

DATE: 5/5/26 FILE NO: DATE673

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting, 5/4/26

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Monday, 5/4/26, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer presided with Bill Blanton leading in prayer. All councilmembers were present along with Administrator Bishop, Asst. Admin. Bradley, Attorney Joe 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 36+ visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Regular Meeting 5/4/26 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 4/20/26, Emergency Meeting of 4/24/26 and Special Call Meeting of 4/30/26 as received. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County as received in the amount of \$507,826.40. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer & Administrator Merv Bishop presented a proclamation to Cherokee Charter Academy Principal Dr. Walker and several students. Dr. Walker thanked council. 8th Grade Student Luke Varner read a letter of appreciation to council for their support.

Administrator Merv Bishop presented to Probate Judge Queen a proclamation designating May 2026 as Mental Health Month. Their theme this year is "More Good Days, Together".

Administrator Merv Bishop presented to Sheriff Mueller a proclamation designating Monday, 5/11/26 through Saturday, 5/16/26 as National Police Week in Cherokee County.

Administrator Merv Bishop presented to Cherokee Medical Center Director of Nurses Lori Updegraff a proclamation for National Nurses Week May 6-12, 2026.

Councilwoman Teresa Bonner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04 certifying a petition from Antioch Fire District received by Cherokee Co., SC, pursuant to Section 4-9-30(5)(a)(i) of the Code of Laws of SC, 1976, as amended, and other matters relating thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to accept the question from Antioch Fire District Deputy Fire Chief Logan Neal to be put on the November ballot. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-05 to develop a Jointly Owned & Operated Industrial/Business Park in conjunction with Spartanburg Co., such Industrial/Business Park to be geographically located in Cherokee Co. and established pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of SC, 1976, as amended; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg Co. to provide for the expenses of the park, the percentage of revenue application, and the distribution of Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; and providing for other matters related (Project Cruiser). Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-06 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement by & between Cherokee Co., SC and Project Cruiser, the code name for a Delaware Limited Liability Company with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in Lieu of Taxes, including the provision of Certain Special Source Credits; and other matters related thereto. David Smith Seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-07 ordering a referendum to determine whether the SC Dept. of Revenue may issue temporary permits to allow for the possession, sale and consumption of Alcoholic Liquors by the drink to Bona Fide nonprofit organizations & business establishments authorized to be licenses for consumption on-premises sales and to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sales. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor with David Smith voting no.

EMS Director Rob McCraw updated council on EMS reporting hopefully by Thursday, we will have our physical license for our ambulances which means we can begin hiring. We also have our final audit for our supply list and we hope to have all that stuff on site by early next week.

Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to award RFP 2026-26 Scrap Metal at the Landfill to Metal Recycling Services for their bid of \$170/ton. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Merv Bishop stated that at the February 17th County Council meeting, you approved & allocated funding for the EMS budget in the amount of \$3,207,781 which would include 6 new ambulances with cots & transport and 5 QRV's. These funds would come from the county's unrestricted fund balance. We have since determined that leasing the ambulances & QRV's would be financially better. The proposed lease would result in annual payments of \$530,350.26 over a 4-year term for the ambulances and \$126,656.49 annual payments over a 3-year term for the QRV's. I am requesting council to allow Administration to approve for the leasing of 6 ambulances and 5 QVR's for EMS. This would take the place of the upfront purchase from the unrestricted fund balance.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to allow Administration to sign the contract for the lease for 6 new ambulances for the EMS for an annual payment of \$530,350.36 over a 4-year term

in place of an upfront purchase from unrestricted fund balance. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to allow Administration to sign the contract for the lease 5-QRV's (Quick Response Vehicle) for EMS services for an annual payment of \$126,656.49 over a 3-year term in place of an upfront purchase from the unrestricted fund balance. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley had no report at this time.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:33 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 Liberty, Project Dead Cell and Bericap SC, LLC. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:30 PM. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Joe Mathis reported that no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-03 consenting to an extension of the investment period of the Fee Agreement by & between Cherokee County, SC, and Bericap SC, LLC and other matters related thereto. Peter Wlkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-06 authorizing, under certain conditions, the execution & delivery by Cherokee County, SC of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes Agreement with Project Cruiser with respect to a Project in the county whereby the Project would be subject to payments of certain Fees in Lieu of Taxes; and providing for other related matters. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to reappoint Jim Cudd to serve another term on the Cherokee Co. Development Board. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Elliott Hughes made the motion to appoint Ian LeCroy to serve a term on the Corinth Fire District Board. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to appoint Ty Satterwhite to serve a term on the Cherokee Co. Citizen Planning Commission. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Spencer made the motion to appoint Christopher Scott Drake to serve a term on the Upstate Workforce Board. Elliott Hughes 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 6:33 PM.

APPROVED: **05/18/26**

BY ITS CHAIR: **Tim Spencer**

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council