



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Tribal Council Minutes - Final TRIBAL COUNCIL

Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker
Kevin Easley, Jr., Deputy Speaker

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

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker of the Council

Speaker Kidwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Present 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

Absent 1 - Kevin Easley Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve as submitted. Councilor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief

Chief Hoskin gave highlights from a piece of legislation, the Council will consider later in the meeting, that will enable us to enter a partnership with the University of Oklahoma for a nursing school here in our capitol. Additional pieces of legislation to go along with that are also up for consideration this evening. Just prior to the new year the opportunity zone programs were launched, these loan programs makes up look at the high poverty tracts from the census. The Heirloom Seed Bank Program was recently launched for the year and will close on February 13th. The Harvesting our Heritage Program is the heirloom seed program for Cultural and Community Organizations. Military branch specific veteran license plates will be launched this year. It is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, an event was held to declare this and

raise awareness. We recently hosted the quarterly Inter-Tribal Council at the Hard Rock where a number of resolutions passed with the common theme of Native Americans being at the table when it comes to policy making. Another item for consideration this evening is to expand the vision of what we are doing in the area of substance abuse disorder with the opening of both out-patient and in-patient centers in Vinita and Tahlequah.

CHEROKEE WARRIOR VETERAN AWARDS

Bryan Warner, Deputy Principal Chief
and
S. Joe Crittenden, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Deputy Speaker Warner and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Crittenden honored Cherokee Warrior Veterans John Lesley Brown and Woodrow Wilson with the Cherokee Medal of Patriotism.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Kenwood Softball Team - Councilor Clifton Hughes
Ft. Gibson Public School FFA Team - Council Blackfox-Qualls

Councilor Clifton Hughes recognized Kenwood School K-8 Softball Team for winning the 2025 Championship. The Coach said a few words and the girls introduced themselves. Chief Hoskin added their home field is at the Woody Hair Community Center.

Councilor Blackfox-Qualls recognized the Ft. Gibson Public School FFA Livestock Judging Team. She read highlights from the teams accomplishments for the year including winning State, winning the National Livestock Judging Contest, and to represent the Cherokee Nation and U.S. in the International Royal Highland Competition in Scotland in June of 2026. The team and instructor were introduced.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett reported on the November financials. October was a rocky month and continues to linger mainly on the top line, revenues aren't what we had hoped. On the bottom line a lot of territory was made up over this last month. They continue to hope for more stability with the federal government for the federal contracting side of the businesses. He commented on the events held for New Year's Eve. He stated he is excited for some announcements in the upcoming weeks. Will Rogers Downs kicks off their early season today and will go through the first week of May. Track 5 at Hard Rock has celebrated it's 7th year anniversary. They will host FESTfeb on February 13th and 14th. They are starting to accept applications for the 55th Annual Trail of

Tears Art Show, the show will be held on April 11th through the 16th.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

AMEND THE AGENDA

Secretary Sam moved to amend the agenda to include items D - G passed out of Special Rules Committee earlier today. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rules Committee

- A. [25-113](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND GRANT AGREEMENT**

Sponsors: Candessa Tehee, Julia Coates, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Lisa Hall, Codey Poindexter, Joe Deere and Danny Callison

Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Enactment No: R-01-26

Executive and Finance Committee

- B. [25-114](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #25-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 1; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Sponsors: Dora Patzkowski

Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve. Secretary Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

Enactment No: LA-01-26

- C. [25-115](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #26-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 3; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Sponsors: Dora Patzkowski

Councilor Callison moved to approve. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

Enactment No: LA-02-26

D. [26-003](#)

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN VINITA AND TAHLEQUAH UTILIZING OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS PURSUANT TO THE PHWFA

Sponsors: Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Candessa Tehee, Lisa Hall, Uriah Grass, Daryl Legg, Codey Poindexter, Clifton Hughes, Melvina Shotpouch, Kendra McGeady, Danny Callison, Joe Deere and Ashley Grant

Councilor Blackfox-Qualls moved to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.

Enactment No: R-02-26

E. [26-004](#)

CHEROKEE NATION NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER AND ENDOWMENT ACT OF 2026

Sponsors: Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Danny Callison, Joe Deere, Ashley Grant, Uriah Grass, Lisa Hall, Clifton Hughes, Daryl Legg, Kendra McGeady, Codey Poindexter, Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

Councilor Grant moved to approve. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

Enactment No: LA-03-26

F. [26-006](#)

A COMPREHENSIVE CHEROKEE NATION EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ACT OF 2024, 2026 AMENDMENTS

Sponsors: Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Danny Callison, Joe Deere, Ashley Grant, Uriah Grass, Lisa Hall, Clifton Hughes, Daryl Legg, Kendra McGeady, Codey Poindexter, Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

Enactment No: LA-04-26

G. [26-011](#)

THE CAREER READINESS ACT OF 2019, 2026 AMENDMENTS

Sponsors: Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Danny Callison, Joe Deere, Ashley Grant, Uriah Grass, Lisa Hall, Clifton Hughes, Daryl Legg, Kendra McGeady, Codey Poindexter, Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

Councilor Coates moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

Enactment No: LA-05-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried at 6:46 p.m.