

DATE: 5/21/24 FILE NO: DATE612

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 5/20/24

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 5/20/24, 5:00 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Tracy McDaniel leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bishop, Asst. Administrator Walker, Attorney Joe Mathis, and Master Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. 2 news media were present along with 30+ visitors.

The agenda for the Regular Meeting of 5/20/24 was adopted as received and posted in accordance **with the SCFOIA.**

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 5/6/24 and Budget Workshop of 5/13/24 as received. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$425,284.70. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Presenters CHAPS Executive Director Pam Cazel & President Dinah Hamrick spoke to council regarding CHAPS. Pam Cazel gave a report of all their properties such as Possum Trot School House, Thicket Creek Revolutionary War grounds, Cherokee Co. Museum, etc. We thank council for passing the Resolution on 5/16/22 supporting the SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission and recognizing & approving the Cherokee County 250 Committee. Pam reported several accomplishments and recognitions just to inform council of how important CHAPS is to Cherokee County. People from all over come here to visit our county, and we want to bring them into the city to visit our museum. We are getting more involved with our schools and had our first Liberty Life educational program at Jolly Park where the OMVT volunteers had cannons & guns and demonstrations throughout the day. Visitors to our museum have increased over the past couple of years. CHAPS President Dinah Hamrick reported the last couple of years we have incurred a lot of expenses; the museum is 2 times larger than it was and we still need to build on and do repairs. We have written and received grants to help us with our projects, and businesses & donations from others have kept us going, but we need more financial help. We have more programs & exhibits that we want to be able to offer. We are asking council to give us a line item in your Fiscal Year Budget beginning this year and from now on. We are asking for \$100,000 or more if you are willing to give. We went before City Council and requested funds as well and they did approve for CHAPS to be a line item in their budget but did not commit as to how much. Quay asked do you want us to put a line item in the budget funding for an amount of dollars each year or do you want us to give you one mil each year? Dinah replied either one would be appreciative. David Smith asked if they had plans for expansion on that site? Dinah replied we are utilizing every room now and our new wing is larger than all and already full. It has been taking all of our energy to get grants for the projects we have going on. We need to do landscaping; we have a drainage problem that needs

repairing, etc. Lyman Dawkins thanked CHAPS for all they did and this year's STEM Project at Jolly Park was great for the students. We want to help but we have to figure out how we can make it happen. Council agreed.

Administrator Merv Bishop introduced Joshua Patterson as our new E-911 Communications Director. He began his duties with us today, 5/20/24 and comes with years of experience. I also want to recognize Hailey Sprouse, Deputy Director, who filled in until we found a replacement. She and the entire 911 Staff had done a great job.

Administrator Bishop recognized Jared Sang with DP3 Architects regarding the Cherokee County Public Works Facility. Jared reported that we have been working with council on this since 5/14/19. I have met with all DPW Department Heads and they are okay with this proposal on the public works facilities. This proposal has nothing to do with the auditorium or gym. This is not the final plan but a conceptual plan to get approved tonight to begin moving forward. I have 3 requests of council tonight: **1)** approve the current conceptual plan as presented; **2)** approve the total project hard and soft cost not to exceed \$4.8 million; and **3)** approve Administration & DP3 Architects to send out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) Services to be submitted to a selection committee for review. The straightforward project will come back with lots of change orders; that is why I recommend the CMAR process. Jared went over changes in the plans: fleet parking will be on the right side of the building and I feel the gravel parking lot would be better for that than paved. You would have the option to pave it in the future; we will put a fresh coat of paint on the front of the building & replace the awning; there are too many obstacles for the convenient center and we feel there will be a better use for that. I recommend we remove the loading dock and put a canopy over the entire dock. I recommend a 20' fence to secure your fleet parking and those trees out there are a good source for security now. We suggest paving the employee parking. The side entrance would be the main entrance for employees. Keep the water shed, storage space and existing rest room. There were some modifications for the fleet maintenance up until now, we did not consider using this space by opening up the walls in the bay area and allowing heavy duty vehicles to enter. We can use the majority of this building for office space, small break room and parts room. Keep the existing kitchen. Utilize this storage for a shop, tire changing station, etc. We were working on the contract provider \$2.3 million for the design build budget that was created to provide a better view but after that budget was reviewed, we dug into and found there were some missing highlights for the Dept. Heads to move into this building. So, for \$3.2 million we have reprogrammed based on the Dept. Heads needs to move forward in an efficient way as possible. There is a \$4.2 million hard cost study along with fees and contingency funds, equipment and we now have a total cost of \$4.8 million dollars: \$98/foot for construction cost. Lockers & showers were not included. We included LED lighting upgrade. There was a grant applied for to provide LED lighting throughout the facility. Wash bay was accounted for & it was estimated to be inside the building but we will have to move it outside the building. Modified ventilation was accounted for; we will need to do roof repairs because there are currently leaks in the office building. Bill Blanton asked when do expect to hear from the grants? Merv replied that Jason with the Pallidum Group worked on that package about one month ago. Jared stated that the electrical system was accounted for

