



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Tribal Council Minutes - Final TRIBAL COUNCIL

*Joe Byrd, Speaker*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke*

*Phone: 1-800-995-9465*

*E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

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Monday, May 17, 2021

5:30 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Joe Byrd  
Speaker of the Council

**Speaker Byrd called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Vazquez gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke  
Legal & Legislative Coordinator

**Present** 17 - Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Mary Baker Shaw; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Joe Byrd; Victoria Vazquez; Harley Buzzard; Canaan Duncan; Rex Jordan; Wes Nofire; Daryl Legg; Shawn Crittenden; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Keith Austin and Julia Coates

### AMEND THE AGENDA

**Councilor Duncan made a motion to move the item from the Special Rules meeting to new business. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Councilor Jordan made a motion to approve the April minutes as submitted. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

## STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.  
Principal Chief

*Chief Hoskin reported things are looking better across the reservation in respect to COVID. Over the last month Congressman Tom Cole has proposed legislation that would protect one-hundred percent of McGirt but give the Cherokee Nation options such as compacting. The Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland spoke virtually at the Sequoyah High School graduation. She also approved the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation which we have been long operating under. The series "Cherokee Where Ever We Are" is a way to reach out to citizens but is primarily to replace the suspended At Large meetings. The Cherokee National Holiday this year will be in a hybrid format. The Remember the Removal Bike Riders leave on the 26th and return on the 31st. The fire fighters virtual event was held last week where \$476,000 was given to one hundred and thirty-six rural fire departments in Northeast Oklahoma. This week will be a major milestone in the effort to protect and revitalize the Cherokee language as we prepare to break ground on the old Tahlequah casino. All of the language programs will be moved into the renovated facility known as the Durbin Feeling Language Center. He reported on the speakers homes and the effort of the Congress of the United States in naming their language preservation act after Durbin Feeling. The CNB employee health center is now open. Chief Hoskin reported on the end of the State legislative session coming to an end. Lastly he touched on the proposal, sent to the Council for consideration later this month, of a broad spending plan for the American Rescue Plan Act funding.*

## ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Monthly Reports:

## Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

*Mr. Garrett reported Cherokee Federal is having a record year. CNE continues to exercise their responsible hospitality program. As of Friday masking is optional for guests and still mandatory for employees. They are busy filling key positions in all of their locations. The CNB employee health center is now open and taking appointments. The Cherokee Nation Film Office continues to support Native American writers. The 50th Annual Trail of Tears Art Show will be in July both in person and virtual. The opening of the Cherokee Research Center will be on July 2nd. He reported on the upcoming museum exhibits at the John Ross Museum and the Saline Courthouse Museum. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Shaw requested an update on Arkansas gaming.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

NEW BUSINESS

Rules Committee

1. [21-028](#)                                **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF SUZANNE SULLIVAN AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Sponsors:**            Daryl Legg, E. O. "JR." Smith and Joe Deere

**Councilor Smith made a motion to approve. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-019-21

2. [21-029](#)                                **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF WILFRED C. (W.C.) GERNANDT III AS A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION COMPREHENSIVE CARE AGENCY (PACE)**

**Sponsors:**            Harley Buzzard, Rex Jordan, Keith Austin, Victoria Vazquez, Janees Taylor, Joe Deere, Joe Byrd, Canaan Duncan and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Jordan made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-020-21

3. [21-030](#)                                **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ELMER TADPOLE AS A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION COMPREHENSIVE CARE AGENCY (PACE)**

**Sponsors:**            Keith Austin, Janees Taylor and Joe Deere

**Councilor Austin made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-021-21

4. [21-031](#)                                **a resolution RENEWING the CHARTER OF THE Tsunadeloquasdi Cherokee Immersion school AND APPROVING THE CONTRACT WITH THE Tsunadeloquasdi Cherokee Immersion school BOARD**

**Sponsors:**            Keith Austin and Joe Deere

**Councilor Deere made a motion to approve. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-022-21

- 5.        [21-032](#)                    **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF RUSSELL FEELING AS A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF TSUNADELOQUASDI CHEROKEE IMMERSION SCHOOL BOARD**

