



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Dora Patzkowski, Chair*  
*Danny Callison, Co-Chair*

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

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Thursday, September 25, 2025

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patzkowski called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Chair Patzkowski gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

*Councilor Coates attended remotely.*

**Present** 18 - Mike Dobbins; Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Uriah Grass; Candessa Tehee; Ashley Grant; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeedy; Johnny Kidwell; Kevin Easley Jr.; Dora Patzkowski and Danny Callison

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### REPORTS:

Cherokee Nation Businesses - Chuck Garrett

*Ms. Molly Jarvis reported the strong headwinds continue into the 2026 financials. The uncertainty in federal contracting continues. The work force is currently at 67.5% Native American employment and 59.1% Cherokee employment. The 20th annual Cherokee Art Market is scheduled for October 11th and 12th. She offered to answer questions from the report.*

Financial Report/Treasurer Report - Janees Taylor

*Ms. Taylor announced they are a few days away from closing out fiscal year 2025. She stated it is a busy time for the procurement department. She stated they are watching the federal government in anticipation of a shutdown. She stated this isn't new territory and the preparations the Cherokee Nation has made. She offered to answer questions.*

Career Services/Employment - Diane Kelley

*Mr. Hunter Palmer offered to answer questions for Ms. Kelley.*

Commerce - Anna Knight

*Mr. Stephen Highers offered to answer questions for Ms. Knight.*

#### CONSENT ITEMS:

*No questions or concerns were voiced.*

T.E.R.O. CERTIFICATIONS

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUESTS

ROADS

SPORTS TEAMS APPLICATIONS

LIVESTOCK PREMIUM SHOW APPLICATIONS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. [25-102](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEM TO THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INC.  
**Councilor Sam moved to approve. Councilor Easley seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
2. [TMP-425](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – TRIBAL COUNCIL BUDGET ITEMS:  
*Councilor Sam made a motion to enter discussion. Councilor Callison seconded the motion.*

1. *Community Meeting Funds currently at \$7,000 per Councilor. Request to increase to \$15,000 per Councilor.*
2. *Community Assistance Fund currently at \$50,000 per Councilor. Request to increase to \$75,000 per Councilor.*
3. *The need to hire a Public Relations person and a Communications person for the Tribal Council as Cherokee Nation employees. Total budget of \$150,000.*
4. *Codification - to provide a better format of statute law and an online up to date presence.*

*A vote isn't necessary at this point, they will be presented in a Council budget modification and voted on at that point with the exception of the Community Meeting funds change.*

**Councilor Callison made a motion amend the Community Meeting Fund Policy to increase the community meeting funds to \$15,000 per Councilor. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Patzkowski announced during the recent health orientation it was stated Claremore Hospital patients using the pharmacy services must call and update their information.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Easley seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:31 p.m.**

#### STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Janees Taylor</i>	<i>Brooke Neff</i>	<i>Hunter Palmer</i>
<i>Stephen Highers</i>	<i>Jody Reece</i>	<i>Kamisha Daniels</i>

#### VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Logan Lewis</i>	<i>John Young</i>	<i>Teddy Snell</i>
<i>Molly Jarvis</i>	<i>Jack D. Baker</i>	