

DATE: 6/3/25 FILE NO. DATE644  
TO: Cherokee County Council  
SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting, 6/2/25

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 6/2/25, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Donnie Hardin leading in prayer. All council members were present with David Smith by Team on phone, along with Administrator Merv Bishop, Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley, Finance Director Kristie Howell, Attorney Joe Mathis and Master Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Three news media were present along with 15 visitors.

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of Monday, 6/2/25 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

**Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 5/19/25 as received. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to pay the claims as presented in the amount of \$447,682.15. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2025-10 to amend the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg & Cherokee Counties, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg Co. as part of the Joint County Industrial Park and other matters related thereto. No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.

**Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-10 to amend the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg & Cherokee Counties, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg Co. as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

**Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-22 authorizing the Execution & Delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax & Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement by & between Cherokee Co., SC and Project Kingfisher 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 Revenue Credits and the benefits of a Multi-County Industrial & Business Park; and providing for other related matters. Donnie Hardin seconded and Council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-21 adopting a budget for the County of Cherokee and to provide for the levying of taxes & fees for the county purposes for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/25 and ending 6/30/26, etc. Donnie Hardin seconded. Councilman Billy Blanton stated he will vote yes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in order for council to discuss and to allow Administration to come up with a way to cut the millage of raising taxes 16.7 mills because I am not in favor of the 16.7 mil tax increase. Voting in favor: Donnie Hardin, Billy Blanton, Tracy McDaniel and David Smith voted yes over the phone. Opposed: Tim Spencer, Teresa Bonner & Elliott Hughes. Motion carried.**

Chairman Spencer referred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinances adopting a Budget proposed by the County Administrator containing estimates of proposed revenues and expenditures by the County of Cherokee for the Fiscal Year beginning 7/1/25 and ending 6/30/26 for the following fire departments:

- **Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2025-11 Cherokee Creek VFD. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-12 CKC VFD. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-13 Corinth Fire District. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-14 Draytonville/McKown's Mtn./Wilkinsville Fire District (DMW). Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-15 Gaffney Fire Protection. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-16 Goucher/White Plains Fire Dept. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

- **Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-17 Grassy Pond VFD. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-18 Antioch VFD. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-19 Blacksburg Fire District. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**
- **Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-20 Buffalo Fire District. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

Administrator Merv Bishop asked permission to cancel the Regular Meeting scheduled for Monday, 6/9/25 and meet again on Monday, 6/23/25 as scheduled. **[Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to cancel the meeting scheduled for Monday, 6/9/25. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.]**

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley asked permission to go out for bid for the Annual C-Fund Paving Project. **[Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to allow Administration to go out for bids for the Annual C-Fund Paving Project. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.]**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:20 PM pursuant to two matters: 1) Section 30-4-70(a)(2) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property; 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 Cherokee County served by the public body specifically Project Lighting Bolt. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting yes over the phone.**

**Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:30 PM. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor. David Smith had to leave and was not available to vote. Attorney Mathis reported no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.**

**Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-03 authorizing, under certain conditions, the execution & delivery by Cherokee County, SC of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and**

**Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement with Project Lightning Bolt with respect to a project in the county whereby the project would be subject to payment of certain Fees In Lieu of Taxes and providing certain Special Source Revenue Credits. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-23 authorizing (1) an amendment to a Lease Agreement entered into by Cherokee County, SC including all amendments and incentive arrangements set for therein, pertaining to certain existing facilities located within the County ("Existing Agreement"); (2) the ten year (10 yr.) extension of the term of the incentive arrangement set forth in the Existing Agreement, including the modification and extension of the Special Source Revenue Credits provided under the Existing Agreement; (3) the transfer of certain property subject to the Existing Agreement from the County to the Lessee or its assignee and the grant of certain easements on the remaining property subject to the Existing Agreement, each at the request of the Lessee; (4) the execution & delivery of one or more agreements, instruments, and other documents in connection with such extension and amendment to the Existing Agreement; (5) the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement by & between the County and Project Lighting Bolt 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 Revenue Credits; and (6) other matters relating thereto. Billy Blanton 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 6:33 PM.

APPROVED: 6/23/25

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council