



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

Thursday, February 25, 2021

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilor Vazquez gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Coates, Deere and Shaw attended remotely.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Taylor made a motion to approve the January 28th regular session minutes. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

Mr. Buhl reported on the recent awards ceremony held for the Marshals. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Nofire made comments on the awards ceremony and some of the stories told. Chair Byrd inquired if there is anything the Council needs to address in regard with all of the upcoming changes for the Marshal Service. Councilor Dobbins inquired about the search for evidence in pond in Muskogee County referred to in the report.

Office of the Attorney General - Sara Hill

Ms. Hill gave an overview of the reasoning behind the request for the Supreme Court to remove "by blood" from the Constitution. Councilor Nofire questioned the right of the Attorney General and the Justices to strike language from the Constitution. He stated

it is the right of the people to amend the Constitution. He inquired why the request for the removal was made at this time rather than in 2017. Councilor Buzzard requested clarification that this would now allow for the Cherokee Nation to have a non-Cherokee as a Chief or elected official. He inquired if any other tribes allow non-tribal members as elected officials. He also inquired if the "by blood" would be stricken from the Election Code as well. Councilor Deere requested clarification. Councilor Coates that this decision involves deep emotions for the Cherokee people and it goes way beyond the legalities. She agreed the Cherokee people need to have a say in the decisions. She commented on the contradiction in the Constitution. Councilor Shambaugh requested additional notice on issues in the future. He inquired about the BIA approving the last Constitutional amendment. Chair Byrd commented on his right to be an elected official is due to his Cherokee ancestors. He commented on the time when the Cherokee were independent of the Federal Government and the government breaking treaties. He stated it is hard for him fathom a hundred years ago his ancestors sitting around a fire thinking we could have a leader of the Cherokee Nation who isn't by blood. Lastly he stated there is a reason for a Cherokee roll and a Freedman roll. Councilor Duncan commented honoring our ancestors is to uphold what they expressed in the 1866 Treaty.

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

Ms. Terrapin reported for February there are 6 FOIA requests, 1 of those is outstanding. There are no GRA requests at this time. The website has been updated.

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

Ms. Swepston offered to answer questions from the report provided.

Gaming Commission - Janice Purcell

Ms. Purcell offered to answer questions from the report provided.

Human Resources - Alana Casteel

Ms. Casteel offered to answer questions from the report provided.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [21-014](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF NATHAN BARNARD AS A DISTRICT JUDGE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION
Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to approve. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. Following questions of Mr. Barnard the motion to approve carried with no opposition.
2. [21-015](#) ACT RELATING TO THE NAMING OF THE J.W. SAM - GADUSI BUILDING IN CATOOSA
Councilor Austin made a motion to approve with an amendment to change the

spelling of Gadusa to Gadusi. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

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

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

Councilor Crittenden made a motion to approve. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. All Councilors requested to be added as sponsors. Councilor Duncan commented this has been asked for years and it is now coming to fruition. Councilors commented on some of the discussions held during the work group formed on this issue. Gratitude was given for the Administration making this request become a reality.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Duncan made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:21 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Todd Enlow</i>	<i>Taralee Montgomery</i>	<i>Shannon Buhl</i>
<i>Joe Rainwater</i>	<i>Daniel Mead</i>	<i>Sara Hill</i>
<i>Tina Glory Jordan</i>		

<i>Remote:</i>		
<i>Gwen Terrapin</i>	<i>Sharon Swepston</i>	<i>Alana Casteel</i>
<i>Janice Purcell</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Tim Brown</i>	<i>Teddye Snell</i>	<i>Nathan Barnard</i>
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