DATE: 9/22/26 **FILE NO: DATE686**

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of PH & Regular Meeting Monday, 9/21/26

There was a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Monday, 9/21/26, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Tim Spencer called the meeting to order with David Smith leading in prayer. All council members were present along with Administrator Bishop, 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 along with 15 visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda of the PH & Regular Meeting of 9/21/26 as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA with the amendment of taking off Item 9: Resolution No. 2026-05. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 9/8/26 and Special Call Meeting of 9/10/26 as received. Teresa Bonner seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the claims for Cherokee County in the amount of $736,086.57. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Spencer opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance No. 2026-25 to update the Cherokee County Code of Ordinance, Chapter 10, Emergency Preparedness. No one was present to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Charles Lewis, 134 Lionshead Way, Gaffney, spoke to council regarding concerns regarding the Cherokee County FYB 2026/27. He asked where is our tax dollars being spent. Our roads are dangerous and the grass along them needs to be cut before accidents happen. The SWC fee that will be put on taxpayers will be hard for a lot of residents to pay especially if they are on a fixed income. Also, I ask council that when they begin preparing for the budget next year that the consider how to cut the budget instead of adding services to increase the budget. Look at things they can do to cut it.

Resolution No. 2026-05 certifying property located at 14 Commerce Drive, as a Textile Mill Site pursuant to the SC Textile Communities Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 65 of the Code of Laws of SC, 1976, as amended was taken off the agenda.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-25 to update Cherokee County Code of Ordinance, Chapter 10, Emergency Preparedness. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-26 to amend Ordinance No. 2025-08 Chapter 11, Fire Protection & Prevention, by adding Article

III Entitled Outdoor Burning to the Cherokee County Code of Ordinance. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Donnie Hardin made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-27 amending Ordinance No. 2026-11 relating to "Opt Out" Provisions, providing for severability; providing a repealer clause; and other matters related thereto. Peter Wilkins seconded. Chairman Spencer reported that he had been approached by a Preacher stating that a lot of these small churches cannot afford that fee. Peter Wilkins stated that he too was approached for the same reason. Administrator Bishop replied when I sent out my letter to churches, I gave the top 4 companies that offer that service, but they are willing to deal with whomever they want to. This is just the first reading and we can make changes as you go along. **Council voted in favor.**

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-28 authorizing the sale of certain real property in Cherokee County, SC identified by Cherokee County Tax Map Numbers 065-00-00-061.000 and 065-00-00-062.007; and other related matters. Peter Smith seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Joe Mathis stated this tax map is referring to the vacant county owned Broad River Electric property.

Administrator Merv Bishop gave a presentation on the Property Tax Installment Payment for collecting the SWC fee. SC Code 12-45-75 explains the authority; how an installment program could operate in Cherokee County; identify financial, administrative & taxpayer's considerations; and discuss the information needed before council considers an ordinance. Taxes paid through a mortgage escrow account are not eligible. The Treasurer administers the program with coordination involving the Auditor & Assessor. There would be 5 installments of 16 2/3% each: Feb. 15, April 15, June 15, Aug. 15, Oct. 15 and the remining balance on Jan. 15 of the following taxable year. It explains how the funds are handled; gives examples; gives important limitations; administrative considerations for Cherokee County; and questions for council to consider. If council votes to more forward, then the program gives steps that will need to be followed; and references to give you more information (a copy of the presentation is attached). There are 11 counties in our state that offer this and I reached out to 5 of them. All of them have a small participation that chose the opt out clause. I talked with QS1 who will do the software for this program and to install the program it will cost $12,200. It would take us about 1 year to get this program in place and going. This is just information for you to consider. We will come back with an ordinance for you to review before having 1st Reading, etc.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:23 PM pursuant to two matters: 1) Section 30-4-70-(a)(1) for the purpose of discussion related to a personnel matter in the Administration Dept.; and 2) Section 30-4-70(a)(2) the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending lawsuit or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion for council to come out of Executive Session at 6:58 PM. Donnie Hardin seconded and council voted in favor. Attorney Mathis reported no action was taken.

As there was no other business to come before council at this time, Chairman Spencer adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

APPROVED: **10/5/26**

BY ITS: **Chair Tim Spencer**

Respectfully submitted,

Doris F. Pearson, Master Clerk to Council