

DATE: 4/5/22 FILE NO: DATE541
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting of 4/4/22

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 4/4/22, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with David Smith leading in prayer. All councilmembers were present except Tracy McDaniel. Administrator Bratton and Master 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. There were 14 visitors.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of 4/4/22 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA and with adding Councilman Quay Little under other business. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 3/21/22 as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$398,317.72. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Solicitor Barry Barnette spoke to council describing the challenges coming before his department at this time. Before COVID we were down to having 1600 cases on docket and our conviction rate was 2nd best in the state. Since COVID, we are up to 2800 cases on docket. I want dismiss any of these regardless of the case load. Due to these challenges, I am requesting in our FYB 22-23 for additional resources; another field investigator for the Cherokee County Office; and a pay raise for our administrative staff in order to keep and get good qualified dependable staff. Deputy Solicitor Kim Leskanic also spoke regarding their challenges in the office emphasizing the needs for their office; they are overloaded and need more staff; and especially the pay raise for the administrative staff so that we can get and keep qualified, dependable personnel. Mike Fowlkes replied he has spoken with Barnette and he is aware of the needs in their office and I am thankful that he made the statement that he will not dismiss any case because of backlog and to make sure the victim does not go without justice. I asked that when we look at the budget that we address his specific needs. Chairman Spencer thanked Barnette and his staff for all they do for Cherokee County.

Administrator Bratton presented E911 Director Dennis Gardner and several of his dispatchers with a Proclamation for "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week", April 10-16, 2022.

Administrator Bratton reported on Bid 2022-10 Grinding of Yard Waste at the Cherokee Co. Landfill. Two bids were received: **1) Farmer's Mulch & Rock, Inc. - \$59,400; and 2) Hickory Ridge Grading Co., Inc. - \$83,500. [Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to award the bid to Farmer's Mulch & Rock, Inc. contingent upon Administrator Bratton making sure they meet all bid specifications. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Bratton had no report.

Chairman Tim Spencer read the resignation letter of three requesting to come off the Grassy Pond Fire District/Board of Commissioners: Dennis Rostenbach, Steve Wood & Steven Blanton.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to appoint Bruce Woodlief & Greg Phillips to serve a term on the Grassy Pond Fire District/Board of Commissioners. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer made the motion to appoint BJ Smith to serve a term on the Grassy Pond Fire District/Board of Commissioners. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little stated that he met with the Macedonia VFD last week to hear their needs and they pointed out that when we starting taking the 15% off the top of the FILOT that we were hurting them financially as well as all the other fire departments. They are experiencing a tremendous industrial growth in that area and with the resources they have, they are not able to serve them. They need a ladder truck for the DHL Industry and they just don't have the means to purchase the adequate equipment they need. This is a challenging budget year for us because we have a lot of issues facing us: ambulance, VFD's, court system, etc. I'm asking council going forward that we take a serious look at our budget requests & needs and try to give the VFD's their fair share before we take the 15% off the top of the FILOT. David Smith asked Administrator Bratton to come back to council at our budget workshops and give us a dollar amount to show us what they are getting, losing, and what they might need. We need to know the numbers to see the overall picture before we discuss this. David asked Dennis Gardner how much would a new ladder truck cost? Dennis replied I'm not sure but the City just bought a new one that cost them \$1.6 million; and just purchasing the truck isn't all, you have to equip it which cost around \$300,000 to \$500,000.

Chairman Tim Spencer reminded council of the dedication ceremony for Dr. Bobby Moss at the Gaffney Visitors Center & Art Gallery, 4/14/22 @ 2PM.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

APPROVED: **4/18/22**

BY ITS CHAIR: **Tim Spencer**

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council