DATE: 11/3/26 **FILE NO: DATE689**

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting, 11/2/26

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, 11/2/26, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer presided with Peter Wilkins leading in prayer. All council members were present. Administrator Bishop, Attorney Mathis, Attorney Joe Johnson 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 20+ visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of Monday, 11/2/26 as received; posted in accordance with the SCFOIA; and amended by moving under #8: Ordinance 2026-28 to #13: Action to be taken following executive session. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to approve the minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting of 10/19/26 and received. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of $723,694.04 as presented. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Tim Spencer opened the public hearing in regard to Ordinance No. 2026-29 to amend Section 6-1, *et seq*. Of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances regarding the adoption of Technical Codes. No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-29 to amend Section 6-1, *et.seq*., of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances regarding the adoption of Technical Codes. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-30 to authorize and approve an Agreement for the Development of a Joint Industrial & Business Park (Joint Government Building Park) by and between Spartanburg County and Cherokee County, such industrial & business park to be geographically located in Spartanburg County and established pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of South Carolina 1976, as amended; and matters related thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-32 to authorize & approve a Master Agreement to develop a Jointly Owned & Operated Industrial & Business Park in conjunction with Spartanburg County, such Joint Industrial & Business Park to be geographically located in Cherokee County and established pursuant to Section 4-1-10 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg County; to provide for the expense of the Park, the percentage of revenue application,

and the distribution of Fees in Lieu of Ad Valore Taxation; and providing for other related matters. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-34 to amend Section 18-25(c) of the Code of Ordinances of Cherokee County, SC, to add an exemption from the Routine & Formal Bid Procedures for Contracts specifically approved by Ordinance of the County Council; and to provide for other matters related thereto. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Administrator Bishop reported that 8 bids were received for RFQ 2027-05 Cherokee County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The plan in place now will expire 8/25/27. This is funded by a federal grant with a 75%/25% match. The federal gov. will pay 75% and the county the 25%. A committee from the EOC reviewed the bids and recommend awarding the Bid 2027-05 to Witt O'Brien for $73,450**. [Donnie Hardin made the motion to award RFQ 2027-05 Cherokee County Hazard Mitigation Plan to Witt O'Brien for $73,450. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Bishop recognized Cherokee County Development Board Deputy Director Noah Beason for being selected as a 2026 SCBIZ Emerging Leader under 40. This is a significant honor and recognizes young professionals across South Carolina who are making a meaningful impact in their industries & communities.

Administrator Bishop introduced the new SWC Director Randy Parris. He will begin full-time on 11/9/26. He is now working part-time until he finishes his notice with his previous employer. I want to also thank PWD Director Jackie Wyatt and Landfill Supervisor Ronnie Benton for all their hard work in trying to get our trash collection corrected. Christy Bradley was over the software for our trash collection and she left and it fell on Jackie. He has been training by the company on what & how it works. We had a lot of problems and I talked with a company today and their job is trash. If they come in to straighten out these problems, we are looking at 30 to 45 days to correct the solid waste route ware. This route ware is totally new technology for our guys and they are trying to learn all that. We are trying to fix it as we move on. Our guys are working on the weekends & extended hours. We are currently in the process of collecting those cans in mobile home parks, etc. David Smith asked who is learning the route ware system? Merv replied Jack Wyatt. David replied we need several people to learn this in case Jackie is out or whatever. We need more than one person who is trained in route ware. Peter Wilkins, with the employees working on weekends & extended hours, how do we stand with our budget? Merv replied we are close to our budget for that department. Along with payroll, we have had to rent vehicles/equipment. Randy & I are going to work on ways to better streamline in that department. I have someone from another county to come in and give us guidance. As for our budget, we are okay now but I will bring back some information to you as to where we stand. Next week, we will have our tax revenues coming in and we also are offering the opt out as well. We have had about 50 already to opt out; and out of that about 11 had utility buildings on their property. Peter asked if the company that is coming in to straighten out the software, did they give you a cost of how much that will

