

DATE: 6/8/23 FILE NO: DATE578
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of 6/5/23

There was a PH & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 6/5/23, 5:00 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Tracy McDaniel leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bratton, Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop, Attorney Joe 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 50+ visitors.

Chairman Spencer added SCC/CCC President Dr. Mike Mikota to the agenda to inform council of a new project and request support with this project. **[Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of 6/5/23 as posted in accordance with the SCFOIA and with the addition of Dr. Mikota. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County as received in the amount of \$552,925.31. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Duke Energy District Manager Tyson Blanton presented Emergency Management Director Doug Bowers with a copy of a check for \$20,000 from Duke Energy for a grant; \$17,000 will go toward purchasing water alert radios throughout the county; and the remainder will go toward purchasing 6 chain saws for the Emergency Management Dept. County Council thanked Ms. Blanton & Duke Energy for their support.

Dr. Mikota, President of SCC spoke to council to introduce a proposal for the Cherokee County Spark Center, an advanced manufacturing/logistics & supply chain innovation catalyst. He requested council to partner with them to help fund the constructing a new 50,000 sq. foot Cherokee County Spark Center at the SCC/CCC. We hope to begin construction for two of these buildings at a cost of \$8.8 million/building x 2 = around \$19 million. We have resources at our college to fund ½ of this. This facility would provide needs for economic development for Cherokee Co. Our purpose here tonight is to request support from council with this project and help fund the construction of a new 50,000 sq. foot Cherokee County Spark Center at the SCC/CCC. Council replied they are in support of this project but will need to get with Administration & Finance to see where and if the funds are available.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-04 authorizing the execution & delivery of an Inducement Agreement & Millage Rate Agreement by & between Cherokee Co., SC and Project Tiger, whereby, under certain conditions, Cherokee Co. will execute a FILOT Agreement & Special Source Credit Agreement with respect to a project in the County whereby the project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and Cherokee Co. will make available certain credits against fee payments in reimbursement of investment in related qualified infrastructure; and providing for related matters. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Spencer opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2023-02 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax 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 agreement and other matters related thereto. No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-02 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax 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 agreement and other matters related thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Administrator Steve Bratton announced that Project Tiger is Gaffney Bakery LLC/Champion Foods and will locate in the old ACE Bakery building off Hyatt St. They are investing \$96 million and will create 288 jobs.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 2nd 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.

Chairman Tim Spencer presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinances adopting budgets proposed by the County Administrator containing estimates of proposed revenues & 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 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-04 for the Antioch VFD as presented. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-05 for the Buffalo VFD as presented. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-06 for the Cherokee Creek VFD as presented. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2nd 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 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-08 for the Corinth VFD as presented. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-09 for the Gaffney Fire Protection as presented. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10 for the Grassy Pond VFD as presented. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-11 for the Goucher/White Plains VFD as presented. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance no. 2023-12 for the DMW (Draytonville/McKown's Mountain/Wilkinsville) VFD as presented. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-13 for the Blacksburg Fire District as presented. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-14 authorizing the execution & delivery of an amended and restated Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between Cherokee Co. SC and CCC-85 LANDCO Owner, LLC 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 and will be designated as being in a Multi-County Industrial & Business Park; and other matters related thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-15 authorizing the execution & delivery of an amended & restated Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between Cherokee Co., SC and CCC-85 2A Owner, LLC 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 and will be designated as being in a Multi-County Industrial & Business Park; and other matters related thereto. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop presented the recommendation from the committee for Bid No. 2023-18 Next Generation Public Safety Radio System. The committee reviewed the criteria based on hardware, software, and/or services, warranty, monitoring, maintenance, support & pricing. The committee recommends to council to award Bid No. 2023-18 to FleetTalk for a price tag of \$2,283,496.56. This will be a turnkey system that will meet & exceed our county needs and provide the best opportunity for our Sheriff Deputies & First Responders. [David Smith made the motion to award Bid No. 2023-18 for the Next Generation Public Safety Radio System to FleetTalk for the amount of \$2,283,496.56. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.]

Asst. Admin. Merv Bishop reported to council that in the 2022/23 FYB the amount of \$413,000 was budgeted to purchase 7 new vehicles & 7 equipment installation for the Sheriff Dept. When we did

our requisition for these, the price had increased significantly which put us over budget of \$103,336.03. To try and reduce this, the Sheriff agreed to taken 2 vehicles from being fully marked at \$29,397.29 to unmarked of 20,176.81 which was a cost savings of \$9,220.48/vehicle x 2 = \$18,440.96. Also, he agreed to transfer \$40,000 from his budget line item 645 Contracted Service Software to this account which still left us with an overbudget amount of \$44,895.07. We are requesting council to cover the remaining \$44,895.07 shortfall and allow us to purchase these vehicles as presented. **[Quay Little made the motion to appropriate the shortfall of \$44,895.07 toward the purchase of the Sheriff's 7 vehicles. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Attorney Joe Mathis requested council to go into Executive Session pursuant to two matters: **1)** Section 30-4-70(a)(1) for discussion of a personal matter in Administration Dept.; and **2)** 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 Star Genesis. **[Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion for council to go into Executive Session pursuant to the two matters specified by Attorney Mathis. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor and went into Executive Session at 5:55 PM.]**

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 7:15 pm and enter back into the Regular Meeting. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis reported no action or vote was taken during Executive Session.

Administrator Steve Bratton stated that on 5/1/23, he turned his resignation in to Council and stated that he would be leaving effective 6/30/23, once the FYB 23/24 was approved by council. It looks as though the 3rd Reading of the FYB 23/24 will be passed at the next council meeting of 6/12/23 and therefore I am requesting my last day be moved up to Friday, 6/16/23. **[Quay Little made the motion to allow Administrator Steve Bratton to move his last day as Administrator up to Friday, 6/16/23. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to promote Asst. Administrator Merv Bishop as our Interim Administrator effective upon Bratton's departure, Friday, 6/16/23. Bill Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer appointed Ken Moon to serve on the Upstate Workforce Board representing the Economic Development category effective 8/1/23. 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 7:20 PM.

APPROVED: 6/12/23

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council