

DATE: 2/5/26 FILE NO.: DATE664  
TO: Cherokee County Council  
SUBJECT: Minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting, 2/5/26

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of County Council Thursday, 2/5/26, 12:00 Noon in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with Donnie Harding leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bishop, Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley, Attorney Joe Mathis and Master Clerk to Council Doris F. Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and two were present. There were 25+ visitors.

**Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of Thursday, 2/5/26 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 1/5/26 and the Regular Meeting of 1/20/26 as received. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$364,880.19. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

Denise Maista spoke to council giving her concerns regarding the Data Center.

Economic Development Director Ken Moon presented the Cherokee County Development Board 2025 Annual Report. He recognized several of the board members present. He thanked his 2025 partners for their financial contributions and well as their expertise, support & encouragement. Over the course of 2025, the County generated 183 projects, hosted 48 project visits, secured 7 announced projects, and achieved \$2.6 billion in capital investment along with 852 new jobs, all paying above \$20/hr. He spoke of the progress with Gateway Wastewater Project which remains on schedule for completion in June 2026. The interest in Cherokee County remains unprecedented and shows no signs of slowing down. Ken thanked Council for their ongoing support & collaboration in taking Cherokee County forward with economic development growth.

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the public hearing on **Ordinance No. 2026-01** to amend the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg County & Cherokee County, SC, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg Co. as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto. (RYSTAT HOLDINGS US, LLC; TINDALL COPRPORATION; RRIFISF LAND, LLC; and JIMMY 1 GIBBS, LLC). **No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.**

**Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-01 to amend the agreement for development of a Joint County Industrial Park by & between Spartanburg & Cherokee County, SC, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg Co. 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 1 GIBBS, LLC). Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-02 to amend & supplement Chapter 6, Article 1 Entitled Cherokee County Building & Construction Standards and Related Activities of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.**

Administrator Merv Bishop updated council on the winter ice & snowstorms. We had great teamwork; no major power outages; and a few single car accidents. Last week the City of Gaffney, TOB, SCDOT, EMS, National Guard and all our DPW Depts. met and discussed our plans for the coming storms. One of our concerns was the trash pickup, we were ready to send out the trucks when the snow came and we made the final decision not to pick up the trash routes on Monday or Tuesday. Everyone involved did a great job.

Administrator Merv Bishop reported that since Council approved the motion to cease picking up trash for the City of Gaffney and the Town of Blacksburg on 1/5/26, we have had a lot on calls & concerns. I have met with James Taylor and Shane Childers and the decision to cease trash pickup for TOB was not giving them enough time to financially provide for it. Their new budget year begins 4/1/26. Therefore, I am asking council to rescind the motion of 1/5/26 to terminate trash pickup for the City of Gaffney & Town of Blacksburg and to continue to pick up their trash until matters have been discussed further. I will talk with them about the increasing cost for the county to continue this and hopefully we can come up with some solution. **[Donnie Hardin made the motion to rescind the motion of 1/5/26 to terminate trash pickup for the City of Gaffney & Town of Blacksburg and continue to pick up their trash until matters have been discussed further. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.]** David Smith stressed the importance that we have to consider this strongly because it is costing the county \$5 million to pick up trash in the county, which is 13% of our FYB. We have made the decision to take on EMS and remember we are the only county in the state of SC to have door-to-door trash pickup. We have to come up with a solution to help finance this if we are going to continue to have door-to-door trash pickup.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley had no comment at this time but will bring her changes regarding the Land Development Regulations in the Workshop which is scheduled right after this meeting.

As there as no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 12:35 PM.

APPROVED: 2/17/26

Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council