in the original feasibility study but because we are doing so much work the biggest factor is that there is a mixture of things that we have to consider for that purpose of the building; some of the units out there we cannot get parts for now; a big risk is fire hazard. We can design to replace it. Quay Little asked how much do you need to dig out for those 6 trucks and have your compared that to extending that dock out because if you are talking about having to dig out, I believe we have plenty of room on this property to put the dock somewhere else. Chair Spencer asked what is the time agenda? Jared replied 4 to 6 months; it depends on how fast the contractor gets his prices in, etc. Quay Little asked where did you come up with \$4.8 million vs Sossamon's \$3.2 million? Jared replied this budget effort was difficult for this project because originally, we were looking at it as one big project then it was split up into the public works facility & recreation. Quay Little asked are the lifts & bailer are included in this price? Amanda replied we are working on that. Quay Little asked how much do we have left in the ARF monies? Merv replied \$3.5 million. Jared replied he would check on the dock. There was a lot more discussion.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to approve the Administrator and DP3 Architects to send out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for CMAR Services (Construction Manager at Risk) to be submitted to a selection committee for review. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to approve the current conceptual plan presented by Jared Sang with DP3 Architects for the Broad River Public Works Facility Project. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the total project cost currently budgeted to not exceed \$4.8 million. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-05 to adopt the Cherokee County Comprehensive Plan. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor. Quay Little asked Merv to make sure Jason was aware of the questions we are receiving from our citizens.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-17 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Road Construction & Reimbursement Agreement by and between Cherokee County, SC and Exel, Inc.; and other matters related thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-06 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 7/1/24 and ending 6/30/25 and declaring that the same shall constitute the budget of the County of Cherokee. Quay Little seconded. Chair Spencer asked Merv how much more would it cost if we gave the county employees \$2/hr. raise? Merv replied the budget has the \$1/hr. raise in it at \$824,000 and if you raise it to \$2/hr. it will be \$1.6 million. This figure does not include fringe benefits. **Council voted in favor of the motion.**

Chairman Spencer called for the 1st Reading of Ordinances adopting a budget proposed by the County Administrator containing estimates of proposed revenues & expenditures by the County of Cherokee for the following Fire Districts for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/24 and ending 6/30/25.

Councilman Lyman Dawkins made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-07 Cherokee Creek VFD. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-08 CKC VFD. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-09 Corinth VFD. Devid Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-10 DMW (Draytonville, McKowns Mtn. & Wilkinsville) VFD. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Quay Little made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-11 The Gaffney Fire Protection Area. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-12 Goucher/White Plains VFD. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-13 Grassy Pond VFD. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-14 Antioch VFD. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-15 Blacksburg Fire District. Quay Little seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 1st Reading for 2024-16 Buffalo VFD. Lyman Dawkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Bishop opened Bid 2024-11 HVAC Units in Booking & D-Block at CCDC. 3 bids were received: **1)** Climate Control Systems, Greenwood - \$31,491; **2)** MM Services HVAC, Taylors - \$34,356; and **3)** Gonzo Services, LLC, Columbia - \$43,068. These bids will be placed in the Judicial Service Committee for review and to report back to council on 6/3/24.

Administrator Merv Bishop reported that we now have 116 dogs & 68 cats at the Animal Shelter. Ken Moon with the Humane Society replied they have had 7 adoptions. Merv stated we are still having a problem with owners of pets that no longer want their dog and are bringing them to the shelter. This is becoming a big problem. We still have a lot of people to donate dog & cat food which helps us out a lot.

Asst. Admin. Amanda Walker had no report at this time.

Councilman Bill Blanton replied I think we need to clarify something that was in the Gaffney Ledger the other day when it was reported that the Chairman of the CTC said that the county did not provide him with a list of our county roads that needed to be paved. I just want to say that our Administration Office did provide him with the list of roads that needed to be paved and they did so in a timely manner.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

APPROVED: **6/3/24**

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: **Tim Spencer**

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council