

DATE: 1/7/25 FILE NO: DATE634

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 1/6/25

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 1/6/25, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer called the meeting to order with Rev. Ron Culbertson leading in prayer. All council members were present along with 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 75+ visitors.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: Dist. 4 Councilman Tim Spencer was sworn in by his Pastor Ron Culbertson with Master Clerk Doris Pearson holding the Bible for his re-elected 4-year term as Cherokee County Councilman for the term of 1/1/25 through 12/31/28. **Dist. 6 Councilman David Smith** was sworn in by Attorney Joe Mathis with his wife Jennifer holding the Bible & two of his children surrounding him for his re-elected 4-year term as Cherokee County Councilman for the term of 1/1/25 through 12/31/28. **Dist. 1 – Newly Elected Councilwoman Teresa Corry Bonner** was sworn in by her Granddaughter with her Mom Doris Littlejohn holding the Bible for her term of 1/1/25 through 12/31/28. **Dist. 3 – Newly Elected Councilman Donnie L. Hardin** was sworn in by his Pastor Bobby Morrow with his wife Lori holding the Bible surrounded by his family for his term beginning 1/1/25 through 12/31/28.

Administrator Merv Bishop conducted the election for Chairman of Cherokee County Council for 2025. **[Elliott Hughes nominated Tim Spencer. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Merv Bishop conducted the election of Vice-Chairman of Cherokee County Council for 2025. **[Tim Spencer nominated David Smith. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Chairman Tim Spencer thanked council for voting for him and he pledged to do his best and prayed that council would continue to work together to achieve goals/projects for the best interest for Cherokee County.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Monday, 1/6/25 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Bill Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 12/16/24 as received. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$768,654.22. Bill Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Presenter Developer/Realtor Christopher “CeeJ” Jefferson introduced himself and the introduction of the 10-acre Senior Housing Development, development phases and collaboration/funding requests. These homes specialize in affordable housing for our seniors. This property is located up Twin Bridge Road in Cherokee County. We are asking Cherokee County to collaborate with us by maybe putting some funding on the table or helping with infrastructure needs to build this development.

Administrator Merv Bishop reported that the 2023/24 Financial Audit has been completed and turned in on a timely matter. Cline, Brandt, Kochenower & Co. completed the audit and Ben Kochenower will come to council next meeting on 1/21/25 to present his findings with you.

Administrator Merv Bishop reported he passed out to council a copy of his task completion projected dates for the 2025/26 Budget Development Calendar. Budget packets will be sent out to Dept. Heads on 1/17/25; they will be due back on 2/18/25 and I will be meeting with staff to develop their budget beginning 2/19/25.

Attorney Joe Mathis had no report.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Tim Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:32 PM and invited everyone to join council for BBQ & hash dinner.

APPROVED: 1/21/25

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council