

DATE: 1/8/19 FILE NO: DATE324
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 1/7/19

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 1/7/19 @ 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with David Smith leading in prayer. All councilmembers were present along with Administrator Steve Bratton, Attorney Jim Thompson and Clerk Doris Pearson. The agenda was posted and sent to the local newspapers being in compliance with the SCFOIA. The news media was informed by agenda and one was present. There were 15 visitors including Sierra Richardson & Hannah Gibson with the Jr. Cherokee Leadership.

Administrator Steve Bratton opened the floor for nominations for Cherokee County Council Chairman for the new year 2019. **[Quay Little nominated Tim Spencer for Chairman. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton opened the floor for nominations for Cherokee Co. Council Vice-Chairman for the new year 2019. **[Tim Spencer nominated Quay Little for Vice-Chairman. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Chairman Spencer thanked council for electing him as their Chairman for another year. I will continue to represent this council and this county to the best of my ability giving all the praise and glory to God.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of 1/7/19 as received and posted in compliance with the SCFOIA. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 12/17/18 as received. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$1,087,211.34. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Steve Bratton presented information that he had complied regarding the volunteer fire departments reporting. Mike Fowlkes had requested I gather this information back in Nov. and council had several questions for me and among those was what type of reporting are we getting currently from our fire departments; what do I recommend; what are the differences in the different financial reporting formats that we can get? In my memo to you I outlined those very briefly. There has been no standardization in what we do receive and no standardization as to what the VF Depts. actually get. Audit is the top of the line where they text controls, samples of transactions, send 3rd party confirmations, etc. Review is where an accountant would do analytical procedures and ratio testing with a doesn't make sense analysis. Several of the fire departments are currently doing a review. Compilation has no testing. They simply take the information the fire departments give them and complies into an

acceptable financial statement. Audit provides the highest level of assurance and even then there is no guarantee. Review provides limited assurance. Compilation provides no assurance. My recommendation is that we request all volunteer fire departments obtain at least a review annually; cost on that is around \$2000-\$4000 and probably be less if they use a CPA to do their monthly bills, etc. Audit will cost around \$7000 to \$10,000 depending on the size of the fire dept. and the number of transactions. Also Mr. Fowlkes brought up what would be included in the audit/review? My opinion would be to review all revenues and expenditures of monies & taxes we give them. Tim Spencer asked would that be paid by council or? Steve replied that would be paid by each volunteer fire department. Johnny Leazer provided me with this information that the VFD have in the past submitted to him. Those that show nothing have sent nothing. Mike Fowlkes asked how is the tax money and other funds separated? Do they deposit it all into one account and if so, how would it be audited? Steve replied that is what the review would do for you cause when the accountant goes into these accounts, they will have to break out those funds and report them individually. The departments that I have talked with have their monies already separated into separate accounts. Mike asked could the county be tied into each of those accounts so we could do a review? Mike replied I don't think we can because they are separate entities. Mike replied we need to have some compliance on tax money. **[Mike Fowlkes made the motion to require the Cherokee Co. Volunteer Fire Departments to have a formal review performed annually. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to go into Executive Session on two matters pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2): 1) for the purpose of discussion of relating to future proposed locations, expansions or provisions of services including locations & expansions of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body. 2) to discuss a contractual matter regarding EMS Consultant. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor and went into Executive Session at 5:20 PM.]

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:00 PM and enter back into the Regular Scheduled Meeting. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Thompson reported no action was taken in Executive Session.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins reported that Dr. Beverly Corry is currently serving on the Cherokee Co. Library Board and she wishes to come off and I accept. **[Councilman Dawkins made the motion to appoint Brandon Watkins to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Public Library Board. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Councilman McDaniel made the motion to re-appoint Herbert Houser to serve another term on the Antioch Fire District/Board of Fire Commissioners. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to authorize Administrator Bratton to enter into a contract with a consultant to prepare the Emergency Medical Services RFP for our county. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Page 3 – Minutes of Regular Meeting, 1/7/19

Chairman Spencer stated that there have been a lot of wrecks on I-85 between Exits 92-96 with a lot of fatalities. Is there anything the county can do to help SCDOT to help prevent some of this? Administrator Bratton replied he will draft a letter to the Federal Highway Transportation Commission regarding this. I know there are some meetings coming up this week regarding this. Quay Little asked Administrator Bratton to attend those meetings and let them know our concerns and that we are willing to help out.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM.

APPROVED: 01/22/19

BY ITS CHAIRMAN: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Clerk to Council