

DATE: 9/7/22 FILE NO: DATE554  
TO: Cherokee County Council  
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, Tuesday, 9/6/22

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Tuesday, 9/6/22, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Lyman Dawkins leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bratton, Asst. Administrator Merv Bishop and Master Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. One news media was present. There were twelve visitors.

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, 9/6/22, as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 8/22/22 as received. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$580,689.38. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-14 designating & approving Gaffney Property Owner, LLC as a sponsor affiliate under that certain FILOT & Incentive Agreement originally dated 3/18/19, amended & restated as of 12/7/20 among One World Technologies, Inc., Hart Consumer Products, Inc. and Cherokee County, SC in accordance with and satisfaction of the requirements of Title 12, Chapter 44, of the SC Code and such agreement, so as to allow the sponsor affiliate to qualify for benefits pursuant to the agreement; and other matters related thereto. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-15 authorizing under certain conditions, the execution & delivery by Cherokee Co., SC of a FILOT Agreement with Project Rosewood with respect to a Project in the county whereby the Project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes and would be provided certain special source credits against fee payments; and other matters related thereto. Mike Fowlkes seconded and council voted in favor.**

Administrator Steve Bratton reported that Grassy Pond Water Co. approached me and ask could the Palladium Group work with them to apply for some of the grant monies that are available under the SC Infrastructure Improvement Program. They are looking for \$6½ million for that project and the local match for that would be \$1.5 million; of that amount of money, Grassy Pond has requested from the Rural Infrastructure Authority for funds in the amount of \$500,000 which will be given to the County. The County will accept these monies and pass them onto Grassy Pond Water Co. for their project. The remainder of that match will be made for by Grassy Pond Water Co. **[Councilman Mike Fowlkes made the motion to authorize Administrator Steve Bratton to sign documents on behalf of the County where we are simply serving as a pass through for funds between us and the Rural Infrastructure Authority on**

**behalf of the Grassy Pond Water Company. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Bratton reported that they will be doing water line replacement on Buck Shoals & Bonner Road. Those lines were installed in 1968 and they are beginning to crack & break and are not large enough to handle the system adequately and more changes. Grassy Pone Water Co. is pumping about 1.3 million gallons of water/day; own about 150 miles of water line; serve approximately 3500 residential & commercial water customers; and they supply water to Daniel Morgan Water Co.

Administrator Bratton reported that he, Merv Bishop & Doug Bowers reviewed Bid No. 2023-06 Cherokee Co. Ambulance Service RFP. Two bids were received and one of which was from our current ambulance service Lifeguard; the other was from Thorne Ambulance Service, Greenville, SC. We found in Lifeguard's RFP that they took exceptions to our proposal in a couple of places; we also stated that the annual increase could increase by the maximum of 3% for the 12-month increase and CPI medical cost and they proposed 5% annually. In our opinion, their proposal is non-responsive. We then reviewed Thorne Ambulance Service proposal and they had no exceptions; they accepted in writing all our components of our proposal. Administration feels confident recommending to council that you accept the proposal between Cherokee County and Thorne Ambulance Service as our new ambulance provider effective 1/1/2023. Ryan Thorne, Chief Executive Officer is here tonight to answer any questions you may have. Tim Spencer asked Thorne if they run a 911 Service now? Thorne replied yes, we backup for emergency services. David Smith asked if all the equipment was up-to-date? Yes, and for this contract we will be purchasing more new equipment. Quay asked if the company we are with now backs out of their contract before 1/1/23, will you be able & willing to step in as early as 11/1/22 if they leave before 12/31/22? We cannot have any lapse in time for emergency/ambulance service. Thorne replied yes. Tim asked will you be willing to transfer people to Spartanburg if they request to go there? Tracy asked what about Shelby? Steve Bratton replied we listed in the proposal places to transport: Cherokee Medical, Spartanburg Regional, Mary Black, Bon Secours, Prisma Health in Greenville and Cleveland Memorial in Shelby, NC. Anywhere else beyond these, the patient would have to line up their own transportation. Steve also added that they are required by DHEC that all patients who meet the state guidelines for certain codes are to be transported to the closest available designated hospital. Quay asked will you ask for assistance/help from other emergency services if needed? Thorne replied I agree to and welcome a mutual aid partner. Tracy asked if he would be willing to work with our local fire depts.? Thorne replied he plans to reach out to the fire chiefs and I plan to attend their meeting in Oct. We provide medical training for them as well. I believe on building a good relationship with them. Administrator Bratton stated the Cherokee County EMS Advisory Committee will be very active and will work to enhance the working relationship between all the groups involved in EMS including the hospital, EMS, 911 and Fire Chief Asso. Members of that committee are: Myself or my designee who will be Doug Bowers, EMS Medical Control Physician, Cherokee Co. 911 Director or Deputy Director, Thorne or his designee, Cherokee Co. Fire Chiefs Asso. designee and designee from Cherokee Medical Center. We hope to put all these folks together monthly and discuss any issues that have come up. **[Quay Little made the motion to award Bid No. 2023-06 Cherokee Co. Ambulance Service RFP to Thorne Ambulance Service, Greenville and to enter into a contract with them effective 1/1/23; and, also to allow Administrator Bratton &**

**Attorney Mathis to draw up an additional agreement with Thorne Ambulance Service to pick up the ambulance service in case Lifeguard decides to end their contract with the County earlier than 12/31/22. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor with Chairman Tim Spencer abstained from voting due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.]** Administrator Bratton reported to council that he told Mr. Thorne that it is of upmost importance that not only do we want our people to get quality care but that they are treated with compassion regardless of who they are. Tracy asked about the station locations? Thorne replied we will stay at the current locations; our coming here will be a turn-key operation.

Administrator Steve Bratton reported that back in June, we had a major wind storm to come through our county and it did some major damage to our tower on Thicketty Mtn. at our repeater station, even to the point of losing part of it. Total amount to repair that damage came from our one source provider C&E, Asheboro, NC, for \$11,379. We had a \$1,000 deductible so the total insurance claim was for \$10,379. **[Lyman Dawkins made the motion to allow Administrator to proceed with the repair damage for the Thicketty Mtn. Repeater Site with C&E for a total cost of \$11,379. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]** 911 Deputy Director Brandon Peeler reported that Broad River Electric has worked with us during this time; we utilized their power; we will not be erecting a new tower at that site at this time.

Administrator Steve Bratton had no report.

Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop had no report.

**Councilman David Smith made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:45 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) discussion of matters relating to a contractual matter regarding an economic development consultant. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Quay Little made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:43 PM. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.** Administrator Bratton stated no vote or action was taken by council during executive session.

**Councilman Elliott Hughes re-appointed Teresa Cook to serve another term on the Cherokee Co. Library Board. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM.

APPROVED: 9/19/22

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council