



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

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Monday, March 15, 2021

5:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Joe Byrd

Speaker of the Council

Speaker Byrd called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Speaker Byrd gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke

Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Councilor Coates attended remotely.

Present 16 - 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 and Keith Austin

Absent 1 - Julia Coates

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke

Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Speaker Byrd announced we are still in a global pandemic and are in a state of emergency which allows council members to attend the Council meeting remotely. Following a motion Councilor Vazquez and a second from Councilor Taylor and no objections heard a second roll call was performed to allow Councilor Coates to attend remotely.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Jordan made a motion to approve the February minutes as submitted. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief

Chief Hoskin announced he went before the Arkansas Legislature today successfully defending the Cherokee Nation against a fraudulent tribe. The most significant of happenings within the last thirty days is the decision of the Criminal Appeals in the Hogner case determining the Cherokee Nation Reservation remains intact. He gave appreciation to all of the work of the Council, the Judicial and the Attorney General to build the criminal justice system needed to prepare to keep the reservation safe. The COVID-19 remains an important and impactful issue on our people. He reported the Cherokee Nation is doing better than anyone in administering the vaccine. The vaccines have been opened up to anyone living within our reservation. We will be remembering the impact of COVID and those lost during a ceremony on March 18th. He reported on the progress of the Cherokee Heritage Center transition. The archives at the Heritage Center have been temporarily moved to the Cherokee Plaza. The new board of the Heritage Center has met for their first meeting and will help guide the future of the Heritage Center. An update was given on the heirloom seed program. The dedication of the Sallie Byrd Sevenstar Community Center in Belefonte was held. The Cherokee Nation Health and Wellness legislation before the Council this evening and the Housing Authority after hours emergency help are two examples of ideas from the people and the Council. These are just two of those ideas that have come to fruition.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett reported gaming and hospitality is moving closer to pre-pandemic levels. The February financial results reflect the closing of the business offices and ten casinos in order to assist in the energy conservation during the recent winter storm. He provided an update on the federal contracting businesses. The CNB employee health clinic, which will be free to CNB employees and their dependents, is scheduled to open on April 19th. The 12th year of racing at Will Rogers Downs begins on March 22nd and runs through May 26th. The Cherokee Nation Film office is hosting another film contest. Cultural Tourism has a new exhibit at the Saline Courthouse showcasing Cherokee Treasure Eddie Morrison. Mr. Garrett announced they will be implementing an updated policy at all casino properties regarding the exclusion of guests for a

certain amount of time. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Shaw inquired about the process for lost and found items at the casino properties. She also requested an update on gaming in Arkansas. Councilor Buzzard inquired when they anticipate to open the casino buffets, venues and other amenities.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

Rules Committee

1. [21-014](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF NATHAN BARNARD AS A DISTRICT JUDGE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

Sponsors: Canaan Duncan, Joe Deere, Mike Shambaugh, Rex Jordan, Victoria Vazquez, Joe Byrd, Daryl Legg, Dora Patzkowski and Keith Austin

Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilors Legg, Byrd, Patzkowski and Austin requesting to be added as sponsors. Supreme Court Justice, Mark Dobbins, performed the swearing in of District Judge Barnard.

Enactment No: R-014-21

2. [21-015](#) **ACT RELATING TO THE NAMING OF THE J.W. SAM - GADUSI BUILDING IN CATOOSA**

Sponsors: Joe Deere, Keith Austin and Janees Taylor

Councilor Deere made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. Councilor Duncan offered a friendly amendment to change the syllabary to reflect the change from Gadusa to Gadusi. The motion carried with the friendly amendment accepted.

Enactment No: LA-10-21

3. [21-016](#) **AN ACT ESTABLISHING TITLE 10A OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED**

Sponsors: Canaan Duncan, Mike Shambaugh, Joe Deere, Daryl Legg and Rex Jordan

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

Enactment No: LA-11-21

4. [21-017](#) **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHEROKEE NATION PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS FUND**

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

Julia Coates, Wes Nofire, Keith Austin and Harley Buzzard

Councilor Dobbins made a motion to approve. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: LA-12-21

Executive and Finance Committee

5. [21-018](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO BRIGGS PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Sponsors: Joe Byrd

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

Enactment No: R-015-21

6. [21-019](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO WOODALL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Sponsors: Wes Nofire

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

Enactment No: R-016-21

7. [21-020](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #16-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - MOD.4; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Sponsors: Janees Taylor

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

Enactment No: LA-13-21

8. [21-021](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #17-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - MOD. 5A; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Sponsors: Janees Taylor

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

Enactment No: LA-14-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Vazquez announced Deb Haaland was confirmed by the Senate today.

Several Councilors announced passings from their districts and requested a moment of silence.

Councilor Austin wished his mom, Ollie Starr, a happy 80th birthday.

Speaker Byrd commented on the Class 2A – 6A playoffs in Oklahoma City. The 2A State champs are from Nowata.

Speaker Byrd announced possibly having the April Council meeting back in the Council Chambers.

Councilor Crittenden announced the Westville boys made it to the State Championship for the first time since 1938.

Councilor Shambaugh announced the Jay Bulldog wrestling team took 2nd at State.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Vazquez moved to adjourn. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried at 5:35 p.m.

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.