Jimmy Green has completed his contract with us. A copy of his final report is attached. Financial impact revealed a savings; response time was down just a little; all busy analysis; change of medical director; EMS ambulance fleet; 911 communications; new EMS stations – Medic 2 was moved from the EMS headquarters located behind Cherokee Medical Center to a location on Highway 11 at I-85 & Medic 5 was moved further out Union Highway at the Dollar General on Race Track Road; Helicopter usage review – the first one was in February and this will be an on-going process; hospital destinations – most of the patients are going to Cherokee Medical Center; pending – a monthly report required from the provider to the County with key data will be monitored and given out; review process – Jimmy Green is satisfied that Lifeguard is meeting the

requirements as set forth in the RFP pending the monthly report. I feel the service they are providing to the citizens of Cherokee County is a quality EMS system. Lifeguard's Regional Director Sue Reece is getting involved with our EMS services by attending the Fire Chief meetings; VFD meeting, and just reaching out and getting involved.

Chairman Spencer announced that the grand opening ceremony for the Cherokee Ford Road Trail, Sat., 3/21/2020, as been postponed at this time. We haven't heard on the CCADA luncheon, Tuesday, 3/31/2020 but will inform council once we do.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:55 PM.

APPROVED: 4/6/2020

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS VICE-CHAIR: Quay Little

Master Clerk to Council Doris F. Pearson