

DATE: 3/7/23 FILE NO: DATE571  
TO: Cherokee County Council  
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting of 3/6/23

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 3/6/23, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with Tracy McDaniel leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bratton, Asst. Admin. Bishop, Attorney Mathis & Master Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Two news media were present along with 40+ visitors.

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, 3/6/23 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

Chairman Spencer presented three awards to the Cherokee Charter Academy to: **1)** Archery Team on winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place in 2022 for the SC S3DA Division & 2022 Eagle Division Team Champions for the SC S3DA3D; **2)** Student Spencer Blackwell on having perfect scores in Mathematics on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade SC Ready State Assessment Test; and **3)** Student Brody Church on having perfect scores in Mathematics on the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade SC Ready State Assessment Test.

RLS Associates presented their Transportation Feasibility Study. Speakers were: Laura Brown, Christine Joyner, Frannie Stockwell, Keith Scott, Robyn Reed & Brian Lawson. Handouts were passed out to council as Laura Brown & Christine Joyner went over them (a copy is attached). Laura discussed the two service alternatives: 2A One Fixed Route & Blacksburg Demand Response Service; or 2B Two Fixed Routes & Blacksburg Demand Response Service. Countywide Demand Response would pick passengers up at a starting point and drop them off at the requested destination; people would share rides; service would be for Mon. – Fri.; 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. with a projected annual operating cost of \$455,000; projected one-time capital cost for vehicles would be from \$70,000 to \$120,000. Alternative 2A would be one local fixed route along Floyd Baker Rd. & Frederick St. from SCC/Cherokee Co. Campus to Limestone University with demand response in Blacksburg and to/from Gaffney; projected annual operating costs of \$548,000 & projected capital costs for vehicles \$70,000 to \$120,000/vehicle. Alternative 2B would be two fixed routes and Blacksburg Demand Response Service which would be along Floyd Baker Rd., & Frederick St., from SCC/Cherokee Co. Campus to Limestone University and along Hyatt & Granard St., from Gaffney High School to Cherokee Medical Center; projected annual operating costs \$548,000 with projected capital costs for vehicles of \$70,000 to \$120,000/vehicle. There is federal & state funding out there for you. Council would act as the governing authority; own the vehicle fleet; either operate in-house or contract out. Quay asked how many vehicles will be needed? Laura replied usually 2 vehicles for curb to curb; and 3 vehicles to provide our service 12 hrs./day. Chairman Spencer asked how many other counties in our state have this? Scott replied all but Laurens & Cherokee. Union County just started theirs in Jan. of this year. Most smaller counties choose the on-demand program. Public Transit is open to everyone. Chair Spencer asked what type of vehicles would need to be purchased? Laura replied either a 12 or 15 passenger van that would be accessible for at least 1 or 2 wheel chairs to

come on board. Ford Transit Van makes the high ceiling & wheel chair lifts accessible. We recommend if you charge the passengers, to keep their fee low; probably \$2 to \$3/trip. Administrator Bratton stated it is recommended that we do charge something to keep people from taking advantage of the vehicle for sleeping, etc. Quay asked how many employees would it take? Laura replied about 2 for administration and 4 drivers for a total of 6. The transit vehicles will be marked and recognizable as public transit vehicles. Safety will be the top priority. Christine Joyner reported on the public meetings and their input. We had a great turnout and we asked them which of the following options for transportation did they like best? Option 3 had 82.4% interest which was service for 6 to 7 days/week; 12 hrs. for weekdays and 8 hours for Sat. & Sundays. Quay asked how far in advance do you have to call for a pick-up? Christine replied it would be best if they called at least the morning of the day they need transport so the driver can fit it in his schedule. Lyman asked what if the driver goes to pick-up and no one shows? Christine replies you will have a policy in place that after so many no-shows, you will not respond to the call for pick-up. Chair Spencer asked what if they don't have money and the use their Medicare/Medicaid card? Laura replied, we can establish an agreement with them for Medicare/Medicaid to cover and they will receive a card to show that it is covered. Quay asked why hasn't private cab or uber not been able to operate here in Gaffney? Laura replied because they are in the business for profit and people cannot afford their price all the time. If you go with this program, you set the rate. Chair Spencer asked if this program will interfere with our four ambulance services in their transport service for these people who have to go get treatments, etc.? Christine replied no. Brian Lawson spoke stating that it would not interfere with their business. Laura replied we will sit down with council and discuss what you want and what is best for your county. You will be the one to decide, we only give you the information. Council received the information and thanked all the representatives for their input.

**Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of 2/21/23 as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$478,817.71. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-01 authorizing & ratifying the transfer & partial assignment of a FILOT Agreement and rights related thereto by Exel, Inc. (D/B/A DHS Supply Chain (USA) to CPUS Gaffney, LP; the continuation in force of such agreements following such transfer; the execution & delivery of an agreement requesting and approving the transfer by & between the county and the transferee; and other matters related thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

Administrator Steve Bratton presented a request from Sheriff Mueller to sign an agreement with Axon Body Cameras. Sheriff Mueller reported that they would provide 75 cameras with a 5 yr. contract and after the first 2½ years they will exchange the 75 cameras for new ones. The total amount for this will cost \$439,000 and I have in my current budget from the State the amount of \$98,685. This would cover the 1<sup>st</sup> year cost and then we could put it in our future budgets with anticipated revenue from the

state to help cover this. This camera is the updated equipment and will be more efficient for us & the Solicitor's Office and will save us money in the long run. The quality of the video is better and it has unlimited cloud service. **[David Smith made the motion to allow Administration to sign the 5 yr. agreement with Axon Body Cameras for a total amount of \$439,000 using State Revenue Funds toward this amount. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.]** Administrator Bratton stated this is a sole source vendor and therefore, we do not have to bid out.

Administrator Steve Bratton reported on Bid 2023-13 Fencing at the LEC. All State Fence, Lynchburg, Va. was the only bid received for the amount of \$104,104. This will be paid for from the ARP Funds. **[David Smith made the motion to award Bid No. 2023-13 to All State Fence, Lynchburg, VA. in the amount of \$104,104 for the fencing program at the LEC. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton reported on Bid 2023-14 Lock Replacement & Preventative Maintenance at CCDC. Sheriff Mueller reviewed the bid and this bid was more a preventive maintenance proposal and therefore he requested we go back out for bid and be more specific in what they need. Administrator Bratton reported that we will go back out for bid on this project.

Administrator Steve Bratton reported on Bid 2023-15 Replacing the Control Board at CCDC. This board opens & closes all doors at the Detention Center. The one there now is 9 years old and is in need of repair and they can no longer get parts for it. Only the one bid was received from Mountaintop Enterprise, LLC, Little Mtn., SC and it was over the amount in our budget for that item. **[Quay Little made the motion to allow Administration to award Bid No. 2023-15 Replacing the Control Board at the CCDC to Mountaintop Enterprise, LLC for the amount of \$128,437. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Steve Bratton reported on the Midway Complex Splash Pad & playground parking. We will continue our contract with Cherokee Landscaping and he will fix a 70' long area for parking at the splash pad with 6 handicapped parking and 2 handicapped accessible van parking spaces for \$16,330; also, he will pave & stripe the existing empty parking space going into the DPW Complex for \$25,000. Both projects will cost around \$42,000 which will be paid for from the LOST Funds. **[Bill Blanton made the motion to allow Administrator Bratton to move forward with Cherokee Landscaping in paving these two areas for a total cost of around \$42,000. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Chairman Spencer asked Admin. Bratton why we haven't move Dept. of Public Works out to the REA Building? Steve replied we still have a lot to do out there and we are trying to relocate the Recycling Center first.

Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop had no report.

Attorney Joe Mathis requested council to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) regarding a personnel matter in the Solid Waste Dept. **[Quay Little made the motion for council**

**to go into Executive Session for this matter. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor and went into Executive Session at 6:37 PM.]**

**Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 7:31 PM and enter back into the Regular Meeting. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.** Attorney Mathis stated that no action or vote was taken during Executive Session.

Bid Opening 2023-16 Purchase of Scrap Metal at the Cherokee County Landfill. Administrator Steve Bratton reported that only one bid was received and it is from Metal Recycling Services, LLC, Gastonia, NC, for \$180/net ton or .09 cent per lb. **[Quay Little made the motion to award Bid No. 2023-16 purchase of Scrap Metal at the Cherokee Co. Landfill to Metal Recycling Services, LLC for \$180/net ton or .09 cent/lb. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

**Chairman Spencer re-appointed Brandon Swofford to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Board of Adjustments & Appeals. David Smith 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 7:32 PM.

APPROVED: 3/20/23

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council