

DATE: 3/17/26 FILE: DATE668
TO: Cherokee County Council
SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 3/16/26

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 3/16/26, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with David Smith leading in prayer. Council members present were Donnie Hardin, Tim Spencer, David Smith, Teresa Bonner & Elliott Hughes. Bill Blanton was absent due to sickness. Admin. Bishop, Asst. Admin. Bradley, Attorney 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 40 visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the Regular Meeting of 3/16/26 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 Regular Meeting of 3/2/26 as received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of \$532,959.01. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

City of Gaffney Mayor Lyman Dawkins, Tourism Administrator LeighAnn Moon and Asst. City Administrator Jamie Caggiano gave an update on the Carolina Rising Museum and invited council to the Premiere Opening & Ceremony on Friday, 4/17/26, 10 AM. The public will be invited to attend on Sat., 4/18/26.

CPA Ben Kochenower of KBBA, PA, presented the Cherokee Co. Audit for Year Ending 6/30/25. In our unmodified opinion the financial statements referred to in this report give the respective financial position of the governmental activities and ended the year in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the USA. As of 2025, the county adopted new accounting guidance, GASB Statement 101, Compensated Absences and our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter. This report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers & creditor with a general overview of the County's finances and to show the county's accountability for the money it receives. (A copy of his report is attached.)

Administrator Merv Bishop reported that during the 2/17/26 meeting, council authorized Administration to negotiate & execute an Agreement with TischlerBise to prepare an Impact Fee Study for Cherokee Co. The SC Development Impact Fee Act mandates that before impact fees can be assessed, County Council must pass a Resolution to initiate the study and then proceed through a process of analysis, public hearings & formal adoption of the fees. We have on the agenda tonight the request for council to adopt Resolution No. 2026-02 authorizing the initiation of a Development Impact Fee Study. If you do so, then we can take the first step in planning for future development while ensuring that the costs of expanded infrastructure are appropriately shared between the county and

new developments. **[Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-02 authorizing the initiation of a Development Impact Fee Study pursuant to the SC Development Impact Fee Act. David Smith seconded. Councilwoman Teresa Bonner asked how much will this cost? Merv replied we budgeted \$150,000 and their proposal is for \$126,000. Council voted in favor.]**

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 2nd 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, South Carolina, and 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.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported that on 2/17/26, council gave Admin. permission to go out for RFP Towing Services for Cherokee County. We discovered the existing agreement ended several years ago and the last time it was bid out was in 2019. Our current wrecker service could not continue to perform the service for the price agreed upon in 2019 and the agreement technically ended in 2022. We put this out and only received one bid from Patterson's Wrecker Services, Inc. on 3/9/26. Based on market prices we feel this is competitive and therefore we recommend awarding the on-call towing services for a one-year period to Patterson's Wrecker Services, Inc. The contract will go into effect 4/1/26 if approved. **[Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to award RFP 2026-21 Towing Services for Cherokee County to Patterson's Wrecker Services, Inc. for a period of one year beginning 4/1/26. Elliott Hughes seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported back in 2024, Cherokee Co. received a Federal SS4A Grant. Federal share was \$375,000, matching share for the county was \$93,750 which was in our county budget for 25/26 for a grand total of \$468,750. The purpose of this grant is to develop a comprehensive safety action plan for Cherokee County infrastructure and to assess all of the county owned pavement in order to prioritize our streets based on unbiased asphalt conditions. This information will also assist us in applying for grants in the future to improve our infrastructure. We received two proposals for this project. We put an evaluation committee together to review the proposals and scored Toole Design as the firm that performed the highest. Administration recommends awarding this RFQ to Toole Design. **[Councilman David Smith made the motion to award RFQ 2026-17 Development & Implementation of Comprehensive Safety Action Plan to Toole Design to administer the grant. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Councilman David Smith made the motion to allow Administrator Merv Bishop to collaborate with Economic Development on a Repayable Grant with the Dept. of Commerce in the amount of \$2,550,000 for the Revmon Site to install a line & pump station that will allow 250,000 gallons a day. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to allow Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley to send out RFQ for the Recycle Building to find a metal building company to take the wind loads & specifications for the building to create a design for the concrete pad and to construct the building. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley stated as part of the grant through Homeland Security for the renovations to the Cherokee Co. Emergency Operations Center, we are requesting proposals from design firms for electrical and HVAC design plans to upfit the entire building. **[Donnie Hardin made the motion to allow Administration to send our RFQ for the HVAC/Electrical Engineering for the entire building of the EOC and to pay this from the Homeland Security Grant. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Chairman Spencer recognized four students with the Jr. Cherokee Leadership program and invited them back.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.

APPROVED: 4/6/26

BY ITS CHAIR: Tim Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council