

DATE: 12/2/25 FILE NO: DATE660
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 12/1/25

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 12/1/25, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Duck McAbee leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bishop, Asst. Admin. Bradley, Attorney 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 25 visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of 12/1/25 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 11/17/25 as received. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$355,906.27. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Dr. Michael Mikota gave his annual report from 7/24 – 6/25 and submitted copies to council. He referred to the mission & vision for SCC; he said that SCC had reached an inflection point in the trend for changing higher education and that SCC is one of the top 200 colleges in the US. Our philosophy is based on two main principles: a) holistic experience and b) advanced manufacturing & industrial technology. Our enrollment growth is 70.4% in all SCC campuses since 2020; total enrollment now runs about 7,000 students each year; SCC's placement rate in students first jobs is 90.1%; at the Cherokee Campus we had 123 students graduating from SCC last spring. Dr. Mikota updated council on the strategic plan for the Cherokee Campus focusing on the two new buildings on the way, a SPARK center and a new academic building. The new SPARK center will begin Phase 2 after first of the year 2026 and will be built to the left of the Peachoid on I-85 and will be visible from the interstate. The new academic & administrative building will be a new 50,000 sq. ft. building on the hill behind the Peachoid and will also be seen from I-85. SCC Staff is pursuing a partnership for the new academic building with the Cherokee Co. Public Library. Dr. Mikota closed stating we are so excited about our partnership with Cherokee Co. and look forward to 2026.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-42 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between Cherokee Co., SC and CCC-1B OWNER, LLC with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments Fee in Lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits and will be designated as being in a Multi-County Industrial & Business park; and other matters related thereto. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-43 authorizing the execution & delivery of a 3rd Amended & Restated Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between Cherokee County, SC and CCC-85 LANDCO OWNER, LLC 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 credits and will be designated as being in a Multi-County Industrial & Business Park; and other matters related thereto. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Admin. Merv Bishop had no report at this time.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported to council of the upcoming Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which is planned for Tuesday, 12/2/25, 6 – 8 pm at the Admin. Bldg. In case of rain, we will make a determination whether to cancel or go forward by 1 PM and let everyone know then.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:46 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed sale of county property specifically Broad River Electric Facility. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 8:01 PM. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis reported that no vote or action was taken during executive session.

Councilman Billy Blanton re-appointed Ed Elliott to serve another term on the Appalachian COG Board. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton re-appointed Brooks Woodlief to serve another term on the Grassy Pond Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton appointed Mark Vassy to serve on the Cherokee Creek Fire District Board of Commissioners replacing Mike Vassy. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin appointed Mike Bolin to serve on the Cherokee Creek Fire District Board of Commissioners replacing Reggie Petty. 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 8:04 PM.

APPROVED: 12/15/25

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council