

DATE: 5/16/23 FILE NO: DATE577
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting of 5/15/23

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 5/15/23, 5:00 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 and Master Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. There were 2 news media and 11 visitors.

Chairman Spencer recognized Marc Howie, Vice President of Community Development, York Electric Cooperative, Inc. Marc stated he serves a small portion (around 200 residents) of Cherokee County along Hwy. 5. Just wanted to introduce myself and let you know I'm here if you need me.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of 5/15/23 with the amendment of moving up the Executive Session before No. 7. The agenda was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop & Regular Meeting of 5/1/23 as received. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$354,850.80. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Attorney Mathis as council to go into Executive Session pursuant to two purposes: **1)** 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 specifically Project Nova; and **2)** Section 30-4-70(a)(2) the receipt of legal advice regarding a legal matter covered by the attorney-client privilege. **[Quay Little made the motion to go into Executive Session for these two purposes stated. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor and went into Executive Session at 5:10 pm.]**

Councilman Quay Little made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:56 PM and enter back into the Regular Meeting. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis stated no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-02 authorizing the execution & delivery of a FILOT Agreement by & between Cherokee Co. and a Company or Companies known to the county at this time as Project Tiger with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; authorizing the

execution & delivery of one or more grant agreements; and other matters related thereto. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-03 adopting a budget for the County of Cherokee and to provide for the levying of taxes and fees for county purposes for the Fiscal Year beginning 7/1/23 and ending 6/30/24. David Smith Seconded and council voted in favor. Copies of the Proposed FYB 23/24 were passed out to council with a memorandum from Administrator Bratton. He stated that the budget presented tonight is currently out of balance by \$1.4MM. This proposed budget includes a flat \$1/hr. cost of living increase for employees making below \$67,000 and a 3% increase for all other employees. The budget includes adjustments made during the year for CDL drivers, Sheriff Officers, 911 Lead dispatchers, building inspectors and appraisers in the Assessor off for a total of \$1.1MM; the budget includes the longevity pay program; the budget includes an 3.7% employer health insurance premium increase of 4.1% load factor based on claims for half the year and a 25.% increase for half – totaling \$465K; retirement contribution increase (employer only) \$354K; and funding for SCC's request for the Rufus Foster Scholarship. Options giving to balance the budget are: solid waste collection user fee - \$120/yr (\$10/month) to be included on residential property tax bills (4% 7 6%); increase millage by enough to cover the deficit – 6.8 mills (\$54.40 on a \$200k primary residence, \$12.24 on a \$30K vehicle, \$40.80 on a \$100K rental house), 1 mil=\$203,151 collectible; reduce expenditures; or use ARP monies. We have in the capital fund a balance budget at \$1,863,333; the 911 tariff fund is in balance at \$765,248. Council discussed using the LOST Funds to balance the budget. Lyman stated even if we could use the LOST Funds, that might help us balance the budget this year but what about the future budgets; we need to come up with some solution to help increase our revenues. Council discussed this for a long time but did not make a decision on how to balance the budget.

Chairman Spencer presented the 1st Reading of Ordinances adopting budgets proposed by the County Administrator containing estimates of proposed revenues and expenditures by the County of Cherokee and to provide for the proposals for the Fiscal Year beginning 7/1/23 and ending 6/30/23 for the following fire departments:

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-04 for Antioch VFD as presented. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-05 for Buffalo VFD as presented. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-06 for Cherokee Creek VFD as presented. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-07 for the CKC VFD as presented. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-08 for Corinth VFD as presented. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-09 for Gaffney Fire Protection as presented. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10 for Grassy Pond VFD as presented. Bill Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-11 for Goucher/White Plains VFD as presented. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-12 for the DMW VFD as presented. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-13 for the Blacksburg Fire District as presented. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Bratton reported that no bids were received for Bid No. 2023-14 Lock Repair or Replacement at CCDC. We will review this bid and try to send it out again.

Administrator Bratton reported he has been looking at the long-term plans for the Animal Control Shelter. The shelter has the ability to hook onto a sewer system for any future endeavors we might have for the property behind it, so I asked our architects to provide us a connection up Progressive Drive which turns off of Cherokee Ave. that goes to Alma School to provide us a connection back there where we can tie in at any point. I have a change order for providing off-site survey, design & permitting and coordination with DP3 Architects. BOPW will provide a new sanitary sewer line extension for the new manhole located on Cherokee Ave., at a cost of \$18,040. **[David Smith made the motion to allow Administration to authorize the change order for this sanitary sewer line extension at a cost of \$18,040. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop updated council on the RFP No. 2023-18 Next Generation Public Safety Radio System. The committee is composed of myself, Steve Bratton, Brandon Peeler, Dennis Gardner, Sheriff Mueller, Doug Bowers, Donovan Ford & Jeff Price. We will meet Wed., 5/24/23 to review this. All committee members received their book earlier so they could review it before we meet.

Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop reported on the sink hole at the LEC. It has been repaired. BWC Contractors filled in & repaired the hole at a cost of \$4200; and S&ME Contractors will complete 4 different studies for a cost of \$15,150. **[Quay Little made the motion to allow Asst. Admin. Bishop to sign the contract with S&ME Contractors to complete the 4 different studies on the sink hole at a cost of \$15,150. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Attorney Joe Mathis had no report.

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Chairman Spencer read a letter of resignation from Greg Phillips from the Grassy Pond Fire District Board of Commissioners effective immediately. **Chairman Spencer appointed Mitchel Humphries to serve the unexpired term of Phillips on the Grassy Pond Fire District Board of Commissioners. 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 7:52 PM.

APPROVED: 6/12/23

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council