

DATE: 2/4/25 FILE: DATE636
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting, 2/3/25

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 2/3/25, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with Donnie Hardin leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bishop, Asst. Admin. Bradley, Attorney Mathis and 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 14 visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of 2/3/25 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 1/21/25 as received. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$952,934.19. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Spencer opened the **Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2024-32** authorizing the execution of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement between Cherokee County, SC, and Westrock CP, LLC, a company also known as Project Charm, to provide for the issuance of Special Source Revenue Credits, and other matters related thereto. As there was no one to speak, Chairman Spencer closed the public hearing.

Petitioner Jermaine Smith asked council to consider funding the Clip & Tails Pet Grooming Academy. He stated he has been grooming for over 25 years and we need this grooming academy to train others. He spoke on the mission, vision, purpose & values of the school. He showed examples of the products that he would use as well as the textbook, uniform and model dog. I am asking council to consider making a line-item in your fiscal year budget for this in the amount of \$2,500/month for at least a two-year period. Chairman Spencer replied to Mr. Smith that council would take this under consideration.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-32 authorizing the execution of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement between Cherokee County, SC, and Westrock CP, LLC, a company also known as Project Charm, to provide for the issuance of Special Source Revenue Credits, and other matters related thereto. Bill Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-01 authorizing the lease of County Property to the Cherokee County School District. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Merv Bishop reported on RFP 2025-14 Repainting the kitchen area at the Cherokee Co. Detention Center. 4 bids were received: **1) CertaPro Painters of Sptg. - \$30,000; 2) Epoxy Magic LLC - \$98,000; 3) Wescad, Inc. - \$38,800; and 4) MAR Const. - \$32,740.** Administrator Bishop replied that he & Kristy alone with Sheriff Blanton & Major Anderson will review these bids and make a recommendation to council at their next scheduled meeting.

Councilman Donnie Hardin suggested that the county hold its bid openings before their scheduled meetings. The bid openings will still be opened to the public. Administration could open the bids, review them and be able to report to council their recommendation on awarding the bid. This could be more efficient and save time. **[Bill Blanton made the motion to allow Administration to change the bid process and have the bids come to them; they will open them in a public meeting; review the information and make a recommendation to full council at their next scheduled meeting. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Bishop reported that Cherokee County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a grant from the SC Dept. of Public Safety for the State School Resource Officer (SRO) Program in the amount of \$561,000 to allow the purchase of 6 Ford SUV Patrol Vehicles at \$65,000/each; 6 computers/mounts at \$5,500/each; 6 In-car cameras at \$5,000/each; 6 Mobile Radios at \$8,000/each; 6 Portable Radios at \$8,000/each and 6 Tasers/accessories at \$2,000/each. In addition, they have also been awarded \$9,000 grant monies to purchase uniforms and accessories for the State Funded SRO's for a total award of \$570,000. **[Councilman David Smith made the motion to allow Administrator Merv Bishop to purchase the above mentioned items from the county general fund and within 30-45 days to be 100% reimbursed to the general fund after the submission of grant receipts from the SCDPS. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Asst. Administrator Kristy Bradley had no report.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:37 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) regarding two matters: 1) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements & proposed sale of purchase of property; and 2) for receipt of legal advice regarding the settlement of a pending lawsuit and other matters covered by the attorney/client privilege. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:20 PM. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis reported that no action or vote was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to allow Administration to continue negotiations regarding the contract in reference to real estate that was discussed during executive session and gather more facts and report back to council. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to authorize the Administrator to authorize the Attorney who has been retained to represent the county to respond to the legal action that has been discussed during Executive Session and report back to council. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Dist. 1 Councilwoman Teresa Bonner appointed Wilbert Littlejohn to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Alcohol & Drug Abuse Board. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Dist. 1 Councilwoman Teresa Bonner appointed Corey Reid to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Board of Appeals. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Dist. 1 Councilwoman Teresa Bonner appointed Donald Logan to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Tax Assessor/Board of Appeals. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Dist. 1 Councilwoman Teresa Bonner appointed Kelton Bridges to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Library Board. 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 7:23 PM.

APPROVED: 2/18/25

BY ITS VICE-CHAIR: David Smith

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council