



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Tribal Council Minutes - Final TRIBAL COUNCIL

*Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker*  
*Kevin Easley, Jr., Deputy Speaker*

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

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Monday, November 10, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker of the Council

**Speaker Kidwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

**Present** 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeedy; Danny Callison; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

**Absent** 1 - Julia Coates

**Late Arrival** 1 - Joshua Sam

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Councilor Deere made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief

*Chief Hoskin reported on the Cherokee Nation stepping up, while the federal government is shut down, to assist those who receive SNAP benefits from the State. The Cherokee Nation committed \$11m to this crisis while the State of Oklahoma chose not to tap into their surplus funds to aide in the SNAP benefit shortfall. We provided additional funds to food banks and food pantries across the reservation to assist in the food shortage. Chief Hoskin commented on his recent visit to the White House for a Tribal Leaders Summit. November is Native American Heritage Month and among all of the events there will be a Families Are Sacred Summit at the Saline*

*Courthouse. Survivors of Domestic abuse and violence can now withdrawal funds from their 401K without penalty. Veterans Summits will be held on the 12th for the Southern Region and Northern Region. Chief Hoskin announced additional pay for employees who are fluent speakers and for those who are learning the language. Speaker Kidwell gave appreciation to the Leadership for stepping up.*

#### CHEROKEE WARRIOR VETERAN AWARDS

Bryan Warner, Deputy Principal Chief

and

S. Joe Crittenden, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

*Deputy Chief Warner and Secretary of Veteran Affairs Crittenden presented Michael Lee Shephard and Richard Paul Walker with the Cherokee Medal of Patriotism. Deputy Chief Warner commented tomorrow is Veteran's Day and expressed his gratitude for the former and current military.*

#### ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

*Mr. Garrett reported on the final FY2025 financials. He recognized Chris Carter and Jerry Holderby both CNB Board members in attendance. They currently have Sixty-percent Native American employment. He commented on the very emotional and impactful experience 120 Cherokee Federal Employees had when they came to Tahlequah last week. He commented on the positioning and potential for November and December. He offered to answer questions from the report.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Rules Committee

- A. [25-106](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO WESTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Sponsors:** Codey Poindexter

**Councilor Poindexter made a motion to approve. Secretary Sam seconded the**

motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-078-25

**B. [25-103](#)**

**A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN SPARKS AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION GAMING COMMISSION**

**Sponsors:** Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Daryl Legg, Julia Coates, Joe Deere, Candessa Tehee, Kendra McGeady and Joshua Sam

**Councilor Grass made a motion to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-079-25

**C. [25-104](#)**

**A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LYNDON EMBERTON TO THE CITIZEN COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION**

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

**Councilor McGeady moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-080-25

**D. [25-105](#)**

**A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CLARICE DOYLE AS A COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD SEAT AS AN EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE PHOENIX**

**Sponsors:** Kevin Easley, Johnny Kidwell, Danny Callison, Kendra McGeady, Clifton Hughes, Joe Deere, Melvina Shotpouch, Dora Patzkowski, Daryl Legg and Lisa Hall

**Deputy Speaker Easley made a motion to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-081-25

**E. [25-107](#)**

**AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 68 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED**

**Sponsors:** Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Candessa Tehee and Dora Patzkowski

**Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:**

**Yea:** 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-31-25

Executive and Finance Committee

F. [25-108](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #26-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 1 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:** Dora Patzkowski

**Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve. Secretary Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:**

**Yea:** 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeedy; Danny Callison; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-32-25

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilor Deere announced a Veterans parade in Collinsville.*

*Councilor McGeedy announced a community meeting in South Coffeyville on the 13th. She also announced the Anna Mitchell Holiday Market on December 3rd.*

*Councilor Shotpouch announced a joint community meeting at the Jay Community Center on the 14th with Councilor Hughes.*

*Councilor Huges announced a Veterans parade tomorrow.*

*Councilor Blackfox-Qualls announced the dates and times for the Okay, Hulbert and Peggs Thanksgiving meals. The Tahlequah VFW Purple Heart Event at the memorial statue in front of Reasor's is tomorrow.*

*Councilor Hall announced a community meeting in Dry Creek on December 8th along with Councilor Poindexter.*

*Councilor Legg announced a community meeting at the Sallisaw Middle School on the 17th.*

*Councilor Poindexter announced a community meeting on December 11th with Councilor Hughes.*

*Deputy Speaker Easley announced the Rogers County Potluck is free for Veterans tomorrow. On the 18th he would be having a community meeting at the Chelsea High School Cafeteria.*

*Councilor Grant announced a community meeting on December 9th at the Greenwood Cultural Center.*

*Councilor Callison announced a community meeting with Councilor Hughes on the 24th at the Mayes County Event Center.*

*Speaker Kidwell wished the U.S. Marine Corp a 250th Birthday. He gave appreciation to all of the Veterans. At Large meetings will be in Arizona this weekend. The TERO Awards Banquet will be held on the 20th at Hard Rock. A citizen registration event will be held in Little Rock, AR on the 22nd.*

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chamber the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried at 6:41 p.m.**