



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, April 13, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker of the Council

Speaker Kidwell called the meeting to order at

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Present 17 - 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; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Deere moved to approve both the regular and special session minutes. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief

Chief Hoskin reported on the happening of the last month. Including the Public School Appreciation Event where 170 schools were given their annual funds from our tag revenues. The Summer EBT Program is returning to the Cherokee Nation this year which is a way to harness billions of dollars in federal funds to help low income children eat over the summertime, this is expected to serve about 45,000 kids. They gathered at the new housing addition, here in Tahlequah, that is part of the HUD Section 184 Skilled Workers Program which helps find and retain workforce by creating affordable housing solutions. The Pet Partners Program is under the Public Health and Wellness Funding and provides pet care vaccinations and spay and neutering to help with the overpopulation of pets. Mr. Garrett and CNB has been working for the past several years to re-open the Sallisaw Creek Park. The Park now has 74 RV sites, cabins, boat ramp, fishing pond, and hiking trails among many other amenities. A Public Service Career Explorers Program has been launched which will allow student across the reservation to shadow and get exposure to various

departments of the Cherokee Nation. Chief Hoskin commented on the great success of the Easter Egg Hunt held on Good Friday. He gave appreciation to those Councilors who were able to attend Cherokee Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol. On the floor of the House he was able to share some remarks on issues that were important to the Cherokee Nation ranging from curriculum development and Indian Education to the latest in gaming issues but this year, those took a back seat when legislation was put forward to put the question of Medicaid expansion back on the ballot. Chief Hoskin went into detail about how the Medicaid expansion has helped the Cherokee Nation and its impact. With the permission of Speaker Kidwell, Chief Hoskin introduced the 2026 Remember the Removal Bike Team.

CHEROKEE WARRIOR VETERAN AWARDS

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

Cherokee Veteran Larry Dean Blevins was recognized and honored with the Cherokee Medal of Patriotism. Speaker Kidwell recognized other veterans in attendance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

The Special Recognition for the 2026 Remember the Removal Bike Riders was addressed in the State of the Nation.

Councilor Blackfox-Qualls introduced the Locust Grove Archery Teams and read a very long list of achievements and upcoming competitions.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett expressed his admiration and support for the bike riders as they are an amazing group and have worked very hard. He quickly acknowledged board members Mike Watkins and Jerry Holderby in attendance. The March financial package hasn't been delivered yet. He commented on the twists and turns of this past budgeting cycle including the longest government shutdown and the war in the Middle East. He gave appreciation to the team for navigating the rough waters. He provided a financial update including the opening of competition in Coweta. In regard to federal contracting, despite all of the uncertainty around the federal agencies, they have been identifying opportunities. He provided an update on the investment in the utilities company in Houston. Mr. Garrett spoke about the corporate values and resilience. Speaker Kidwell commented that Mr. Garrett and CNB have the unfettered support of the Council and gave appreciation for staying focused.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

Rules Committee

- A. [26-023](#) **A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 44-23 IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER THE RESPOND, RECOVER AND REBUILD PLAN**
- Sponsors:** Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Ashley Grant and Danny Callison
- Councilor Blackfox-Qualls moved to approve. Secretary Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- Enactment No: R-12-26
- B. [26-024](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO THE OKAY FIRE DEPARTMENT**
- Sponsors:** Sasha Blackfox-Qualls
- Councilor Grant moved to approve. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- Enactment No: R-13-26
- C. [26-025](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO THE TOWN OF OKAY**
- Sponsors:** Sasha Blackfox-Qualls
- Secretary Sam moved to approve. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- Enactment No: R-14-26
- D. [26-027](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO NORTHEASTERN HEALTH SYSTEM (NHS)**
- Sponsors:** Dora Patzkowski, Clifton Hughes, Lisa Hall and Danny Callison
- Councilor Hughes moved to approve. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- Enactment No: R-15-26

E. [26-026](#) CHEROKEE NATION COUNCIL HOUSE AND CAPITOL COMPLEX DISTRICT PUBLIC WELLNESS AND BEAUTIFICATION ACT OF 2026

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

Deputy Speaker Easley moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 17 - 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; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-14-26

F. [26-029](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF EDWARD H. FITE III AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

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

Councilor Poindexter moved to approve. Councilor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-16-26

G. [26-030](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF LYNDON EMBERTON AS BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION SEQUOYAH HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-17-26

H. [26-031](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF SUSANNAH PLUMB SCOTT AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION FOUNDATION

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

Councilor Hall moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-18-26

I. [26-032](#)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF AMBER LYNN GEORGE AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION FOUNDATION

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

Councilor McGeady moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-19-26

J. [26-033](#)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF STUART GRAYSON AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION FOUNDATION

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

Councilor Coates moved to approve. Councilor Grant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-20-26

Executive and Finance Committee

K. [26-034](#)

AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #25-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 4; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Dora Patzkowski

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

Yea: 17 - 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; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-15-26

L. [26-035](#)

AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #26-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 6; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Dora Patzkowski

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

Yea: 17 - 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; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-16-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Hughes announced the Watercress Festival is this Saturday at the Saline Courthouse and the Oak Hill/Piney Community Hog Fry and Auction is on the 25th.

Councilor Hall congratulated Cherokee Citizen, Jason Christie, for winning the Bass Master Classic Elite. She also announced her granddaughter Kolbi's first birthday.

Councilor Poindexter invited everyone to the traditional native games.

Councilor Grass announced the College and High School Bass Master events coming soon at Sallisaw Creek Park.

Multiple Councilors requested the remembrance of Citizens who have passed over the last month.

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Patzkowski moved to adjourn. Councilor Shotpouch seconded the motion. The motion carried at 7:09 p.m.