

DATE: 3/18/25 FILE NO: DATE639  
TO: Cherokee County Council  
SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting 3/17/25

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Monday, 3/17/25, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with David Smith leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Merv Bishop, Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley, Attorney Joe 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 10 visitors.

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of 3/17/25 as received and 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 Regular Meeting of 3/3/25 and the Corrected Minutes of 2/18/25 as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$525,615.43. Bill Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.**

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the public hearing on two ordinances: **1) Ordinance No. 2025-02** authorizing the purchase of Real Property located at North Petty Street by Cherokee County; and **2) Ordinance No. 2025-03** authorizing the purchase of Real Property located at East Floyd Baker Blvd. **SPEAKERS:** **1)** Public Defender Michael Moore spoke in favor of council purchasing the two lots. It would help out our over crowdedness and free up some space in the courthouse. This purchase would be more cost effective since you are paying around \$30,000/year rent now. I began my position back in 2002 and since then I have been located in an alley, strip mall, across town and now right beside the courthouse. It is good for our office to be within walking distance of the courthouse because we are in and out of there with court & our clients. We have 4 attorneys in our office now and as we grow, we will need more space in the future anyway. **2)** COC Brandy McBee spoke in favor of purchasing the two lots as well. It is very important that these two offices be within walking distance of the courthouse because of their close connection with courts. If you purchased these two lots, we plan to move the Solicitor Office out of the courthouse into the building at North Petty St. and we would move the Public Defender Office from the North Petty St. location to the building at East Floyd Baker Blvd. The courthouse was built in 1929 and it needs a lot of repairs. These two departments need space and privacy and this move would free up some needed space at the courthouse. We have a lot of court going on all the time and I invite you to drop by anytime and tour the courthouse and see our needs. **3)** Mr. Clary asked what is the estimated cost of these two buildings to bring them up to code? Merv replied the building at North Petty Street will cost \$529,450 which includes installation of a new roof, gutters & drainage system. The building at E. Baker Blvd. will cost \$415,000 and is a turnkey agreement. The seller will put a parking lot at the back of the building. The seller also will be donating to us the office furniture that

was in the building but was placed in storage. It is in very good condition. As there was no one else to speak Chairman Spencer closed the public hearing.

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-02 authorizing the purchase of Real Property, North Petty Street, by Cherokee County in the amount of \$529,450 to be paid from the contingency fund. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

Administrator Merv Bishop reported to council that he should have the appraisal for property located at 229 E. Floyd Baker Blvd. by the end of this week.

**Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to change the Regular Scheduled Meeting of Monday, April 7, 2025, to Monday, April 14, 2025, 5 PM. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow Administration to go out for RFPs for County Timber Thinning on Landfill Tracts. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.** Admin. Bishop stated they will send out these bids, receive them back in the Admin. Office, Administration will open them, review them and make a recommendation to council for your consideration.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported to council regarding the updated policy on county procurement. Administration has completed our internal updates and we plan to send these over to Attorney Mathis this week for any final edits. Once he has reviewed it, then we will put it in ordinance format and bring it back to council at your next meeting for consideration. This will include our Procurement Policy, Purchasing Card Policy, and Travel/Training Policy.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley handed out a flyer regarding Waste Tire Recycling Policy & Procedures. She reported that DOR informed us that we need to look at implementing a tire waste fee for our county. We have written a waste tire fee policy and are asking council to look at it and if you support this, then we will work on having an ordinance to bring back to you at your next council meeting. The flyer I handed out addresses the policy & procedures we are looking at implementing. Chairman Spencer replied this will mean that people will just dump tires illegal instead of coming to the landfill/recycling center. Kristy replied that illegal dumping of waste tires is already a large issue in our county and we hope to work with Code Enforcement to curve the frequency of illegal dumping of waste tires.

Attorney Joe Mathis had no report.

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to appoint Joe Alexander to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Board of Adjustments & Appeals. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to re-appoint Charles Wray & Steve Turner to serve another term on the Antioch Fire District/Board of Fire Commissioners. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to re-appoint Bobby Westmoreland to serve another term on the CKC VFD. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to re-appoint Michael Falls to serve another term on the Cherokee co. Citizen Planning Commission. Donnie Hardin 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 5:32 PM.

APPROVED: **4/14/25**

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: **Tim Spencer**

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council