

DATE: 5/5/2020 FILE NO: DATE476

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 5/4/2020

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 5/4/2020, 5 PM in Administrator Bratton's Office located at the County Admin. Building. Due to the COVID-19 virus the meeting was streamlined online at www.cherokeecountysc.gov and those attending were available by zoom. Present: Chairman Tim Spencer, Quay Little, Mike Fowlkes, Tracy McDaniel, Lyman Dawkins, David Smith, Charles Mathis, Attorney Joe Mathis, Administrator Steve Bratton and Master Clerk Doris Pearson. Vice-Chairman Quay Little presided with Tracy McDaniel leading in prayer. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, 5/4/2020 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor by roll call.

Councilman Charles Mathis made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 4/20/2020 as received. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor by roll call.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$298,393.00. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor by roll call.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2020 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor by roll call.

Administrator Steve Bratton invited Blacksburg VFD Fire Chief Donovan Ford and Voter Registration Director Amanda Walker to join the meeting by zoom. Blacksburg VFD Fire Chief Donovan presented copies for council to follow that showed their intent & purpose; why they are asking for the fire tax district; Blacksburg Fire Departments fire response incident breakdown; general information; mutual aid assistance; accomplishments & goals; 2020 plans & expectations; and their question to the public in their district to vote on: "To levy a fire tax to provide fire protection services". They are asking to impose a fire tax on all of the landowners within the Fire District to produce enough revenue to meet the district's expenses. The proposed Fire Tax upon the landowners within the Fire District would be at the rate of 15 mills which should generate around \$117,000. **[Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow Voter Registration Director Walker to place on the 8/11/2020 ballot for Blacksburg VFD to request a fire tax of 15 mills on all of the landowners within the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire District. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor by roll call.]**

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion for council to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss a contractual matter and a legal matter. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor by roll and went into Executive Session at 5:30 PM.

Councilman Charles Mathis made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session and enter back into the Regular Meeting at 6:25 PM. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor by roll call. Attorney Joe Mathis stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Administrator Steve Bratton updated council on COVID-19. We had another case reported today making our total of 18 cases. I will be asking all county employees in the Administration Building to report back to work as usual on Tuesday, 5/5/2020. With everyone here working together, we made it through another month. My plans are hopefully next Monday, 5/11/2020 to open the outside doors for public to come into the building practicing safe measures to conduct their business again.

Administrator Steve Bratton presented the Courthouse & Law Enforcement Center Security Enhancements reminding council that he came before them back in January requesting to make adjustments for the Courthouse & Law Enforcement Center for security upgrades. We got the state bid price to do the work at a cost of \$49,618 + tax by Allied Universal. It is our policy if we have a local vendor that will come under the state bid that they can be offered the job. Bill's Lok & Kee submitted a bid price of \$47,390 to do this work for us. **[Mike Fowlkes made the motion to award the contract to Bill's Lok & Kee to upgrade the security in the Courthouse & Law Enforcement Center for a price of \$47,390. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor by roll call.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton asked council to allow him to purchase a vehicle from the Clerk of Court IV-D Funds funded through Child Support Funds in Columbia for the Deputy in charge of Courthouse Security and also serves papers for Family & Child Support Court issues. The vehicle is a 2020 Ford Explorer with police package with state price of \$33,534 + tax. She purchased the car he drives now back in Dec., 2011 and it has over 120,000 miles and that vehicle would be rotated into the Sheriff Dept. fleet of vehicles. Sheriff Mueller will pay out of his restricted monies to outfit this new vehicle with appropriate stripping & equipment needed to make it a full-blown police vehicle. This will be adding a vehicle to the fleet & insurance. **[David Smith made the motion to allow COC McBee to purchase the 2020 Ford Explorer at the state price of \$33,534 + tax with the understanding that Sheriff Mueller will pay to outfit the vehicle with appropriate stripping & equipment from his Restricted Funds; and to allow the addition of the vehicle being replaced to the Sheriff Dept. Fleet with insurance coverage. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor by roll call.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton reported to council that just before the meeting, he received a written note to Governor McMaster from Treasurer Jackie Williams stating her intentions to resign her position effective 6/30/2020. David Smith asked what will be the procedure to replace her? Administrator Bratton replied this office does not have a special election instead the Governor can appoint someone to fill her unfinished term. There will be a filing period to begin 5/22/2020 run for 8 days and end 5/30/2020; then there will be a republican or democratic primary if necessary and then the election will be on the Nov., 2020 ballot.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes asked Administrator Bratton if there would be any type of budget discussions in our next meeting regarding our FYB 20/21? Administrator Bratton replied I plan to have 1st

Reading of the budget on 6/1/2020. We are very close to having this budget balanced but we are still trying to determine as to what to anticipate on revenues. The COVID-19 has taken a toll on our budget as well as the City and other counties across the state dealing with similar issues. Trying to estimate the impact of local options sales tax is the hard part. So many businesses have been closed down for weeks which makes a big impact on our budget. If council wants a budget workshop before 6/4/2020, let me know. If not, we will have 1st Reading on 6/4/2020.

Vice-Chairman Quay Little asked if we will be able to conduct business in council chambers at our next meeting scheduled for 5/18/2020? Administrator Bratton replied I certainly hope so.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Vice-Chairman Quay Little adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

APPROVED: 5/4/2020

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS VICE-CHAIRMAN: Quay Little

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council