

DATE: 3/3/26 FILE NO: DATE667

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 3/2/26

There was a Regular Meeting, Monday, 3/2/26, at 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with Donnie Hardin leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Admin. Bishop, Asst. Admin. Bradley, Attorney Mathis and Master Clerk Doris Pearson. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. One news media was present along with 22 visitors.

Chairman Spencer recognized students present from Leadership Cherokee: Madison Rice, Isaac Martin, James Steed & Lilly Foster.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting of 3/2/26 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA with the amendment to strike Item 7. CPA Ben Kochenower. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 2/17/26 as received. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County as presented in the amount of \$843,953.97. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

CPA Ben Kochenower was unable to attend but will come at a later date.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-01 authorizing, under certain conditions, the execution & delivery by Cherokee County, SC of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes Agreement with Project Liberty with respect to a project in the county whereby the Project would be subject to payment of certain Fee in Lieu of Taxes; and providing for other related matters. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-04 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and Incentives Agreement by & between Cherokee County, SC, as a company known to the county as Project Liberty acting for itself, one or more affiliates, and/or other project sponsors, to provide for a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes arrangement; providing for the designation of the company's project as part of a Multi-County Industrial & Business Park arrangement; and providing for other related matters. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Merv Bishop reported that he, Kristy Bradley & Kristy Howell had been meeting with Dept. Heads regarding their FYB 26/27 requests. We will continue to meet this week and probably go into next week.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley had no report.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:15 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements & proposed sale or purchase of property. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:40 PM. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Joe Mathis stated that no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:42 PM.

APPROVED: **3/16/26**

BY ITS CHAIR: **Tim Spencer**

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council