



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Tribal Council Minutes - Final TRIBAL COUNCIL

*Mike Shambaugh, Speaker*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke*

*Phone: 1-800-995-9465*

*E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

---

Monday, June 16, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Mike Shambaugh, Speaker of the Council

**Speaker Shambaugh 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** 16 - Johnny Kidwell ; Candessa Tehee; Danny Callison; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; E. O. "JR." Smith; Mike Shambaugh; Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates and Kendra McGeady

**Absent** 1 - Mike Dobbins

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief

*Deputy Chief Warner congratulated those Councilors who won their re-election. He gave appreciation to the Cherokee Vote team. He spoke about the employee incentive for a higher education degree. He reported on the advocating efforts against the Job Corp cuts. Last month the rural fire departments through out the reservation were recognized for their efforts. The 2nd Annual Rare Disease Summit was held last week. The CCO Conference was held a few weeks ago with record attendance. He announced a grant for emergency generators. Visitors from the Department of Justice came to tour our Criminal Justice System post McGirt. Ribbon cuttings were held for the Jay Head Start and the Nowata Food Distribution Center. The Juneteenth celebration will be held this Thursday. The Remember the Removal Bike Riders return this Friday. Deputy Chief Warner read into the record a statement from Chief Hoskin*

*pertaining to the Claremore Hospital. Deputy Chief Warner recognized Chris Welch in attendance with three individuals from M.I.T. This year's Summer Youth Leadership participants introduced themselves with George Roach following by giving an overview of the program.*

#### 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 Robin Eugene Still and Donald Gene Kenser with the Cherokee Medals of Patriotism.*

#### ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Monthly Reports:

##### Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

*Ms. Molly Jarvis reported in the absence of Mr. Garrett. She reported Cherokee Federal has maintained growth. She announced the Cherokee National Research Center as a new program. The Cherokee Film Institute graduation was held. She announced the return of Stories on the Square. She offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Tehee inquired about National Treasure nominations and about Cherokee Art Show applications.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### AMEND THE AGENDA

**Secretary Kidwell moved to amend the agenda to include a Resolution pertaining to the Federal Highway Bridge Program. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried,**

##### Rules Committee

1. [25-055](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TO TRANSFER TITLE OF THE CLAREMORE INDIAN HOSPITAL**

**PROPERTY TO THE UNITED STATES IN TRUST FOR THE  
CHEROKEE NATION**

**Sponsors:** Mike Shambaugh, Kevin Easley, Danny Callison, Mike Dobbins,  
Candessa Tehee, Joe Deere, Kendra McGeady and Dora Patzkowski

Deputy Speaker Easley moved to approve the revised version provided.  
Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor  
Hall abstaining.

Enactment No: R-045-25

2. [25-056](#)

**AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 44 CHAPTER 1 SECTION 6(F) OF THE  
CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED RELATING TO FREE  
AND INDEPENDENT PRESS FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION -  
2025 AMENDMENTS**

**Sponsors:** Mike Shambaugh, Kendra McGeady, Kevin Easley, Candessa Tehee,  
Codey Poindexter and Joe Deere

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

Enactment No: LA-15-25

Executive and Finance Committee

3. [25-058](#)

**AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #33-24 AUTHORIZING THE  
COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 -  
MOD. 6; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:** Joshua Sam

Councilor Sam moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.

Enactment No: LA-16-25

4. [25-059](#)

**AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #34-24 AUTHORIZING THE  
COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2025 - MOD. 9; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:** Joshua Sam

Councilor Callison moved to approve. Deputy Speaker Easley seconded the  
motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: LA-17-25

5. [25-060](#)

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR TRIBAL  
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM BRIDGE FUNDING**

**Sponsors:** Mike Shambaugh, Daryl Legg, Melvina Shotpouch, Joshua Sam,  
Kendra McGeady and Dora Patzkowski

**Councilor Legg moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-046-25

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilor Coates announced the At Large Community Meeting would be in Canton, Georgia on June 28th.*

*Deputy Speaker wished a 100th Birthday to Wayne Kellehan.*

*Several Councilors requested the families of Cherokee who have passed over the last month be in everyone's prayers.*

*Speaker Shambaugh commented it is an honor to be on the Tribal Council. He congratulated the Councilors who were re-elected.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried at 6:46 p.m.**

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 14th, 6:00 p.m. at the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.