

DATE: 1/22/26 FILE NO: DATE663
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting Tuesday, 1/20/26

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Tuesday, 1/20/26, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with David Smith leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bishop, Asst Administrator Bradley and Master Clerk to Council Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Three news media were present. There were 40+ visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of 1/20/26 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$588,205.43 as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Courtney Smith spoke to council regarding the AI Data Centers and the hidden community impact that these businesses bring. She commented on the electricity costs & consumption; water usage crisis; noise pollution & quality of life. She showed a comparison of what the communities lose and what they would gain from these centers in our county. She expressed the transparency problem. She closed by saying that communities deserve resident approval before AI Data centers are built; no secrecy; no hidden deals; and full transparency.

Allison Tracy spoke to council regarding the A1 Data Centers. She too is opposed to these centers coming to our county.

Asia Arnold spoke against the Data Centers in Cherokee County.

Denise Maista did not show and council moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-01 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. (RYSTAT HOLDINGS US, LLC; TINDALL CORPORATION; RRIFI SF LAND, LLC; and JIMMY I GIBBS, LLC). Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-02 to Amend and Supplement Chapter 6, Article 1 Entitled: Cherokee County Building & Construction Standards and related activities of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Merv Bishop reported on the fuel system at the new Public Works Facility in that the fuel tanks have not been active over the last 8 yrs. and we need to have them inspected. I got in touch with SPATCO who does this and they will inspect, refurbish & upgrade the fuel tanks for a total price of \$148,070.49. **[Councilman David Smith made the motion to allow Administration to contract with SPATCO to inspect, refurbish & upgrade the fuel tanks at the new Public Works Facility for the total amount of \$148,070.49 and to pay \$130,371.45 from the bond account and \$17,699.34 from capital contingency.]**

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported that there would be no report or action on sending out RFPs for electrical upgrade at the New Public Works facility at this time.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported that the county is working to obtain a federal grant this year to replace several bridges in Cherokee Co. We will be holding two public hearings regarding this: **1)** Thursday, 1/22/26, at Corinth Fire Dept., 5-6 PM regarding replacing two bridges on Brick House Rd.; and **2)** Thursday, 1/29/26, 5-6:30 PM at the Administration Bldg./Council Chambers regarding replacing several bridges & installing bridges at creek crossings owned by Cherokee Co.

Councilman Elliott Hughes reappointed John Roberts to serve another term on the Cherokee Co. Tax Assessor/Board of Appeals. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes reappointed Myra McCoy to serve another term on the DMW Fire District/Board of Commissioners. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes reappointed Michael Rector to serve another term on the Goucher-White Plains Fire District/Board of Commissioners. 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 5:22 PM.

APPROVED: 2/5/26

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council