



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Meeting Minutes - Final RULES COMMITTEE

*Johnny Jack Kidwell, Chair
Kevin Easley, Jr., Co-Chair*

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

Thursday, August 28, 2025

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Speaker Easley called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 17 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Deere moved to approve as submitted. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Daniel Mead

Marshal Mead gave highlights from the report then offered to answer any questions.

Office of the Attorney General - Chad Harsha

Mr. Harsha gave an update on the pending litigation and commented on the recently held jury trials. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Deere requested an update on the Stroble case. Councilor Callison commented on the high praises for the Cherokee Nation Assistant Attorney General in Jay.

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

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

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepton

Ms. Neff offered to answer questions in the absence of Ms. Swepton.

Gaming Commission - Audra Imhoff

Ms. Imhoff offered to answer questions from the report. She announced the next board meeting would be held on September 19th at the Hard Rock.

Human Resources - Samantha Hendricks

Ms. Hendricks gave highlights from the report. They continue to move their processes from paper to electronic. She provided an update on the Career Pathways program. She offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls requested the contact information for the Human Resources Health Director.

OLD BUSINESS

1. [25-057](#) AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 21 ("CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS") OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED
Councilor Tehee moved to approve the revised version provided. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. Councilor Coates stated the changes are quite extensive. She offered a friendly amendment to table to allow time to review. Councilor Tehee requested Attorney General Harsha provided an overview of the changes. Following a few additional questions Attorney Young gave additional clarification. Chair Easley inquired if the friendly to table is accepted. Councilor Tehee didn't accept the friendly amendment.
The motion to approve the revised version carried with no opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [25-081](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARILYN VANN AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
Councilor Poindexter moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Vann attending remotely was given the opportunity to speak.
2. [25-082](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF J. BLAKE FLETCHER AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Kidwell seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Fletcher was given a moment to address the Council.

3. [25-083](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LOWELL WALKER AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
- Councilor Blackfox-Qualls moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. Mr. Walker was given the opportunity to speak.**
4. [25-084](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF BARRY REYNOLDS FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Councilor Kidwell moved to approve. Councilor Coates seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Reynolds was given a moment to speak to the Council.**
5. [25-085](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF BILL HICKMAN FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Councilor Callison moved to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Hickman was given the opportunity to speak before the Committee.**
6. [25-086](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF BRENDA THOMPSON FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Thompson was given the opportunity to speak.**
7. [25-087](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF LAURA DISHMAN FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Councilor McGeady made a motion to approve. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Dishman was given a moment to address the Committee.**
8. [25-088](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF JULIE EDDY ROKALA FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Councilor Sam made a motion to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Rokala was given a moment to speak.**
9. [25-079](#) A RESOLUTION ELECTING JOHNNY JACK KIDWELL TO THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
- Councilor Patzkowski made a motion to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. Chair Easley opened the floor for nominations. Councilor Coates nominated Councilor Kidwell. Councilor Callison seconded the nomination. With no other nomination the motion to select Councilor Kidwell as Speaker carried with the following roll call vote:**
- Yea:** 17 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Danny Callison and Johnny Kidwell
10. [25-080](#) A RESOLUTION ELECTING JOSHUA SAM TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Callison seconded the motion. Chair Easley opened the floor for nominations. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls nominated Councilor Sam. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. With no other nomination the motion carried unanimously.

11. [TMP-420](#)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SELECTION OF TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CO-CHAIRS

Councilor Legg moved to approve. Councilor Callison seconded the motion.

