

DATE: 6/11/19 FILE NO: DATE341

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting, 6/10/19

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 6/10/19, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with David Smith leading in prayer. All council members were present except Lyman Dawkins. Administrator Steve Bratton, Attorneys Jim Thompson & Joe Mathis and Clerk Doris Pearson were present. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. One news media was present along with 6 visitors.

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of 6/10/19 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Charles Mathis made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 6/3/19 as received in the agenda package. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the Public Hearing of proposed Ordinances adopting a budget proposed by the County Administrator containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures and to provide for the levying of taxes and fees for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20 for the following ordinances: 2019-02 Cherokee County General Operating Budget; 2019-03 Antioch VFD; 2019-04 Buffalo VFD; 2019-05 Cherokee Creek VFD; 2019-06 CKC VFD ; 2019-07 Corinth VFD; 2019-08 Gaffney Fire District; 2019-09 Grassy Pond VFD; 2019-10 Goucher White Plains VFD; and 2019-11 DMW VFD. **No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.**

**Councilman Quay Little made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County Council in the amount of \$115,297.64. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

Administrator Steve Bratton updated council on changes he made since the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading to the Budget Ordinance 2019-02 for Cherokee County. The total budget on the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading for the General Fund Operating Budget was \$26,401,650.49; since then we made changes to a position wages that we had made an error on in the R&B Dept.; also in the TAO we were notified of an increase in the Lexus/Nexus subscription; also a change in the Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor position salary. Those changes added up to an additional \$20,000 making the total amount of the General Fund Operating Budget at \$26,421,654.04.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes asked Steve about the lease program. Right now, you have in the budget just to do Administrative vehicles; not the Sheriff and other county vehicles. Steve replied that is correct. There are 54 vehicles that I am recommending that we go with Enterprise. Mike replied the last time we approached that, the numbers did not add up and that was just on the Sheriff Dept. What are the pros & cons of us going with this fleet program? Steve replied the reason I am recommending it

is because we have 64% of our fleet that is at least 10 years of age or older and some with extremely high miles. We have not rotated our administrative fleet vehicles with any consistency. We have about 12 vehicles with well over 200,000 miles on them. The big pluses for me is the reduction in fuel use; replacing our vehicles every 5 years will give us much more fuel-efficient vehicle. The vehicles that we moved into our administrative fleet came from the LEC and they are Crown Vic, Chargers, etc.; they are gas guzzlers. We could get rid of these and go with a small vehicle like a Ford Fusion. I believe we will see a big savings in maintenance. This program has been ongoing in several counties throughout the state and they have seen drastic reduction in their maintenance cost. Most of the maintenance we will be doing on these lease vehicles will be preventive maintenance such as oil change, brakes & tires. As this program goes along and if it works well, we can then take a closer look at the law enforcement fleet. They have about 67 vehicles. The proposal I gave you on the law enforcement fleet was not a lease, it was a financing plan. This lease would provide long-term sustainability for us. We are dedicating a portion of our capital spending every year to this program; this will be recurring. Vehicles are registered in Enterprise's name; they will sell all of our vehicles for us; in 4 years from the day we purchase vehicles from Enterprise, they will sell those vehicles and whatever they make on them, we get to keep that amount in an account set up for us. The way they make their money, there is a management fee in the lease package. Projected savings over 10 years is about \$341,000. This year would be 38 vehicles and over the five years it will be 54 vehicles. Lease payment this year will be \$195,358. Mike asked Steve what if council decided in about 3 years that this is not working and we want to get out of this contract. That would mean we would have to buy vehicles to replace those 38 vehicles; don't you see that as problematic maybe? Steve replied if you hold onto those vehicles till year 5 (2023) you will have \$383,000 in the bank. Mike replied that would probably buy you about 10 to 12 vehicles. Steve replied yes, if you decided to do away with this, you would have to replace your fleet at that point; but you could take the \$267,000/year that you are putting into this plus the \$383,000 and that would give you \$650,000. You may have to put some money into that. We could purchase the vehicles that we lease from them if we decided not to extend the contract. Mike asked Steve have you evaluated that we need 38 vehicles in that lease program? Steve replied that is my opinion. This would get us on some sort of plan to keep us in fuel efficient, low maintenance vehicles. The estimated fuel cost would go from \$145,000/yr. that we are spending now down to about \$87,000. Chair Spencer asked does this lease have a cap on their mileage/year? Steve replied no. Quay asked do we really need that many vehicles? Why can't we do 10 a year and work up to the 50? Steve replied 10 would not be cost effective; you lose your buying power less than 30 vehicles. Mike asked how many vehicles do we have in the pool vs take home vehicles? Steve replied I will have to get that info for you. Mike replied once you get a new vehicle, everyone will want it to take home. Chair Spencer asked does this include trash trucks as well? Steve replied no. Chair Spencer stated that someone told him there are only about 2 trash trucks that have a/c units working. Please check into this because those guys in the heat come off the back of those trucks to get inside to cool down; they need those a/c units working.

