DATE: 7/21/26 **FILE NO: DATE682**

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of the PH & Regular Meeting Monday, 7/20/26

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Monday, 7/20/26, 5:10 PM in Council chambers. Vice-Chairman David Smith presided with Billy Blanton leading in prayer. All council members were present along with the Administrator 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 with 25+ visitors.

**Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt the agenda of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of Monday, 7/20/26, 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 7/13/26 as received. Billy Blanton seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County for the FY 25/26 in the amount of $154,384.23 as presented. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to approve the amended claims that were presented on 7/13/26 for the amount of $1,070,481.06. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

Vice-Chairman David Smith opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2026-24 authorizing the Execution & Delivery of a FILOT Agreement by & among Cherokee County, SC and a company known to the County and identified for the time being as "Project Foxtrot", including any related or affiliated entities and any sponsor affiliates, to provide for payment of a Fee-in-Lieu of Taxes and Certain Special Source Revenue Credits; and other matters related thereto. Mrs. Halsden spoke regarding the county giving FILOT Agreements to these developments which she feel hurts our revenue coming into the county. Council received this as information and the public hearing was closed.

**Councilman Billy Blanton made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-24 authorizing the Execution & Delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement by & among Cherokee County, SC, and a company known to the County and identified for the time being as "Project Foxtrot", including any related or affiliated entities and any sponsor affiliates, to provide for payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes and Certain Special Source Revenue Credits; and other matters related thereto. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.** Cherokee County Development Director Ken Moon announced that Project Foxtrot is UFP Structural Packaging, LLC and will be investing $4.5 million and creating 136 jobs with starting pay at $21.75/hr.

Administrator Merv Bishop had no report at this time.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported to council on Bid No. 2026-28 C-Funds Paving Project. She reported that two bids were received: **1)** Cherokee Landscaping & Grading Co., Inc.; and **2)** CGD Construction, LLC. After reviewing the bids, it was determined that the bid received by CGD Construction, LLC, did not meet the specifications outlined in the RFP document and was disqualified. After reviewing the eligible bid to ensure it aligned with market cost, Asst. Administrator Bradley recommended awarding the bid to Cherokee Landscaping & Grading Co., Inc. **[Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to award Bid No. 2026-28 C-Funds Paving Project to Cherokee Landscaping & Grading Co., Inc. for their qualified bid. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley presented to council a working draft of the changes to the Cherokee County Code of Ordinance, Chapter 10, Emergency Preparedness. This is for you to look over and I will be coming back at a later date requesting first reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 10, Emergency Preparedness.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley reported good news is that we were successful in receiving a federally funded BUILD Grant for approximately $1,371 million for the development of shovel ready plans for 17 bridges that are either out of service, are only creek crossings, or are close to end of life owned by Cherokee County. We completed two separate BUILD Grant applications but were not successful with the other which was a construction grant to replace 2 bridges on Brick House Road. We will be pursuing other avenues to accomplish this over the coming years. This type of planning grant will allow Cherokee County to be more competitive to obtain construction grants in the future with shovel ready plans.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley presented a preliminary copy for the Master Plan for the Midway Park. At this point, we have received most of the planning documents that have been provided to Council for review. The primary piece we are still awaiting is the development of project cost estimates for the individual elements included within the plan. This type of planning is what allows a County to think beyond what we can afford to build today and instead position ourselves for what may be possible five, ten, or even twenty years from now. Once the final cost estimates are received, Administration will be able to begin looking at potential phasing and funding strategies and continue working with Council and Economic Development on how we can strategically move elements of the Midway Master Plan forward.

**Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:34 PM pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(5) discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of service encouraging location of expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Cherokee County for Project Tall Grass and Project Mauser. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.**

**Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:07 PM. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.**

Attorney Joe Mathis entertained a motion coming from council to authorize the County Administrator to execute the non-binding Letter of Intent to sell the property referred to as the Broad River Electric Co. located at 811 Hamrick St. to the Gund Co., LLC for $5 million. **[Billy Blanton made the motion to authorize the County Administrator to execute the non-binding Letter of Intent to sell the property referred to as the Broad River Electric Co. located at 811 Hamrick St., Gaffney, to the Gund Co. LLC for $5 million. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Vice-Chairman David Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.

APPROVED: **8/3/26** Respectfully submitted,

BY ITS CHAIR: **Tim Spencer** Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council