Chair Easley opened the floor for nominations for Rules Committee Chair. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls nominated Councilor Kidwell. Councilor Callison seconded the motion. No other nominations were presented. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Chair Easley opened the floor for nominations for Rules Committee Co-Chair. Councilor Callison nominated Councilor Easley. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. No other nominations were presented. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Chair Easley gave the newly elected Rules Chair the gavel to take over the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations for Executive & Finance Committee Chair. Councilor Callison nominated Councilor Patzkowski. Councilor Easley seconded the nomination. No other nominations were presented. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Councilor Easley resigned his position as Co-Chair of Executive & Finance Committee.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations to fill the now vacated Co-Chair of Executive & Finance Committee. Councilor Patzkowski nominated Councilor Callison. Councilor Easley seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Legg resigned his position as the Chair of Community Services Committee.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations to fill the now vacated Chair of Community Service Committee. Councilor Legg nominated Councilor McGeady. Councilor Grant seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations for Community Services Co-Chair. Councilor Legg nominated Councilor Shotpouch. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations for Culture Committee Co-Chair. Councilor Legg nominated Councilor Grass. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no other nominations presented.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations for Resources Committee

Chair. Councilor Shotpouch nominated Councilor Hall. Councilor Grass seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no other nominations presented.

Councilor Hall resigned her position as Co-Chair of Resources Committee.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations for the now vacant Co-Chair of Resources Committee. Councilor Legg nominated Councilor Hughes. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations for Health Committee Chair. Councilor Tehee nominated Councilor Blackfox-Qualls. Councilor Sam seconded the motion. No other nominations were presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Patzkowski resigned her position as Health Committee Co-Chair.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations to the now vacant Health Committee Co-Chair position. Councilor Patzkowski nominated Councilor Grant. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nominations for Education Chair. Councilor Legg nominated Councilor Tehee. Councilor Easley seconded the nomination. The motion carried with no opposition.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for nomination for the Education Co-Chair. Councilor Tehee nominated Councilor Coates. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried with no other nominees presented and no opposition.

12. [TMP-421](#)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SELECTION OF COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Easley seconded the motion. Chair Kidwell explained the selection process for the advisory positions.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for the selection of the 6 vacant CNB advisory positions. Councilors Patzkowski, McGeady, Callison, Legg, Grant, and Sam joined Councilors Deere and Easley to complete the CNB Advisory board of 8 members.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for the selection of the 2 vacant Gaming advisory positions. Councilors Shotpouch and Grass joined Councilor Hall to complete the Gaming Advisory board of 3 members.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for the selection of the 4 vacant Housing Authority positions. Councilors Blackfox-Qualls, Tehee, Hall, and Hughes joined Councilor Poindexter to complete the Housing Authority Advisory board along with Councilor Grant as an alternate.

Chair Kidwell opened the floor for the selection of vacant positions for Inter-Tribal. Councilor Patzkowski resigned her position. Councilor Easley resigned as an alternate. Councilors Poindexter, Kidwell, and Grass joined

Councilor Deere along with Councilor Blackfox-Qualls as the alternate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Easley inquired if Speaker Elect Kidwell would like to make any comments. Councilor Easley commented on the selflessness of the new elected Council leadership.

Recording Secretary Coke requested clarification on Business Item #12 stating there wasn't a vote taken after all of the selections were made. Chair Kidwell requests a vote be taken to confirm the selections of all of the advisory boards. The motion carried with no opposition.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:37 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Chad Harsha</i>	<i>Brooke Neff</i>	<i>Audra Imhoff</i>
<i>Samantha Hendricks</i>	<i>Daniel Mead</i>	<i>Bryan Warner</i>
<i>Gwen Terrapin</i>	<i>Sydnee Krynek</i>	<i>Corey Bunch</i>
<i>Christina Justice</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>John Young</i>	<i>Todd Hembree</i>	<i>Shaun Shepherd</i>
<i>Chuck Garrett</i>	<i>Ed Fite</i>	<i>Amber Edwards</i>
<i>J. Blake Fletcher</i>	<i>Lowell Walker</i>	<i>Barry Reynolds</i>
<i>Bill Hickman</i>	<i>Brenda Thompson</i>	<i>Laura Dishman</i>
<i>Julie Rokala</i>	<i>Bill John Baker</i>	

REMOTE:
Marilyn Vann