DATE: 9/9/26 **FILE: DATE684**

TO: Cherokee County Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Regular Meeting Tuesday, 9/8/26

There was a Regular Meeting of County Council Tuesday, 9/8/26, 5 PM in Council Chambers. Chairman Spencer called the meeting to order with Merv Bishop leading in prayer. All council members were present except Elliott Hughes who was absent. Administrator Bishop, Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley and Master Clerk to Council Doris Pearson were present. Attorney Joe Mathis was absent. The news media was informed by agenda and one was present. There were 13 visitors.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, 9/8/26, 5 PM as received and posted in accordance with the SCFOIA and amended by adding Councilman Peter Wilkins & Councilwoman Teresa Bonner. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, 8/17/26 as received. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to pay the claims for Cherokee County as presented in the amount of $834,059.93. David Smith seconded and council voted in favor.

Chairman Spencer presented certificates from the Institute of Government to: Administration Bishop on completing Level II of 18 hours of advanced county government instructions & classes; and to Councilwoman Teresa Bonner on completing Level I of 27 hrs. of formal county government instructions & classes.

Councilman Peter Wilkins asked Admin. Bishop to update council on the matter we talked concerning payment plan for property taxes. Admin. Bishop replied there is a State Statue Section 12-45-75 that explains how property tax plan is set up. Once council gathers all information they need, then we can proceed with the ordinance process. I've been talking with our QS1 who does our software for tax purposes and there is software that addresses this. Peter replied that there is software out there where residents can do installment plans on property taxes and it want hit them so hard at the end of the year. It would be an escrow account with the county that they would pay monthly/quarterly to go toward the year ending property tax invoice. It would be a free service to the taxpayers without penalty. I'm asking council to give Administration & Treasurer Office permission to check into this and report back to us. Merv replied that he has been in contact with other counties throughout the state that offer this plan to their residents. Admin. will gather this info and report back to council at your next meeting. QS1's fee will be around $12,200 + $7500 to set up the installment plan; and $5,000 a year to maintain the program.

Councilwoman Teresa Bonner asked Administration to research offering reliable & affordable transportation throughout our county for residents who don't have transportation to be able to go to medical appointments, back & forth to work, etc. Chairman Spencer stated Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director Frannie Stockwell came before council on 3/7/22 regarding a Public Transportation Feasibility Study and it was performed. Chairman Spencer asked Administrator Bishop to check into this and report back to council.

Councilman Peter Wilkins made the motion to adopt the 2nd 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.

Administrator Bishop update to council on the Impact Fee Study was to remind them that the Cherokee Co. Citizen Planning Commission will be meeting Thursday, 9/10/26, 10 am and on their agenda is for them to make a determination on recommending the Cherokee Co. Impact Fees to council.

Administrator Bishop requested permission to go out for RFP for Vehicle Body Work Streamline Service for an on-call contract for automotive collision repair, body repair, painting & refinishing services for county owned vehicles & equipment. This would help Administration to establish a list of qualified vendors that we can utilize on an as-needed basis with work assigned through vendor rotation based on availability, location, capacity and the type of repair required. The proposed contract would be for one year with the option to renew it annually for up to four additional years. We would evaluate the proposals based on pricing, qualifications, experience, service capabilities and overall value to the county. We would ask them what would need to be done before we assigned the vehicle to them. Peter Wilkins stated you would need to have them give you a prize up front also. Council agreed to have Administrator Bishop get more information on this and report back to council.

Administrator Bishop updated council on the burn ordinance. We have met with Emergency Management, Forestry Commission and Fire Depts. to review this ordinance. I have given each of you a copy of last year's ordinance and we have made the changes in red for you to review. I'll bring this back to you for consideration of 1st Reading at your next scheduled meeting.

Asst. Admin. Bradley gave a short presentation on the SS4A. Two years ago, the county received a federal planning grant that would pay for a company to come in and evaluate our plans. This takes a lot of putting in a lot of data from several different departments and will take into consideration feedback from people and council. It will look at the comprehensive plan. It is really hard to ask for money whether it be on grant level or business, corporations, etc. This is one of the tools that we can show & use for federal funding. The second part of this involves a lot of community involvement. This gives us guidelines for putting together our projects. Debbie Jones several years ago put together a book on all our roads and that was all we had. This program will take that data and put it on software and include every single road in Cherokee County which will help us keep up with the infrastructure. The data that we pulled from DOT; basically, one thing that the program will show will be the number of crashes on roads and where we need to adjust roads. Peter Wilkins asked would the county get paid from the federal grant for the number of hours we put into this program? Kristy replied no, this is a planning grant and we want to give and get as much information as possible working with them.

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley asked permission to go out for the County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Utilizing FEMA Current Funding. This plan covers the long-term plans to protect our county residents during natural disasters, flooding, etc. This is very critical and we have applied for FEMA grant funding and they agreed to fund part of the preparing for the plan. Our plans have to be updated by 8/1/2027. That seems far away but it takes a lot of planning and FEMA agreed to give us a grant to update our plan. **[David Smith made the motion to allow Administration to go out for bid for the County Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates Utilizing FEMA Current Funding. Peter Wilkins seconded and council voted in favor.]**

Asst. Admin. Kristy Bradley announced to council that she has submitted her resignation as Asst. Admin. to Administrator Merv Bishop effective 9/16/26 and will be taking a position with the SCDOT in Spartanburg County.

Councilman David Smith made the motion to appoint the following to serve a term on the 2026/27 Local Accommodatons Tax Commission: Zakary Sampson/Zakary's Coffee; Bobby Beatie/Logan Street Hotdogs; Ken Moon, Director of Cherokee Co. Development Board; Cline Gore, III/White Columns Funeral Home, LLC; Brooks Allison/Cherokee Co. Veterans Museum; Lisa Butler/Kron City Campground; and Amanda Walker/Pine Haven Campground, LLC. 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 5:47 PM.

APPROVED: **9/21/26** Respectfully submitted,

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