

DATE: 7/8/25

FILE NO: DATE648

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 7/7/25

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 7/7/25, 5:00 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim 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. There were two news media present along with 12 visitors.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, 7/7/25 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 6/23/25 as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for the FYB 24/25 in the amount of \$461,152.28 and for the FYB 25/26 in the amount of \$333,460.56. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-24 to amend the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg & Cherokee Counties, SC, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto (Sacred Mountain, LLC and 1017 Florida, LLC). Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-25 to develop a Jointly Owned & Operated Industrial/Business Park in conjunction with Spartanburg County, such Industrial/Business Park to be geographically located in Cherokee County and established pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of SC, 1976, as amended; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg County; to provide for the expenses of the Park, the percentage of revenue application, and the distribution of Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; and providing for other matters related. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to award Bid 2025-30 C-Funds Paving Project to Cherokee Landscaping for their only bid submitted. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Merv Bishop stated for about a year there has been discussion regarding alcohol sales in the unincorporated areas in Cherokee County but in order for that to happen, there will need to be a referendum on the November ballot. Voter Registration will need that question provided to them by 8/15/25, noon. City of Gaffney has that already in place. Town of Blacksburg is looking at it. We had

lost a couple of restaurants interested in coming here since we did not have that in place. Council would need to pass an ordinance to have the wording on the referendum and because of the timeline, we will probably need to call a special call meeting in order to get this ordinance passed. Chairman Spencer replied I feel we need the people to vote on this. We will have a list of questions together and bring them back to council for 1st Reading of the Ordinance.

Administrator Merv Bishop suggested if council is going to do a referendum on the Nov. ballot for alcohol sales, then we also need to look at having a referendum about trash pick-up throughout the county. What type of question do you want on the referendum? David Smith asked will it be like an A, B, or C, question? Attorney Mathis replied it will need to be either a yes or no question. Councilman McDaniel stated we need to educate the public on these two topics. It's hard to make a recommendation on these two when we don't know what direction the public wants. We need time to ask the public what they want. Attorney Mathis replied the last significant referendum you had was the 1 cent sales tax for property tax relief. Administration needs you to determine the direction you want them to go. Billy Blanton stated if we have 4 or 5 options, how can we determine? I heard convenient centers. It would be very inconvenient for a lot of people to go that route. Administrator Bishop stated we just need to have a workshop with council for you to give us direction on what questions you want on the ordinance to be sent to Voter Registration for the referendum? Billy asked, can we have a workshop and invite the public to hear what they want? Administration will come back with a recommendation.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported on the Magistrate Renovation Project for the Blacksburg Office. She said the building is a very old structure building and is in need of a lot of repairs including electrical & plumbing and the building has no heating or a/c. There is a Strip Mall in downtown Blacksburg that has a vacant building at this time. We looked at it and it would be feasible to move the Blacksburg Magistrate Office there with minor repairs costing up to around \$35,000. The Town of Blacksburg agreed to continue to cover the rent at that location for the Magistrate Office. **[Councilman David Smith made the motion to allow Administration to go forward with moving the Blacksburg Magistrate Office from where they are located now to the vacant building in the Blacksburg Downtown Strip Mall and to make repairs for the move up to \$35,000. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor with Tracy McDaniel recusing himself from voting.]**

Councilman David Smith made the motion for council to go into Executive Session at 5:25 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) for receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to matters covered by the attorney-client privilege regarding the Public Works Facility and other legal matters. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Tracy McDaniel made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:48 PM. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis reported that no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to allow the Attorney to respond to the legal action discussed in Executive Session. Tracy McDaniel seconded and council voted in favor.

Dist. 3 Councilman Donnie Hardin appointed Craig Long to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Board of Adjustments & Appeals. 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 6:49 PM.

APPROVED: _____

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: _____

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council