



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final RULES COMMITTEE

*Joe Byrd, Chair*

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

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Thursday, July 31, 2014

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Byrd called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Thornton gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 14 - Cara Cowan Watts; Tina Glory Jordan; Dick Lay; Lee Keener Jr.; David Walkingstick; Jack D. Baker; Harley Buzzard; Joe Byrd; Don Garvin; Frankie Hargis ; Curtis Snell; Janees Taylor; David Thornton, Sr. and Victoria Vazquez

**Late Arrival** 3 - Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright and Julia Coates

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Vazquez moved to approve the June 17th regular session minutes. Councilor Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*No one was present to report.*

Office of the Attorney General - Todd Hembree

*Ms. Sara Hill reported in the absence of Attorney General Hembree. She announced the FOIA report is now on their website and will be posted there every month. A hearing was held last Friday on the 2 acre case with the UKB.*

Codification - Todd Hembree

*Christina Carroll gave an update on codification by stating there is an end in sight.*

*The publisher isn't waiting on anything from us at this time. They should receive the index and preface material today to review. There will be five volumes of five-hundred pages each. They should be receiving final drafts over the next month or so.*

Office of the Attorney General - Todd Hembree

*Councilor Coates inquired about the Windham Wintun Tribes recognition and the Cherokee Nation's involvement. Councilor Cowan Watts requested a follow up of a consultation the Attorney General had in California recently regarding the federal recognition regulations. Councilor Buzzard requested a review of a case where a full blood was arrested for gathering crawdads.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Swepston offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the placement of a tag office at the Catoosa/Tulsa Welcome Center.*

Self-Governance - Vickie Hanvey

*Mr. Hastings reported in the absence of Ms. Hanvey. He announced they are currently working on the Department of Interior fiscal year 2015 reprogramming request and have also begun renegotiating our office of Special Trustee MOU. They are also looking into expanding the Self Governance within the Environmental Protection Agency. Some questions were asked about the Contract Support Cost settlement.*

Gaming Commission - Jamie Hummingbird

*Ms. Kelli Myers reported in the absence of Jamie Hummingbird. She offered to answer questions from the report provided. She sadly reported they have recently lost one of their gaming agents at the Hard Rock, Bill Sunday.*

Human Resources - Nason Morton

*Mr. Morton reported they are working toward a paperless employee action notices to speed up the process. Their long term goal is for the Human Resources Department to be completely paperless. They are meeting with each department regarding their hiring issues, vacancies, hold ups and any other issues. He didn't have an update on the pilot program for interviews. He reported the number of employees hired this calendar year to date is 258. Councilor Buzzard inquired how many current vacancies at the Nation. Chair Byrd requested a review of the Sequoyah special education teachers to keep them on their insurance throughout the year.*

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*Chair Byrd announced he just received notice Marshal Buhl is out on a call and will be in attendance here as soon as possible.*

## OLD BUSINESS

1. [TMP-313](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TELEPHONE AND INTERNET FOR THE TRIBAL COUNCIL

*Speaker Glory Jordan gave an update of the situation and highlighted the discussion from the month prior. Each Councilor voiced their preferences. It was requested*

*options A and B be provided in writing for review and determination.*

**Councilor Glory Jordan made a motion to table for 2 months to September. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

2. [14-059](#)

AN ACT AMENDING LA-04-14 THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION CODE TO ADDRESS NOTARY PUBLIC ISSUES AND THE RETURN OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

*Councilor Coates gave an overview of the proposed changes. She provided a copy of a letter from Election Commission Chairman Bill Horton and an example of a jurat. Councilor Coates moved to approve. Councilor Baker seconded the motion. Councilor Glory Jordan offered a solution to have the jurat information on the left side of the envelope opposite the acknowledgement side on the right.*

**Councilor Coates moved to table for one month. Councilor Baker seconded the motion. The motion failed with a voice vote.**

*Councilor Coates agreed with the compromise to add the jurat information to the outside of the envelope on the right side along with the voter's signature but also requested the language be included in the law itself. After additional discussion was held Councilor Cowan Watts requested that the legislative intent of this body is that the Election Commission under the law that we have written is to accept legal California notaries whether it meets the envelope or other requirements made by policy of the Election Commission. She requested an opinion of the Attorney General and the attorney of the Election Commission. Councilor Glory Jordan requested the Election Commission be present at the month next month for questions. She requested to table for one month to allow time to discuss with the Election Commission.*

**Councilor Coates moved to table for one month. Councilor Glory Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

## NEW BUSINESS

1. [TMP-315](#)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL RECOGNITION WORK GROUP UPDATE

*Councilor Hargis provided a proposed policy handout. Councilor Baker is working on a definition for item #1. Clarification was given regarding the process for submitting someone to be recognized. The work group members were named as Councilors Hargis, Snell, Vazquez, Baker and Fullbright.*

**Councilor Hargis moved to table for one month to allow for amendments to this proposed policy. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Thornton moved to adjourn. Councilor Hargis seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:28 p.m.**

## STAFF PRESENT:

*Sharon Swepston  
Nason Morton  
Rhonda Trumbla  
Shannon Buhl*

*Christina Carroll  
Clint Hastings  
Kelli Myers  
Sara Hill*

*Tracy Asher  
Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Jody Reece*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Dianne Barker Harrold  
Ruth Ann Weaver*

*Ashley Fox  
Larry Horn*

*Lisa Long  
Gina Olaya*