



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Tribal Council

Friday, February 9, 2007

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Session

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Hoskin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Tribal Council Chambers, W.W. Keeler Complex.

INVOCATION

Councilman Bill John Baker gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 15 - S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; Melvina Shotpouch; John F. Keener; Cara Cowan Watts; William G. "Bill" Johnson; Buel Anglen; Charles "Chuck" Hoskin; Taylor Keen; Jack D. Baker; Bill John Baker and Audra Smoke-Conner

Absent 2 - Linda Hughes-O'Leary and Meredith Frailey

Chief Smith announced that Speaker Frailey is recovering from knee surgery and is unable to attend this special meeting. He stated he has forwarded a request to the speaker to remove the second item which is the appointment of Troy Poteete in the nomination for the Supreme Court. Deputy Speaker Hoskin stated that item will be removed without any action taken.

AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #26-06 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 - "Emergency Ice Storm Assistance"; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Chief Smith presented a one minute video on the Cherokee Nation Ice Storm Relief Efforts, January 2007. More than 5000 applications were received requesting emergency relief funds and 150 Cherokee Nation employees responded immediately with assistance by delivering water, food supplies, clearing trees from roads and homes, taking care of elders and the most frail citizens. He commended Charlie Soap, Todd Enlow and other employees of Cherokee Nation who were there on the ground very early. If the Council recalls two weeks ago a request was made for \$200,000 for relief and they began in those communities which they believed were the hardest hit and that included Clouds Creek and Oak Hill Piney in Delaware County. Monday, January 22nd nearly 400 families came forward to ask for assistance and the numbers grew for a total of 5219 families seeking storm assistance. Cherokee Nation closed the receipt of applications last Friday at 7:00 p.m. For those that were shut in or homebound they have been making home visits to continue the application process. When this process began they did not anticipate the overwhelming need and it was slow to get the processes in place but by the second and third day things moved very quickly. No process is perfect including the electric companies, the State and FEMA even though it is their job to anticipate the logistics and deal with disasters. Cherokee Nation did understand what a great sense of community was with the local agencies but also is very disappointed with FEMA's response to the ice storm damage in Northeastern Oklahoma. This is one of those rare extraordinary

circumstances where Cherokee Nation has had the opportunity to respond to emergency needs of Cherokee people. The average amount per family was \$361.00 and to anticipate the need they have so far assessed to help the balance of the 5219 tribal members he is submitting to the Council his proposal for budget modification of \$2.5 million dedicated to the disaster relief.

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to give an additional \$2.5 million in the comprehensive budget to take the total up to \$2.7 million. Councilman Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclamation.

Enactment No: LA-05-07

Deputy Speaker Hoskin stated in the years he has spent on this Council and in the years he has been involved in the Cherokee Nation, what a pleasure it is to come together quickly as a Council and approve an amount of dollars like \$2.7 million because there has been a time in Cherokee Nation history not to long ago that the Cherokee Nation would have been unable to do that and he appreciates the fact they can do this for our people because after all that is what they are suppose to be here for. He gave appreciation to Chief Smith for his work in this and his help to the Cherokee people.

Chief Smith announced the basketball game at Sequoyah High School tonight at 6:30.

Councilman Bill Baker stated Councilor O'Leary was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family.

Deputy Speaker Hoskin announced today is Councilman Bill John Baker's birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business presented, Councilman Bill Johnson moved for adjournment.

Chuck Hoskin, Deputy Speaker
Council of the Cherokee Nation