



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

## Tribal Council Minutes Tribal Council

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Monday, January 14, 2008

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### CALL TO ORDER

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

### INVOCATION

**Former Councilor Jackie Bob Martin gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 17 - S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb; Chuck Hoskin, Jr. ; Julia Coates and Bill John Baker

**Councilor Buzzard made a motion to amend the agenda to include the amendments to the 2006 and 2007 Indian Housing Plans. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Councilor Jack Baker moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 Regular Session. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### STATE OF THE NATION

*Chief Smith requested a moment of silence for those friends and loved ones lost over the last month as Councilor Jack Baker's sister, Evelyn Moore, and B. Bob Stopp. Veterans honored this month were uncle and nephew Orville Baldrige and Orville S. Baldrige. Chief Smith stated last Friday they announced a planning process to pursue a comprehensive health care system with W. W. Hastings Hospital. They will closely examine each hospital operation to determine what is best for the patient as to whether it should be moved over to the Cherokee Nation or remain as an Indian Health Service operation. Two main advantages of a Cherokee Nation comprehensive health care system include shared patient information between our clinics and the hospital and as a tribal facility the hospital would be eligible for more federal funding which could translate into more patient services. He stated the eligibility requirements will remain the same and that if some of the services are*

assumed by the Cherokee Nation every Hastings employee will be asked to continue their service and given the option of becoming tribal employees or remaining IHS employees. The plan is to study this comprehensive health care system until June. The Cherokee Nation has been approved for a joint venture with Indian Health Services to build a new health care center in Vinita. The IHS will pay the operating cost if the Cherokee Nation builds the building. The health care facility will dramatically improve the availability of health care services for Native Americans in Craig County. The preliminary plans include a 40,000 square foot facility with a total construction cost of \$14ml. Cherokee Nation's diabetes nurse practitioner, Heather Zimmerman, at the Salina Clinic has become the tribes first board certified advanced diabetes manager. The Human Services and the Cherokee Nation Angel Tree Coordinators requested appreciation be given to David Stewart and the CNE employees for their contributions. The angel tree provided Christmas to approximately 1100 children. In addition to CNE's sizable donation to the angel tree they also sponsored 350 angels. He stated there were many others who contributed to the angel tree project such as Cherokee Nation employees, the Council of the Cherokee Nation, and people from all over the United States. Chief Smith provided a plaque of appreciation to Emily Bushyhead from CNE. The Cherokee Nation Youth Tribal Council held their inauguration ceremony on December 1st. He announced the Sequoyah High School girls' basketball team won the Shriner's tournament this past week as well as placing 5th in the Nike Imitational Tournament in Phoenix. There were four brackets in the Nike Tournament with the Sequoyah girls playing in the toughest of the four. They were not only the smallest team in size but in the number of students. He introduced Brett Riggs who has contributed to Cherokee history, thought, archeology, and anthropology. Chief Smith announced the dedication of the Three Rivers Health Facility will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the 7th of February.

#### ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Monthly Reports:

##### Housing Authority - David Southerland

*Mr. David Southerland announced they have established a transition team to work on transferring housing programs over to the Cherokee Nation. They are meeting weekly sometimes more. They are making progress and with the input of the Tribal Council they have developed a buy out package for the board to consider tomorrow night. The board will all discuss a memorandum agreement between the Cherokee Nation and the Housing Authority. He stated the goal is to have staff meetings and in the last week of January present what they consider as program changes. February 4th is the date targeted to inform the employees of their status. There continue to be many issues to be taken care of but they are well on the way.*

##### Cherokee Nation Enterprises - David Stewart

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#### Cherokee Nation Industries - Bryan Collins

*Bryan Collins reported the December monthly sales at \$6.3ml with total sales fiscal year to date of \$20.3ml. This is down approximately 18% from last year primarily due to the health clinic construction projects wrapping up. He announced some of the staffing contracts with the military were not renewed. They are looking for other contracts to replenish those. Local employment is 271 with 82% being Cherokee. He stated of the 107 hands on direct workers in the plant 105 are Cherokee. This was CNI's first year to participate in the Angel Tree program. They locally supported and helped 52 children and want to expand next year. The next board meeting is scheduled for January 28th at 2:00 p.m. in the Tulsa facility.*

#### Cherokee Nation Business, Inc - Callie Catcher

*Mr. Brad Carson reported they continue to help CNE and CNI in a number of ways. Over the last six months they have reviewed an approximate 75 different business opportunities in various stages of development. CNB has 51 employees with an approximate 2/3rd being Native American. He stated they employee by and large some of the most skilled people in the entire Cherokee business world. Over that last few weeks they have been putting in place the right human resource programs where current positions not filled by Cherokees there are plans in place to groom the Cherokees for the position. He announced a tentative board meeting is scheduled for the 9th of February.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. **A RESOLUTION FOR THE COMMISSION OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION LANDFILL IN ADAIR COUNTY**

