



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Complex  
17675 S. Muskogee Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

## Meeting Minutes - Final RULES COMMITTEE

*Johnny Jack Kidwell, Chair  
Kevin Easley, Jr., Co-Chair*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke  
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,  
E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

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Monday, December 15, 2025

4:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kidwell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Callison gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 17 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Daniel Mead

*Marshal Mead offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

Office of the Attorney General - Chad Harsha

*Attorney General Harsha provided both background and an update on the hunting and fishing litigation. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Coates inquired about the relationship between water rights and wildlife and if it created a precedence. Councilor Deere inquired about our juvenile courts and the number of cases. Councilor Shotpouch inquired if there have been any hunting and fishing citations given. Councilor Tehee requested additional information, if known, on the rider attached to the defense bill for Lumbee Tribe recognition.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

*Ms. Terrapin offered to answer questions from the report that has just been emailed.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Swepston gave report highlights and comparison statistics from the previous year. She offered to answer any questions. Chair Kidwell requested the statistics on the At Large car tags.*

Gaming Commission - Audra Imhoff

*Ms. Imhoff reported that the OMES conducted their inspection and audit of all casinos, we are in compliance and no finding were reported. She offered to answer questions from the report.*

Human Resources - Samantha Hendricks

*Ms. Hendricks provided some highlights from the report then offered to answer any questions. Councilor Callison inquired if the "How to Apply" referred to in the report can be shared on social media.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

## AMEND THE AGENDA

**Councilor Hall moved to amend the agenda to include two items passed out of Resource Committee earlier today. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### 25-112

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING LITIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

**Councilor Hall moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried along with the request to forward to Council this evening.**

### 25-113

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND GRANT AGREEMENT

**Councilor Hughes moved to approve. Councilor Easley seconded the motion. Councilor Callison requested to be added as a sponsor. The motion to approve carried.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilor Deere gave an update on the Lumbee Tribe Fairness Bill that is attached to the Defense Bill. He stated they do meet the requirements of NCAL. The Eastern*

*Band of Cherokee Indians is at Congress today where the vote will take place.  
Councilor Callison inquired which Congressman attached it to the Defense Bill.*

*Chair Kidwell announced Brooke Neff just received her Master Degree from the  
University of Oklahoma. He also requested prayers for Deputy Speaker Easley's  
grandma who is ill.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Easley seconded the motion. The  
motion carried at 4:31 p.m.**

#### STAFF PRESENT:

*Samantha Hendricks  
Shella Bowlin  
Daniel Mead  
Brooke Neff*

*Brandon Scott  
Gwen Terrapin  
Chad Harsha  
Michael Lynn*

*Sharon Swepston  
Audra Imhoff  
Canaan Duncan*

#### VISITORS PRESENT:

*John Young*

*Todd Enlow*