

DATE: 4/21/26 FILE NO: DATE670
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 4/20/26

There was a Swearing-in Ceremony & Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 4/20/26, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer called the meeting to order with Merv Bishop leading in prayer. Council members present were: Donnie Hardin, Billy Blanton, Tim Spencer, Teresa Bonner, Elliott Hughes and newly elected Peter Wilkins. David Smith was absent. Admin. Bishop, Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley, Attorney Joe Mathis and Master Clerk Doris Pearson were present. The news media was informed by agenda and it was posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. One news media was present along with 35+ visitors.

Chief Magistrate Will Cobb administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Dist. 7 Councilman Peter Wilkins. Peter's wife Hannah held the Bible and his two children stood by his side.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt the agenda the Regular Meeting of 4/20/26 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Cherokee Co. Public Library Director Heath Ward presented CCPL Board Member Jack Ledford a plaque for his 27+ years of faithful service on the CCPL Board. Mr. Ward also reported that the Library is dedicating the "Jack Ledford Financial Literacy Station" a permanent space within the library featuring a curated collection of books & resources that reflect Jack's lifelong commitment to educating & empowering our community.

Administrator Bishop presented a proclamation to CCPL Board Member Jack Ledford for his 27+ years of service to the Cherokee Co. Library Board and his unwavering commitment to all in our county.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 4/6/26 as received. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$1,280,795.54. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Upstate Alliance Executive Director John Lummus gave his yearly report and thanked council for their partnership. He reported that the Upstate SC Alliance was established back in 2000 for public & private sector investors. We are governed by an executive committee & board. We brought in 10 jobs in industry with 36 additional jobs. 2025 Upstate had \$7.6B in new capital investments and 4,978 new jobs. We have had 429 presentations; 78 requests for information; 102 visits; and 262 new leads added to pipeline.

RFP 2026-25 Metal Building Shell & Installation at the EOC was struck from the agenda per Administrator Bishop's request. No action was taken.

Antioch Fire District Deputy Fire Chief David Campbell presented a petition to council requesting a referendum to be held to affirm the Antioch Fire District and establish a new maximum tax levy from the current 0.8% to 2.0% to ensure that we can adequately fund essential improvements over the next five years. **[Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to allow the Antioch Fire Chief David Campbell to turn his petition into the Voter Registration/Election Commission for them to certify and notify council of their findings. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Merv Bishop reported that Administration has been working on the proposed 26/27 FYB and we plan to meet with council next week and plan a workshop for the 1st or 2nd week in May with 1st Reading of the FYB 26/27 to be on the agenda for the County Council's Regular Meeting of 5/18/26.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported on the Animal Shelter Adoption event which took place on Sat., 4/18/25. It was a great day and several people attended. We also had several county employees volunteer their time to help out. We also discussed hours of operation at the Animal Shelter and decided to change them and close on Wed. afternoons but open on Saturdays from 9 to 12 Noon for the public.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported that the Air Burner Incinerator for the landfill has finally arrived and we are now burning. We still have the outside agency there to help with the burn until we get the pile down. We plan to operate the burner every day as long as we have the material coming in.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion for council to go into Executive Session at 5:40 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(5) discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Cherokee County, specifically Project Cruiser and Project Liberty. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:50 PM. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis reported that no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman Peter Wilking made the motion to appoint Todd Jackson to serve a term on the CKC Fire District Board of Commissioners. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to reappoint Donnie Hampton to serve another term on the CKC Fire District Board of Commissioners. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to reappoint Pete Earls to serve another term on the CKC Fire District/Board of Commissioners. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to appoint Mark Patterson to serve another term on the CKC Fire District Board of Commissioners. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Tim Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

APPROVED: **5/4/26**

BY IT CHAIR: **Tim Spencer**

Respectfully submitted:

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council