**Councilor Fishinghawk moved to table to the next meeting. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion passed with opposition from Councilor Soap.**

2. **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS TO SUBMIT A FORMAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THE INTER-TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL SUPERFUND PROGRAM**

**Councilor Cowan Watts moved for the approval. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

3. A RESOLUTION HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARY ROSS

*Councilor Cowan Watts stated this is in honor of Ms. Ross' 100th birthday. She has many ties to Rogers County but lives in California. She is one of the first female Native American engineers. Ms. Ross assisted with the first moon landing while working with NAS.*

**Councilor Cowan Watts moved for the approval. Councilor Coates seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

4. A LEGISLATIVE ACT REQUIRING TRUTH IN ADVERTISING FOR NATIVE ART

*Speaker Frailey stated after much deliberation and input from citizens we have this Act for consideration. Councilor Cowan Watts stated this is different from the Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act in that we are actually requiring federally recognized tribal citizens to say they are Indian artists within the Cherokee Nation.*

**Councilor Cowan Watts moved for the approval. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclamation.**

5. AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #37-07 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 - MOD 3; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

**Councilor Jack Baker moved to approve mod 3 which reduces the overall budget by \$18,000 down to \$429ml. This is the general fund increase of \$4,000 in carry over from the Sequoyah Commission, adding \$61,000 to the Healing to Wellness Court, increasing the self governance fund carry over of \$53,000 and a net decrease from last year in the NAHASDA fund of \$137,000. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclamation.**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

*Councilor Bill John Baker stated he is unable to vote in favor of these resolutions. He isn't convinced of the necessity to purchase an inventory of lots years in advance without building homes along with them. Councilor Glory Jordan also opposes the amendments. She stated it appears we would be buying anywhere from 210 five acre lots to 925 one acre lots. We have no input from the people who may be living in these homes that these are places they would want to live. Councilor Cowan Watts stated although we do not know each and every detail this plan is needed in order to meet our long term strategic needs of the communities. If we continue to invest in the funds for economic development and diversifying businesses it is imperative that we invest in land early while the land is cheap and available. In our history we had communal land bases owned by the tribe with the people only owned the improvements to the land. She stated she is very comfortable returning to this type of situation where the tribe benefits as a whole rather than putting funds into individual families and letting it go. She stated there is a need to support the rural school. Councilor Crittenden stated he will also oppose due to not having any reassurance of homes being built in the next two to three years.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Harley Buzzard and seconded by Councilor Cara Cowan Watts, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yea:** 13 - David Thornton Sr. ;Don Garvin;Meredith Frailey;Cara Cowan Watts;Buel Anglen;Jack D. Baker;Jodie Fishinghawk;Janelle Fullbright;Harley Buzzard;Curtis Snell;Chris Soap;Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates
- Nay:** 4 - S. Joe Crittenden;Tina Glory Jordan;Chuck Hoskin, Jr. and Bill John Baker

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZIING THE SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT #2 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilor Harley Buzzard and seconded by Councilor Cara Cowan Watts, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yea:** 13 - David Thornton Sr. ;Don Garvin;Meredith Frailey;Cara Cowan Watts;Buel Anglen;Jack D. Baker;Jodie Fishinghawk;Janelle Fullbright;Harley Buzzard;Curtis Snell;Chris Soap;Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates
- Nay:** 4 - S. Joe Crittenden;Tina Glory Jordan;Chuck Hoskin, Jr. and Bill John Baker

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Councilor Cowan Watts announced due to a scheduling conflict with the Council Chambers the 2:00 and 2:30 meetings regarding the PAC sub committee and the TERO review tomorrow will be held in the Council House conference room. The 2:00 PAC sub committee will convene and then quickly adjourn to January 31st at 3:30 p.m.*

*Councilor Cobb announced he and Councilor Anglen have been working over the last several months on a living treasure award usually given at the National Holiday. Ms. Betty Smith has passed away and he requested a few moments to read a portion of her obituary. She is an author of Cherokee books teaching the Cherokee language.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business presented, Councilor Cowan Watts moved for adjournment. The next regular Council meeting will be held on February 11th, 6:00 p.m. at the W.W. Keeler Complex.**

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**Meredith A. Frailey, Speaker  
Council of the Cherokee Nation**