



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final RULES COMMITTEE

*Mike Shambaugh, Chair*

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

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Thursday, February 29, 2024

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Shambaugh called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 16 - Candessa Tehee; Danny Callison; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Mike Dobbins; Mike Shambaugh; Victoria Vazquez; Johnny Kidwell ; Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr. and Julia Coates

**Late Arrival** 1 - E. O. "JR." Smith

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Vazquez moved to approve. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*Mr. Buhl reported on trainings the Marshals have been attending. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Tehee requested an update on the GRDA.*

Office of the Attorney General - Chad Harsha

*Mr. Harsha reported on a couple of the items the Council would be considering under new business. He provided an update on pending litigation. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Patzkowski inquired if the Governor's Native American Affairs Liaison had any part of the negotiations in the tobacco compact. Councilor Tehee commented on some of the miss information being given to the public. Councilor Callison inquired as to the total amount of funding given to the State in tobacco sales over the years. Chair Shambaugh gave congratulations on the*

*successful negotiations with the tobacco compact. He inquired about the status of the motor vehicle compact.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

*Ms. Terrapin offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Chelsea Fisher from the Tax Commission offered to take any questions back to Ms. Swepston. Councilor Legg requested the dollar amount given to the State in tobacco sales over the years be emailed to the Council.*

Gaming Commission - Audra Imhoff

*Ms. Imhoff offered to answer questions from her report.*

Human Resources - Samantha Hendricks

*Ms. Hendricks announced they continue with open interviews. She offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Legg requested clarification on the Chief's Executive Order on hiring program participants. Councilor Callison inquired about Human Resources being split between Cherokee Nation and Health. Councilor Smith inquired if there has been an incline or decline in hiring young people. Councilor Sam inquired about remote jobs. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls inquired about progress on posting opening and closing on the webpage for external positions. She inquired about the time duration from selection to start date.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

1. [24-009](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF VIVIAN COTTRELL AS AN ADVISORY MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATIONAL TREASURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Councilor Vazquez moved to table for one month. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
2. [24-010](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF VRYL KEETER AS AN ADVISORY MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATIONAL TREASURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. Councilors Tehee and Poindexter requested to be added as sponsors. Mr. Keeter was given a few moments to speak. The motion carried.**
3. [24-011](#) VERNA D. THOMPSON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2021; 2024 AMENDMENTS

*Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. Councilor Tehee requested clarification on the department placement if consolidated with CDC*

*being child care and Head Start being education. She gave concern that the Head Start wasn't included in the task force. Chief Hoskin gave clarification and provided input on the intent of the legislation. Councilor Tehee pointed out a scrivener's error on the last page "descretion" should be "discretion" Councilor Callison commented on the detailed report attached to the business item. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls requested as they move forward with the task force that Head Start be included. She suggested child care services for the staff at the clinic and hospital. Councilor Coates requested clarification as to why this would need to be legislated and not considered a re-organization.*

**The motion to approve carried with the correction of the scriveners error.**

4. [24-012](#)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING TITLE 73 CHAPTER 2 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE

*Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve. Councilor Kidwell seconded the motion. Councilor Coates requested clarification on if this is a repeal and replace or an amendment. AG Harsha gave an explanation for the reasoning of it being a repeal and replace. Councilor Coates inquired about revising instead for a legacy standpoint. Councilor Tehee commented it isn't the bones of the item that is in contention, she requested clarification on the sunset clause, and why we wouldn't want to see what our predecessors did, she stated she failed to understand why the language just disappears. Councilor Vazquez commented on frequently passing laws with a sunset clause.*

**The motion to approve carried with no opposition.**

5. [24-013](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BALLOT QUESTION ON A CONSTITUTION CONVENTION AND SETTING A SPECIAL ELECTION

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

6. [TMP-410](#)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL

**Councilor Coates moved to approve. Councilor Kidwell seconded the motion. Councilor Kidwell commented there are several things within our Rules of Procedure that need updating, he would be bringing those forward at a later date. Councilor Vazquez offered a friendly amendment to include Culture Committee in Section VI as a new "J". The friendly was accepted. The motion carried.**

7. [TMP-411](#)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S INVITATION TO APPOINT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TO AN EXECUTIVE / LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING WORK GROUP

*Councilor Vazquez made a motion. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. Chair Shambaugh gave background for the work group. He stated he requested help from the Attorney General, the Chief, and Natural Resources. There are some maps already available. He stated this gets the ball rolling, he does see a committee being formed that would supersede the suggestions of the work group. He stated working together is the best solution. Once appointed to a committee he suggested the importance of those appointments being those who don't have a vested interest, are termed out or would have no gained interest in the redistricting. He stated this is the first step to get the Councilors to come in and view the maps. Councilor Kidwell inquired about thoughts on having an outside independent body to do the redistricting and take politics out of the process. He also inquired as to the number of participants*

in the work group. Councilor Coates stated it is very clear in the Constitution at this is a Legislative Branch function. She voiced concern for the tremendous reduction of the Councilors being involved. Councilor Tehee commented on the district lines and how they should be determined. She stated a targeted number of individuals guiding this process, specifically Council leadership as each of you are termed out, having the ultimate authority on what is presented to Council. She agreed if anyone is doing invitation to a working group it should be the Legislative. Chair Shambaugh stated the districts are determined by population and no one here is going to dictate their own district, but you will have input. Councilor Easley stated he doesn't agree with having an outside source to do the redistricting. He agreed the invitation for the work group should of been from the legislature but at the end of the day this is a work group and the very beginning of the process. Chief Hoskin expressed briefly with the spirit of which the Executive Branch comes in this.

**Chair Shambaugh called for a vote where no opposition was heard.**

AMEND THE AGENDA

**Councilor Patzkowski moved to amend the agenda to include an Amendment to Title 68. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

- 8. [24-023](#) AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 68, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 71 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilor Smith announced a history class being held in Vian tonight at 6:00 p.m.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Patzkowski moved to adjourn. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:31 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Shannon Buhl</i>	<i>Chad Harsha</i>	<i>Taralee Montgomery</i>
<i>Chelsea Fisher</i>	<i>Connie Parnell</i>	<i>Marcus Fears</i>
<i>Gwen Terrapin</i>	<i>Samantha Hendricks</i>	<i>Audra Imhoff</i>
<i>Daniel Mead</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>	<i>Corey Bunch</i>
<i>Jody Reece</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Harvey Chaffin</i>	<i>Rick Doherty</i>	<i>Vryl Keeter</i>
<i>John Young</i>		