

DATE: 2/3/2020 FILE NO: DATE466
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting, 2/3/2020

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 2/3/2020, 5:15 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Tracy McDaniel leading in prayer. Councilman Mike Fowlkes lead in the pledged of allegiance to the flag. All council members were present along with Administrator Steve Bratton, Attorneys Jim Thompson & Joe Mathis and Master Clerk to Council Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. One news media was present. There were 8 visitors.

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

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 1/21/2020 as received. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$283,064.97. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Tony Helton with Cherokee Charter Academy Project and Attorney Alan Linkous, Howell Linkous & Nettles, Charleston. Helton reported we are the first Charter Organization to purchase an x-school building from a local establishment here in SC. A Charter School is a public school & a non-profit organization. Linkous state this school is anticipated to create 50 new jobs here in Cherokee County and to renovate the building to get it ready for the school for this fall they are anticipating 70-80 construction related jobs for that project. SCJEDA is eager to help finance this type of project which will have this kind of impact on a community. We are here not to ask for any sort of obligation from Cherokee County. Under federal tax law and also under JEDA's regulation before proceeding with a bond finance project that gets the benefit of a tax exemption, they require a local public hearing to take place in the locale of where the project is to be located with duly notice and they require the governing body to adopt a local support resolution which is a simple statement of a political support for the project with no financial obligations or any other obligation. We are here tonight to inform you about the project and answer any questions you may have. Quay Little asked what is the time line for this? Alan replied as soon as possible because construction crews are already out there working and we are hoping that the deal can close by March. We are requesting that you having the public hearing on your agenda for March 2, 2020. JEDA has given its preliminary approval to the project. In coordinating council with the Economic Development which is an arm of the State Dept. of Commerce has given their approval. Once we get everything in order, we will go back to JEDA and they will give their final approval. Once we have the local support resolution and the public hearing behind us then we will go to the Governor and he will give his final approval. Tim Spencer asked if the charter school dates will run spontaneously with public schools? Public schools are working on going year-round instead of 9-month. Tony replied we are a 9-month school

schedule. This year we plan to open in August and go through May. Quay replied you stated you had 20% of the 525 enrollments. Tony replied we anticipate 525 students: 100 kindergarten – 2nd Grades; 75 in 3rd, 4th & 5th grades. That 20% includes almost everyone having a Gaffney address, few with Blacksburg, few with Cowpens. Tracy McDaniel asked is it a first come, first serve process? Tony replied no, it is a public school. Everyone signs up and they all go into a hat until that class has met its goal. Everyone has an equal opportunity from anywhere here in SC. We anticipate 25 students per class. Charter is approved Kindergarten through 8th Grade at this time. Our pay scale is equal to or slightly higher than public schools pay scale. We will not participate in the state retirement system but we do offer the 401K and if the employee will put in 4% of their pay, then the school will match it with 4%. I will recommend to the board to offer the same health insurance as the public schools have in SC. Alan stated that in a couple of years Phase II of the project will also be approved at the same time. Attorney Mathis stated he has researched this upon Bratton's request and if you look at JEDA and go to their web page they have a number of articles & information on this very topic. What they have presented to you tonight is in line with what is on the web page for JEDA. Quay Little asked if this charter would offer free lunch? Tony replied we will offer reduced lunch and we will also have school uniforms at a low price. **[Mike Fowlkes made the motion to refer this to Administration to come back at our next meeting so we can be lined up for the March public hearing. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2020-01 to amend the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances Article III, Solid Waste Disposal, Section 8.58.1. No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2020-01 to amend the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances Article III, Solid Waste Disposal, Section 8.58.1. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor with Charles Mathis opposing.

PWC Chair Tracy McDaniel reported that they met earlier regarding our landfill equipment and we are having issues with our D6 Dozer. It is currently being repaired at Blanchard. We are also looking at the possibility of purchasing a landfill compactor. We are gathering information and will report back at a later date.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to accept Thorn Creek Drive into the County Road System as presented. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Steve Bratton informed council that Vector Fleet Management started today. They were here last week doing a lot of work; met with Department Heads on Wed. and went over new procedures & policies with them. Their signage is all over our building; they have painted and have a lot of safety measures in place. They are fully staffed and up and running.

Administrator Steve Bratton informed council regarding the Workforce Development Board issue. I met with Ann Angermeier and she informed me that recently the Dept. of Employment & Workforce developed a policy requiring all county council chairs in SC to appoint individuals that are chosen by 3

different agencies whether it goes against county policy or not. So, Ann is taking the stand that Cherokee, Union & Spartanburg Counties will continue to make their own 3 appointments to the Upstate Workforce Board representing their county. She has gotten NACO & SCAC involved as well.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to re-appoint David Cauthen to serve another term on the Appalachian COG Board. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to re-appoint Steve Turner to serve another term on the Antioch Fire District/Board of Fire Commissioners. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

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

APPROVED: 2/18/2020

BY ITS CHAIRMAN: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council