



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Council House
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes RULES COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 28, 2008

1:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frailey called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Snell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 15 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb; Chuck Hoskin and Julia Coates

Absent 2 - David Thornton Sr. and Buel Anglen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker moved for the approval of January 14, 2008 special session minutes, January 14, 2008 sub committee minutes, February 7, 2008 regular session minutes, and the February 11, 2008 sub committee minutes. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Marshal Service - Sharon Wright

Mr. Jim Redcorn reported in the absence of Sharon Wright. He gave an overview of the written report provided in the packet. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if the housing code enforcement came from the Attorney General's office. Mr. Redcorn stated they are working in conjunction with them. He stated they are trying to determine how to enforce when the home is individually owned rather than a mutual help home. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested a copy of the policy.

2. Justice Department - Diane Hammons

Mr. Nason Morton reported in the absence of Attorney General Diane Hammons. He reported they received a ruling on GRDA case dismissing the Cherokee Nation from the suit. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the district court cease and desist case in regard to the non profit group. Mr. Morton stated Sara Hill is working on this case and he would request she submit an update in regard to the progress. Councilor

Fishinghawk requested a copy of the response filed in regard to Cleveland County and ICI. She further requested a status update on the case. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if an inventory was taken in October when ICI stepped out of all of the equipment. Mr. Morton stated he would inquire and provide an update.

3. Election Commission - Patsy Eads Morton

Chair Frailey announced a written report has been provided in the packet. No one was present to report.

4. Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

Ms. Fonda Gritts reported in the absence of Sharon Swepston. Written reports were submitted. Councilor Fishinghawk requested a breakdown of the drop in tobacco sales by percentage and location once the new rate came into effect as well as the affect of our sales revenue per carton. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the tag offices closing in March. Ms. Gritts stated they are closing for quarterly training. Councilor Buzzard inquired how the people were being informed of the offices being closed. Ms. Gritts stated it has been posted in the newsletter, the phoenix as well as the tag offices. Councilor Buzzard voiced concern for the offices closing completely that not everyone reads the phoenix and would only see the closed notice at the tag office once they made the drive to get there. He further commented on the need for security cameras at the tag offices for the protection of the staff. Ms. Gritts stated they are in the process of acquiring cameras at this time. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about a flex schedule at the tag offices to allow them to be open later in the evening.

5. Self-Governance - Vickie Hanvey

Secretary of State Melanie Knight reported in the absence of Vickie Hanvey. Councilor Soap inquired about the agreement reached on several outstanding issues listed in the report provided. Ms. Knight stated most recently they have negotiating with the DOI on the renewed funding agreement. Some of the issues are the security clearances, JOM, and the housing improvement program.

6. Gaming Commission - Jamie Hummingbird

No one was present to report. A written report was submitted.

7. Codification - Todd Hembree

Mr. Todd Hembree invited any interested parties to attend the codification meeting set for tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. here at the Council House. He stated during this meeting a strategy map would be determined. He announced the Council staff has been working to ensure there are electronic copies of all pieces of legislation.

8. GEG Investigation Report - Diane Hammons

No report given.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Recommendations of the Elected Officials Compensation

Councilor Garvin made a motion to table this item to the March Rules meeting. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. AN ACT RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF TITLE 19 OFFICERS AND MEETINGS; ADDING DIVISION OF QUESTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilor Jack Baker made a motion to table this to next month to allow time for the Council attorney’s review. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Fishinghawk inquired about the status of the Most Favored Nation Clause. Councilor Hoskin Jr. stated there was discussion regarding the clause and the tobacco compact. He stated there appears to be compacts that are more favorable than ours. He stated these compacts were in existence during the time we entered into our compact and questioned whether we could invoke the most favored nation provision to say that those contracts already in existence could somehow benefit the Cherokee Nation. He suggested placing it as an agenda item next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bill John Baker moved for adjournment. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion at 1:35 p.m. Motion carried.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Melanie Knight Nason Morton Fonda Gritts
Ginger Brown Doug Evans Jim Redcorn*

VISITORS PRESENT:

Raymond Vann

Charles Dry

Todd Hembree

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____