

DATE: 3/3/2020 FILE NO: DATE469
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, 3/2/2020

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 3/2/2020, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with David Smith leading in prayer. Councilman Mike Fowlkes lead in the pledge of allegiance. All council members were present along with 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 10 visitors.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of 3/2/2020 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 2/18/2020 as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$312,407.07. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Presenter KNOW(2) Executive Director Teresa Spires updated council on the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. Our efforts are to make sure that everyone in Cherokee Co. is counted in the 2020 Census. After 2010 Census our state won another congressional seat going from 6 to 7 but this year, we are in danger of losing that seat if enough residents are not counted in the census. Over 1½ trillion dollars/year is distributed to state & local governments by federal agencies to be used by the census data to make funding decisions. Funding in our state was 12.5 billion dollars/year. Census timeline - beginning now every household will receive a postcard informing them of the upcoming census. Between 3/12 & 3/20/20 the majority households will receive a letter with instructions on how to go on-line and complete the census survey. About 25% of rural households will actually get a paper survey. Reminder letters will be sent out in late March; and a reminder postcard will be sent out 4/3/20. 4/1/2020 is the official census day. Wherever you live as of 4/1/20 will be your residence for the census. In mid-April, non-respondents will receive a letter + a paper copy of the survey and a follow-up reminder postcard will be sent in later May. Between May and early July census indicators will be knocking on doors in neighbors to complete the census information for anyone who has not completed it on-line. By 12/31/20, the Census Director will deliver the counts to the President. What is different this year? This year is the first time the census will focus heavily with on-line completion of the survey. Local communities & state will need to be pro-active in being sure that everyone is counted. Everyone who resides in our county needs to be counted regardless of their citizenship. For our county in 2010, mostly in the East Gaffney area, people went uncouncted. KNOW(2) is working to compile an army of volunteers to help spread the word of completing the census and to help individuals complete the census. We have a very short window to get this census completed and we need everyone's help. If you want to volunteer, come to a training;

if you know of a good location for a census completion for this, let us know and help us set it up. Encourage family, friends and others to complete the 2020 Census. Mike Fowlkes stated there are about 3 or 4 scams directly related to the census; how would someone be able to validate what they receive is not a scam? Teresa replied they can go to census.gov or give me a call. If someone gets a phone call stating they are with the Census Bureau, it will be a scam because they do not make calls; they will be sending mail and knocking on doors. Administrator Bratton announced that one of our County Employees, who works in HR, Nicole Turner will be Cherokee County's Designee.

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 2020-02 relating to the issuance of Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds by the SC Jobs-Economic Development Authority on behalf of Cherokee County Charter School d/b/a Cherokee Charter Academy. As there was no one present to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Administrator Steve Bratton presented & read Resolution No. 2020-02 in its entirety. **Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 in support of the issuance by the SC Jobs Economic Development Authority of its Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Cherokee Charter Academy Project), pursuant to the provisions of Title 41, Chapter 3 of the Code of Laws of SC 1976, as amended, in the aggregate maximum stated principal amount of \$20,000,000. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.**

Administrator Steve Bratton informed council of the Gaffney Fire Protection Area Referendum will be coming forth on 3/24/2020. We will have 3 public information meetings coming up on 3/10 @ Alma; 3/12 @ Grace Baptist Church and 3/17 @ Midway Baptist Church. We will be educating our voters so they will understand what a yes vote means and what a no vote means. We will be putting out yard signs as part of marketing this; running ads in local newspapers; face book ads; u-tube ads; website link; Instagram ads; we will put the word out. Our goal is not to influence the vote but to educate our voters to make the decision they feel is best for them.

Administrator Steve Bratton informed council of the Federal Land Access Grant. For several years the OMVT Committee along with the Carolina Thread Trail Committee have made various efforts in our county to replicate a walking trail that follows the route of the actual OMVT. They are missing one vital link and that is from the Town of Chesnee to the Cowpens National Battleground up Hwy. 11 which is a little over 2 miles. We have been working with Spartanburg County & others on getting a Federal Land Access Grant for \$1 million. SCDOT will be putting in a sidewalk that will serve as the trail along Hwy. 11 from Chesnee to Cowpens National Battleground and in order for them to do this and for us to get that grant, we need to maintain the sidewalk. I've talked with Brian Estes & Sonny Pierce and we feel we can handle this. DOT will cut the grass along that route but if any damage is caused on the sidewalk, we will be responsible for repairing it. Doris Pearson serves on that board as our delegation. I've talked with DOT Stephen Ellis and told him I feel like this is something we will take on. Steve replied I will be issuing on my letterhead a letter saying that Cherokee County is interested in maintaining the sidewalk; I am not signing

any maintenance agreement at this point. We are not taking this in as a right-of-way; it is a state right-of-way, we will just maintain the sidewalk for this route only. Council consented on Steve sending this letter for Spartanburg to proceed with the Federal Land Access Grant application.

Administrator Steve Bratton presented a request from Coroner Dennis Fowler to allow him to purchase an 800 MHz radio for a cost of \$5000 to be placed in our 911 Dept. which will allow him to communicate with them. When we upgraded our console in 911 several months back, the technology was such a significant step up from what we had that the old radio that was in there will no longer function. Only one that currently uses this radio is Coroner Fowler. The one he has still allows him to communicate with Columbia and surrounding counties but he cannot communicate with 911; however, he does have a UHF Radio that does allow him to communicate with 911 just like EMS, Fire, Sheriff Dept. does. My recommendation is I see no significant need for the purchase of this radio. Council took this as information.

Administrator Steve Bratton reported that the Democratic Primary was held Sat., 2/29/20. This was the first election held with the new voting machines and everything went well. There was a total of \$3,171 votes cast and in 2016 there were 2,408 which was about a 30% increase. They had 578 absentee votes vs 380 in 2016. There were a couple of hiccups but all went well. If anyone calls you with an issue, please let me know or Mrs. Walker so they can correct them as they get ready for the upcoming elections in June, Oct. & Nov., 2020.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes asked council to keep the family of William Cash in their prayers. He passed away last week and has served on the Cherokee Creek Fire Board for a great number of years and will truly be missed.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:37 PM.

APPROVED: 3/16/2020

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council