

DATE: 6/28/22 FILE NO: DATE548

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting of 6/27/22

There was Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of Monday, 6/27/22, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Elliott Hughes leading in prayer. All council members were present. Councilman Tracy McDaniel & Admin. Steve Bratton was present by Zoom. Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop, Attorney Joe Mathis 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 35+ visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of Monday, 6/27/22 as received. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes on zoom.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of Monday, 6/13/22 as received. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes on zoom.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$328,618.90. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes on zoom.

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2022-15 to amend the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg Co. and Cherokee County, SC, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto. (Ingram Micro, Inc. LPC; Duncan, LP; Greer South Carolina Becknell Investors, LLC; Abner Creek Industrial Owner, LLC; Black Arrow Properties, LLC; Atlas at IPG, LLC.) No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion for council to go into Executive Session at 5:06 pm pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(5) for 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 specifically Project Treeline. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voted yes on zoom.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 5:32 pm and enter back into the Regular Meeting. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes on zoom. Attorney Mathis reported that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-15 to amend the Agreement for development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between

Spartanburg & Cherokee Co., SC so as to include additional property in Spartanburg Co. as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto. (Ingram Micro, Inc.; Duncan LP: Greer South Carolina Becknell Investors, LLC; Abner Creed Industrial Owner, LLC; Black Arrow Properties, LLC; Atlas at IPG, LLC). Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to allocate \$15,000 to CHAPS from the Local Accommodations Sales Tax Monies. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-04 adopting a budget for the County of Cherokee and to provide for the levying of taxes & fees for county purposes for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/22 and ending 6/30/23. Quay Little seconded. [Quay Little proposed to include in the budget a \$0.75/hr. increase for employees making below \$25/hr. and 3% increase for those above that threshold; and to include the \$0.96/hr. raise to deputies who did not receive 3 yrs. ago.] Quay asked Steve what is our deficit? Steve replied around \$1.24 million deficit and I will propose a 4-mill tax increase which will I plan to offset with LOST funds. Ryan, Merv & myself will set down to calculate the LOST funds in a couple of months before tax bills go out, we feel confident that we will be able to increase the LOST factor enough to offset at least 2 mills which will be cutting in half what taxpayers will see on their bills; and the remainder of the deficit will be offset by the American Rescue Funds; also when council took over EMS, you did not increase your millage by as much as you could/should have to cover that cost therefore these 4 mills will be needed to recuperate some of the money that we put out on EMS as well. [[Quay Little proposed to increase Voter Registration/Election Poll Workers from \$25 to \$65/day.]] Quay Little made an amendment to the original motion to include the \$.075/hr. increase for employees making below \$25/hr. and 3% increase for those employees above that threshold; to increase the deputies that did not receive the \$.96/hr. raise 3 yrs. ago; to increase the mills to 4 mills; to use American Rescue Funds to offset the budget; to increase Election Poll workers by \$40; making the estimated total amount of the FYB 2/23 - \$30,920,000 which is up over 10% this year.] Mike Fowlkes asked prior to Quay's amended motion, what was our deficit? Steve replied deficit prior to these amendments was \$982,054 when you approved at 2nd Reading. Mike replied there is nothing conservative about what we are fixing to do. Steve replied the new balance will be \$30,913,020.20 and the deficit will be \$1,255,812.20. Your 4-mill increase takes care of \$800,000 of it; and then you will be using \$45,812.20 of ARP Funds to fund this budget. **[[[David Smith made the motion to amend his original motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-04 adopting a budget for the County of Cherokee and to provide for the levying of taxes & fees for county purposes for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/22 and ending 6/30/23 and to include the \$.075/hr. increase for employees making below \$25/hr. and 3% increase for those employees above the threshold; to increase the deputies that did not receive the \$.96/hr. raise 3 yrs. ago; to increase the mills to 4 mills; to use American Rescue Funds to offset the budget; and, to increase Election Poll workers pay by \$40 for a total of \$30,920,000. Quay Little seconded. Voting in favor: Mike Fowlkes, Tim Spencer, Quay Little, Lyman Dawkins, David Smith & Tracy McDaniel by zoom. Opposed: Elliott Hughes. Motion carried.]]]**

Chairman Spencer presented the 3rd Reading of Ordinances adopting a budget proposed by the County Administrator containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/22 and ending 6/30/23 by the County of Cherokee to provide for the following fire districts:

Councilman Tracy McDaniel on zoom made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading for Ordinance No. 2022-05 Antioch Fire District FYB 22/23. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-06 Buffalo Fire District FYB 22/23. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-07 Cherokee Creek Fire District FYB 22/23. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel on zoom made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-08 CKC Fire District FYB 22/23. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-09 Corinth Fire District FYB 22/23. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-10 The Gaffney Fire District FYB 22/23. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-11 Grassy Pond Fire District FYB 22/23. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-12 Goucher/White Plains Fire District FYB 22/23. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-13 DMW Fire District FYB 22/23. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel by zoom made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-14 The Blacksburg Fire District FYB 22/23. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-21 authorizing pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of SC 1976 as amended, the execution & delivery of a Fee-in-Lieu of Taxes Agreement by & between Cherokee County and a company known to the county as Project Treeline, its affiliates and related entities, to provide for a Fee-in-Lieu Incentive and certain Special Source Revenue Credits; and other matters related thereto. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-22 authorizing & approving: 1) development of a Joint County Industrial & Business Park pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of SC 1976 as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The “Park”), such park to be, at the time of its initial development, geographically located in Cherokee County and to include certain property owned or operated by a company known to Cherokee County as Project Treeline, including one or more of its affiliates or other related entities; 2) the execution & delivery of a Written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirement of payments of Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with respect to park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; 3) the distribution of revenues from the Park within Cherokee County; and 4) other matters related thereto. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.

Asst. Administrator Merv Bishop reported no bid was received for Bid Opening for 2022-16 Scrap Metal at Landfill. We will send it out again.

Administrator Bratton asked for a motion from council to adopt the 22/23 Capital Request Budget as presented in the amount of \$1,991,182; and allowing using additional funding to come from the American Rescue Plan in the amount of \$651,182. This will be a one-time expenditure and should not reoccur. These are needs we have for these departments in order to perform their duties. Capital Project Millage is 5.4 mills which generates \$1.34 million which is also including FILOT of \$260,000 for a total of \$1,340,000. I am requesting to use \$651,152 from the ARP monies to fund the remainder. We received \$11 million; already dedicated \$1.75 million to broadband; about \$350,000 for COVID; and this request is about \$1 million. **[Quay Little made the motion to adopt the 22/23 Capital Request Budget in the amount of \$1,991,182 and to allow Administration to use monies in the amount of \$651,152 to come from the American Rescue Plan to balance that budget. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel voting yes by zoom.]**

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As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

APPROVED: 7/5/22

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council