

DATE: 7/20/21 FILE NO.: DATE517

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting Monday, 7/19/21

There was a Regular Meeting Monday, 7/19/21, 5:10 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Mike Fowlkes leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Steve Bratton, Attorney Joe Mathis and Master Clerk to Council Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda that was also posted in accordance with the SCFOIA and one was present. There were 7 visitors.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Monday, 7/19/21, as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the total amount of \$208,785.36. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, 7/6/21, as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Upstate SC Alliance President/CEO John Lummus presented his report to council on "2021 Upstate Economic Updates & Updates Alliance Activities". For 2020, we had \$1,25B in new capital investments; 3,017 new job announcements and 57 total business announcements. Since the coronavirus, we set up a digital campaign; and, Taste of the Upstate where we would send a box of goodies from our area advertising our restaurants & farm fresh items. In 2020 we had 135 public investor research requests + 129 private for a total of 264. Our "Upstate South Carolina" searches increased 22%. We intend to focus on target industries such as aerospace, automotive, engineered materials, food manufacturing and life sciences. We are welcoming smaller projects. We are focusing on connecting employers with the talent we have throughout our upstate to make it happen for them. We are focusing on "Skill Up. Move Up", to connect to short-term training for in-demand jobs. We assist companies to maintain a stable business environment. We focus on change as an opportunity for us. We must continue to work together as a region. Jim Cook & Ken Moon with your Cherokee Co. Development Board have done an excellent job in recruiting for your county. They have brought in around \$200,000 million in capital and 500 + jobs. Mike Fowlkes asked how can we keep up with the work force demand of these companies coming here? John replied with these industries coming in they are offering good jobs, excellent pay and great benefits and the people out there are very interested in this; but lack of work force is a being talked about all around us. Mike stated you talked about skilled labor but what about our college graduates with their degree and when they go to apply for positions, most companies ask for at least 2 years of experience. Where will they get that experience from if companies are not willing to hire them? John replied we are working with colleges and businesses to place these graduates. John thanked council for their support.

Administrator Steve Bratton & Recycling Coordinator Gaylan Pennington presented an agreement with US Tire to purchase our tires at the Recycling Center. Steve replied there is only one vendor in the state of SC for taking tires and recycling them and that is US Tire. We receive grants that help defray the cost of this service. **[Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow Administrator Bratton to enter into an agreement with US Tire to purchase our tires at the Recycling Center for \$104/ton + \$385/load fee + fuel surplus charge. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton reported on the generator at the Detention Center asking to hold off on replacing them at this time until he can gather more information. To rent one it will cost over \$4000/wk.

Administrator Steve Bratton & Gas Technician DeWayne Staten presented the need for replacement of two condensation tanks at the landfill. Steve replied this is in the capital budget for \$47,380. SCS is the sole source provider. **[Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow for the purchase of two condensation tanks from SCS for \$47,380 and pay it from the capital budget account. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton asked council to move Agenda Items 10 & 11 before Item 8; and Attorney Mathis asked that under Item 10 going into Executive Session on two matters that the first matter be changed to: Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body. Council consented.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion for council to go into Executive Session at 5:43 PM on two matters: Section 30-4-70(a)(5) discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body; and Section 30-4-70(a)(2) receipt of legal advice, etc. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:20 PM and enter back into the Regular Meeting. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis stated no action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-08 authorizing (1) the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax & Incentive Agreement by & between Cherokee Co., SC and a company known to the county as Project Hammer, acting for itself, one or more affiliates, and/or other project sponsors (collectively, the “Company”), pursuant to which the county shall covenant to accept certain facilities in the County (The “Project”); (2) the benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park to be made available to the company and the Project; (3) certain Special Source Revenue

Credits in connection with the Project; and (4) other matters relating thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2021-20 to amend the agreement for development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg & Cherokee Counties, SC, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park and other matters relating thereto. (Pall Corp.; Magna Mirrors of American, Inc.; Limelight Solar 1, LLC, & W/C GSP Lot 3 Owner VIII, LLC; Exeter Pigeon Haven Land, LLC; Inman Mills; Auria Spartanburg, Inc.). Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2021-21 authorizing the development of a Jointly Owned & Operated Industrial/Business Park (Project Hammer) in conjunction with Spartanburg Co., such Industrial/Business Park to be geographically located in Cherokee Co. and established pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the code of Laws of SC, 1976, as amended; to provide for a Written Agreement with Spartanburg County to provide for the expenses of the Park, the percentage of revenue application, and the distribution of Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; and other matters related thereto. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2021-22 authorizing (1) the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax & Incentive Agreement by & between Cherokee Co., SC (The "County") and a company known to the county as Project Hammer, acting for itself, one or more affiliates, and/or other project sponsors (collectively, The "Company"), pursuant to which the county shall covenant to accept certain negotiated Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with respect to the establishment and/or expansion of certain facilities in the county (The "Project"); (2) the benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park to be made available to the Company and the Project; (3) certain Special Source Revenue Credits in connection with The Project; and (4) other matters relating thereto. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Attorney Joe Mathis had no report.

Administrator Steve Bratton passed out to council information regarding the Cherokee Co. Local Hospitality Tax. This would be a 2% hospitality tax for the unincorporated area in Cherokee Co. The Town of Blacksburg & City of Gaffney have a Local Hospitality Tax. The county can impose this tax based on Enabling Legislation Section 6-1-720 – Imposition of local hospitality tax. Page 3 of the report gives you the allowed uses; Page 4 shows you the surrounding counties and what they received from hospitality tax in 2019; the following pages gives you FAQs; any prepared food at these Q-T's, etc. are subject to the H-Tax. These facilities that will have the H-Tax are responsible for collecting the tax. Quay Little asked how will we determine which ones are collecting the H-Tax? Steve replied they will need to file for a license. Steve stated there are only certain things you can use this tax money for, such as: tourism, recreation, etc. Every year you will choose where/who you want to put this tax money but it has to be tourism related. Chairman Spencer asked council to take this information, read over it and bring it back at another date.

Administrator Steve Bratton thanked council for allowing the Peach Festival to use the Administration parking lot for their festivities. There was a huge turn out and everything went well.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to appoint the following to the Blacksburg Fire Tax District/Board of Fire Commissioners: Danny Miller – 1 yr. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor; Miranda Grigg – 3 yrs. – Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor; Kevin Coggins – 2 yrs. – Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.; Cameron Byars – 2 yrs. – Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor; Samuel Benton – 1 yr. – Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to re-appoint James Moss for another term to the Cherokee Co. Development Board. Quay Little 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 6:42 PM.

APPROVED: 8/9/21

BY ITS CHAIRMAN: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council