**Sponsors:**            Joe Byrd, Keith Austin, Rex Jordan, Victoria Vazquez, Janees Taylor, Joe Deere and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to approve. Councilor Nofire seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-023-21
- 6.        [21-033](#)                    **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF Rufus King AS A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF TSUNADELOQUASDI CHEROKEE IMMERSION SCHOOL BOARD**

**Sponsors:**            Joe Byrd, Keith Austin, Rex Jordan, Janees Taylor, Victoria Vazquez and Joe Deere

**Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-024-21
- 7.        [21-034](#)                    **AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 10A OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:**            Keith Austin, Joe Deere, Janees Taylor, Victoria Vazquez and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Vazquez moved to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: LA-17-21
- 8.        [21-035](#)                    **AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 21 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:**            Keith Austin, Joe Deere, Victoria Vazquez, Janees Taylor and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Legg moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: LA-18-21
- 9.        [21-036](#)                    **AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 21 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:**            Keith Austin, Joe Deere, Janees Taylor, Victoria Vazquez and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Vazquez moved to approve. Councilor Legg seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: LA-19-21

10. [21-037](#)

**AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 22 OF  
THE CHEROKEE NATION  
CODE ANNOTATED AND  
DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:** Keith Austin, Joe Deere, Janees Taylor, Victoria Vazquez and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Taylor moved to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: LA-20-21

11. [21-038](#)

**AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 47 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE  
ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Sponsors:** Keith Austin, Joe Deere, Janees Taylor, Victoria Vazquez and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Shambaugh moved to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: LA-21-21

12. [21-039](#)

**ACT RELATING TO THE NAMING OF THE BONNIE KIRK VILLAGE**

**Sponsors:** Canaan Duncan, E. O. "JR." Smith, Daryl Legg, Joe Byrd, Mike Shambaugh, Joe Deere and Victoria Vazquez

**Councilor Legg made a motion to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor Vazquez requesting to be added as a sponsor.**

Enactment No: LA-22-21

13. [21-040](#)

**ACT RELATING TO THE NAMING OF TSDALENVHI GADUHV**

**Sponsors:** Shawn Crittenden, Canaan Duncan, Joe Deere and Mike Shambaugh

**Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: LA-23-21

14. [21-041](#)

**ACT RELATING TO THE NAMING OF THE CHEROKEE NATION OUTPATIENT  
HEALTH CENTER AS NVWOTII (ᏆᏍᏏᏏᏏ) THE MEDICINE PLACE**

**Sponsors:** Joe Byrd, Wes Nofire, Harley Buzzard, Joe Deere, Mike Dobbins, Canaan Duncan, Rex Jordan, Daryl Legg, Dora Patzkowski, Mary Baker Shaw, E. O. "JR." Smith, Janees Taylor, Victoria Vazquez, Mike Shambaugh, Shawn Crittenden and Julia Coates

**Councilor Shaw made a motion to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor Coates requesting to be added as a**

**sponsor.**

Enactment No: LA-24-21

- 15. [21-044](#) **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL YOUTH COUNCIL ACT**

**Councilor Austin made a motion to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor Vazquez requesting to be added as a sponsor.**

Enactment No: LA-25-21

Executive and Finance Committee

- 16. [21-043](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #17-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - Mod. 7B; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Councilor Taylor made a motion to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. Following discussion Councilor Shaw made a friendly amendment to table the \$33ml health portion of mod. 7A. Councilor Nofire seconded the motion. The motion to approve Mod. 7A less the \$33ml health portion carried with no opposition.**

Enactment No: LA-26-21

- 17. [21-045](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC AND MISDEMEANOR CITATIONS AND DONATIONS TO MUNICIPALITIES**

**Sponsors:** Canaan Duncan and Joe Byrd

**Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Enactment No: R-025-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Taylor moved to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion carried at 6:06 p.m.**

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 14th at 5:00 p.m. at the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.