



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Meeting Minutes - Final EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dora Patzkowski, Chair
Danny Callison, Co-Chair

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

Thursday, March 26, 2026

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patzkowski called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Co Chair Callison gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Coates attended remotely.

Present 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Uriah Grass; Candessa Tehee; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell ; Kevin Easley Jr.; Dora Patzkowski and Danny Callison

Absent 1 - Ashley Grant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

REPORTS:

Cherokee Nation Businesses - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Ben Blossch provided an update on the February financials, Cherokee Nation Entertainment and Cherokee Federal. He offered to answer any questions from the report.

Financial Report/Treasurer Report - Janees Taylor

Ms. Shelly McClain offered to answer questions from the report.

Career Services/Employment - Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley gave highlights from the report then offered to answer any questions.

Commerce - Anna Knight

Mr. Stephen Highers offered to answer questions from the report provided.

CONSENT ITEMS:

No questions or concerns were voiced.

T.E.R.O. CERTIFICATIONS

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUESTS

ROADS

SPORTS TEAMS APPLICATIONS

LIVESTOCK PREMIUM SHOW APPLICATIONS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.** [26-034](#) AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #25-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 4; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
- Co Chair Callison moved to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:**
- Yea:** 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Uriah Grass; Candessa Tehee; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell ; Kevin Easley Jr.; Dora Patzkowski and Danny Callison
- B.** [26-035](#) AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #26-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 6; AND

DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Yea: 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Uriah Grass; Candessa Tehee; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell ; Kevin Easley Jr.; Dora Patzkowski and Danny Callison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Kidwell announced Legislative Aide, Gayle Miller, is retiring. She will be here through Christmas however will convert to part-time after April. He announced Jennifer Kirk will be taking over Gayle's position. Someone from finance has been selected to take Jennifer's current position. Ms. Jennifer Kirk was given a moment to speak to the Council.

Mr. Reece announced he would be coming forward with a budget modification for the staffing and other changes.

New hire, Ross Winn, was given a moment to speak to the Council pertaining to his new position.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Easley seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:17 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Stephen Highers
Canaan Duncan*

*Jody Reece
Diane Kelley*

Shelly McClain

VISITORS PRESENT:

John Young

Ben Blosch