



# 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, May 28, 2015

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Byrd called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Chairman Byrd gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 13 - Cara Cowan Watts; Tina Glory Jordan; Janelle Fullbright; Dick Lay; Lee Keener Jr.; Jack D. Baker; Harley Buzzard; Joe Byrd; Don Garvin; Frankie Hargis ; Curtis Snell; Janees Taylor and Victoria Vazquez

**Late Arrival** 4 - Jodie Fishinghawk; David Walkingstick; Julia Coates and David Thornton, Sr.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Baker moved to approve the April 30th regular session minutes. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*Mr. Buhl reflected on the recent lives lost due to the area floods. The Oklahoma Scenic River Commission wants to enter into a MOU to conduct search and rescue operations in the Illinois Watershed. He offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

Office of the Attorney General - Todd Hembree

*Mr. Hembree gave an update on the letter received from the BIA regarding the election law. He provided an update on the Freedman issues. Councilor Cowan Watts requested clarification on the BIA letter. She also inquired about the codification, it being placed on the web and the availability to the public. Councilor Lay requested the letter from the BIA providing resolution from the May 11th letter be*

*provided to the Council. Mr. Hembree announced there will be a rebirth of the Cherokee Nation Bar Association.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

*Ms. Terrapin gave an update on the FOIA and GRA requests. She stated the requests and responses from 2002 to 2013 are now also on the website.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swebston

*Ms. Swebston from the Tax Commission was not available to report.*

Self-Governance - Vickie Hanvey

*Ms. Hanvey provided an update from the recent self-governance conference held. She reported a settlement has been reached with the Indian Health Service and the union employees that may affect our funding but it is yet to be determined. Clarification was requested regarding the lawsuit.*

Gaming Commission - Jamie Hummingbird

*Ms. Kelly Myer offered to answer questions from the report in the absence of Mr. Hummingbird. Councilors stated the written report was not provided. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the status of the implementation of the new Act. Councilor Keener inquired about the timeline for the implementation to be completed. Councilor Taylor inquired about the lower of the reporting standards.*

Human Resources - Nason Morton

*Mr. Morton gave an update on the electronic EAN update for hiring. He also provided an update on the open enrollment process for the insurance benefits. Councilor Walkingstick inquired about an incentive program for the employees. A request was made for a report to be provided.*

## OLD BUSINESS

1. **TMP-329** DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CLOSING THE LOOPHOLE ALLOWING CANDIDATE FOR PRINCIPAL CHIEF AND OTHER OFFICES TO RAISE AND SPEND MONEY AND ESCAPE ACCOUNTABILITY BY NOT FILING FOR OFFICE  
**Councilor Thornton moved to approve to allow discussion. Councilor Fishinghawk seconded the motion. Councilor Thornton requested Councilor Attorney Dianne Barker Harrold to review the Election Law and possibly the State requirements and report back. Councilor Glory Jordan suggested forming a work group to discuss the gray area with a possible revision to the current election law. Councilor Thornton moved to table for one month. Councilor Walkingstick seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
  
2. **TMP-330** DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:  
(A) WHAT CONSTITUTES SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR A COUNCILOR TO CLAIM TRAVEL TO AND FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS, INCLUDING TRAVEL FROM PERMANENT RESIDENCES AND FROM TEMPORARY WORK LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF CHEROKEE NATION?  
(B) MAY THE COUNCIL REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL FUNDS, FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS, FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

WHO DID NOT HAVE A SUFFICIENT BASIS TO CLAIM SUCH FUNDS?

**Councilor Thornton moved to table. Councilor Glory Jordan inquired if this should also be considered by the work group. Councilor Walkingstick seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

3. [TMP-331](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: REVIEW OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY
- Councilor Glory Jordan commented they are working on a more specific explanation of elective and official travel. She moved to table for one month. She commented if anyone else had any changes to consider to please let her know. Councilor Hargis seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. [15-049](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BOBBY MAYFIELD AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
- Councilor Fishinghawk moved to approve. Councilor Hargis seconded the motion. After several questions were asked of Mr. Mayfield all Councilors requested to be added as sponsors. The motion carried.**
2. [15-050](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSH KING AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
- Councilor Hargis moved to approve. Councilor Walkingstick seconded the motion. After questions were completed and additional sponsors were added the motion to approve carried with Councilor Glory Jordan abstaining.**
3. [15-051](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF LAUREN JONES TO THE CHEROKEE PHOENIX EDITORIAL BOARD
- Councilor Vazquez moved to table. Councilor Glory Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
4. [15-052](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF LUKA E. MADISON AS A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION COMPREHENSIVE CARE AGENCY (PACE)
- Councilor Vazquez moved to table. Councilor Glory Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
5. [TMP-326](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: REPORT FROM THE RECOGNITION WORK GROUP
- Councilor Hargis reported the work group's findings and their decision not to move forward with Councilor Keeners request at this time. If Councilor Keener would like to speak to her after this committee and submit in an alternate form they would reconsider their findings. Councilor Cowan Watts requested clarification on the process. Chair Byrd inquired who the work group members are at this time.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Thornton moved to adjourn. Councilor Hargis seconded the motion.  
The motion carried at 2:26**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Shannon Buhl</i>	<i>Todd Hembree</i>	<i>Gwen Terrapin</i>
<i>Nason Morton</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>	<i>Gary Cooper</i>
<i>Vickie Hanvey</i>	<i>Kelly Myers</i>	<i>Rhonda Trumbula</i>
<i>Canaan Duncan</i>	<i>Marsha Lamb</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Bev Cowan</i>	<i>Josh King</i>	<i>Bobby Mayfield</i>
<i>Teddy Snell</i>	<i>Natalie Fullbright</i>	<i>Ruth Ann Weaver</i>
<i>Keith Austin</i>	<i>Dianne Barker Harrold</i>	