cost? Merv replied they are working on that now. Chair Spencer asked if a truck is picking up his route and it comes 4:00 pm and they stop that route and go to dump at the landfill, when they come in the next day, do they go back to where they left off or does that person need to wait until the next week to get their trash picked up? Merv replied we are working on that kind of problem. Our dump truck has to go to the landfill and dump 1 or 2 times, so we are looking at the trucks beginning at their furthest route and work their way in to save time & travel. We do not have a camera on our old trucks. Peter asked how hard would it be to put cameras in the old truck? Merv replied that is not our big concern now, our main concern is getting this software worked out and teaching our guys how to use it. Chair Spencer asked, "are taxpayers paying for a full year on the trash fee now? Merv replied you set your milage during budget time on a full year. Chair Spencer stated that our system of picking up trash was good until we started this fee and now, we are getting all kinds of calls from our residents. They are saying, "I'm paying for trash pickup and I'm not getting the service?" Merv replied we have not been able to get our trucks and it's been a difficult journey getting everybody's trash picked up. We have a lot of old equipment that needs repairs or replacement. Tim replied, "I don't know the solution but do we need to straighten out these problems and then begin the fee?" Merv replied if we take the fee off, then we will need to redo our budget. David Smith asked where are we on convenient centers? Merv replied we have been looking at sites. We have been given information that some of the Fire Chiefs are wanting to talk with us about putting convenient centers at their facility. Peter Wilkins asked, is there an option to put dumpsters at some locations to help people out without having to go to the landfill? Merv replied that Republic is getting me a quote on that. Donnie Hardin replied if we do go with dumpsters, we will need guidelines to go by or our county will be in a mess. Merv replied we have talked with S&ME regarding our Sollid Waste Management Plan. It is time to update this plan and when we do, we need to know what direction council is willing to go. Are we talking about getting out of trash? Are we talking about convenient centers? Our plan hasn't been updated since 2015 and we are to update every 10 years.

Administrator Bishop asked council to allow county employees who accrue vacation time the opportunity to cash out a portion of their unused leave. Employees with 1 to 10 years of consecutive service would be eligible to cash out up to 40 hours of accrued vacation leave; and employees with more than 10 or more years of consecutive service would be eligible to cash out up to 80 hours of accrued vacation leave. **[Donnie Hardin made the motion to allow Administration to offer to the county employees who are eligible for the cash out project as outlined and also to update the Personnel Policy to include this. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Administrator Merv Bishop passed out to council a sketch of Exit 90 & 92 off I-85 where we are proposing to install a 100' Pole Option for high mast lighting. The cost will be $480,162 and we can pay this from the Hospitality Tax. We also will need to rent a crane to install the pole for $3,000/day. We should only need this one day. If we divide the cost between the Board of Public Works, City of Gaffney and Cherokee County Council this cost would be $161,054/each. BPW will install the poles, connect them, etc. Let me know your thoughts and I can bring this back to council in ordinance form.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion for council to go into Executive Session at 5:45 PM regarding four matters: 1) three matters 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 Cherokee County served by the public body specifically: (1a) Project Habersham; (2a) Hamrick Mills, Inc.; and (3a) Project Stratus. 2) Pursuant to Section 30-4-70(c)(2) discussion of negotiations to proposed pending contractual matter on former Broad River Electric Facility and Cherokee County Landfill. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:19 PM. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis reported that no vote or action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-28 authorizing the sale of certain real property in Cherokee County, South Carolina identified by Cherokee County Tax Map Numbers 065-00-00-061.000 and 065-00-00-062.007 for a price of $4.5 million; and other related matters. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-12 authorizing, under certain conditions, the execution & delivery by Cherokee County, SC of a Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement with a company identified for the time being as Project Habersham with respect to a Project in the County whereby the Project would be subject to payment of certain Fees in Lieu of Taxes; providing for the designation of the 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 with Peter Wilkins opposing.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-33 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by & between Cherokee County, SC, and a company identified for the time being as Project Habersham; 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. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor with Peter Wilkins opposing.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-35 authorizing the execution & delivery of a Restated Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement and amendments to a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement; and an Infrastructure Financing Agreement, each by & between Cherokee County, SC, and Hamrick Mills, Inc.; 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.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

APPROVED: **11/16/26**

BY ITS CHAIR: **Tim Spencer**

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council