Councilman Quay Little ask Administrator Bratton to explain the Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation budget request? At this point it is not in the budget, is that correct? Steve replied that is correct. Currently they receive in the budget \$13,500; they requested for the FYB 2019/20 - \$18,500 for

more materials for school outreach, increase in salary, and additional \$7500 one-time request for local land management program appropriation to purchase a tilt deck trailer; no till drill seeder/sprayer and for repairs. **[Quay Little made the motion to increase the General Fund 2019/20 Budget to include \$5000 to the Cherokee Co. Soil & Water Conversation Account; and to appropriate \$7500 for capital equipment for a one-time request to purchase a tilt deck trailer, no till drill sprayer & repairs to equipment. Charles Mathis seconded and council voted in favor.]**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-02 Cherokee County Budget adopting a proposed budget by the County Administrator including amendments made tonight containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures and to provide for the levying of taxes and fee for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-03 Antioch VFD adopting a proposed budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-04 Buffalo VFD adopting a proposed budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-05 Cherokee Creek VFD adopting a budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-06 CKC VFD adopting a budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Charles Mathis made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-07 Corinth VFD adopting a budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-08 Gaffney Fire District adopting a budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-09 Grassy Pond VFD adopting a budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Charles Mathis made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-10 Goucher White Plains VFD adopting a budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-11 DMW VFD adopting a budget containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/19 and ending 6/30/20. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman David Smith made the motion for Council to go into Executive Session pursuant to S C Code 30-4-70(a2) for the purpose to receive legal advice. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor and went into Executive Session at 5:20 PM.**

**Councilman Quay Little made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 5:35 PM and enter back into the Regular Meeting. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis stated no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.**

**Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to authorize Administrator Bratton to sign a Waiver of Conflict as requested by Nelson Mullins. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow Administrator Bratton to make the 1<sup>st</sup> payment for the spec building loan in the amount of \$367,960. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

Administrator Bratton informed council that he will authorize the County Treasurer to invest the remaining amount of money on the principal balance which after this payment is \$2,057,000 in the Local Government Investment Pool which is currently earning 2.41%.

Administrator Bratton informed council of the Blood Drive that will be here in the County Admin. Bldg. on Monday, 6/17/19, 10 am to 1 pm. All donors will receive a \$20 Chick-fil-A gift card. I am encouraging our employees to participate.

Administrator Bratton informed council that the Peach Festival will be July 18, 19 & 20, 2019 and again this year they will be using our parking lot. We will close one part of the parking lot that Friday after lunch but visitors will still be able to park on the other side to get into the building for business.

**Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to re-appoint Mike Vassy and Richard Miles to serve another term on the Cherokee Creek Fire District Board. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to move the Regular Meeting for Monday, 6/24/19 to Monday, 6/17/19, 5 PM. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

Chairman Spencer asked Administrator Bratton to check with surrounding counties regarding their anti-tethering law for animals.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

APPROVED: 6/17/19

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Doris F. Pearson, Clerk to Council