



# 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*

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Thursday, January 29, 2026

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

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

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Callison gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

*Councilor Coates attended remotely.*

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

**Absent** 1 - Joe Deere

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Grass moved to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Human Resources - Samantha Hendricks

*Ms. Hendricks provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Cherokee Nation Marshal Service Compensation and Retirement Study. He gave the floor to Chief Hoskin for comments prior to going into the presentation. Councilor McGeady inquired if the pension is due to the risk element of the Marshal Service jobs. Councilor Callison inquired if the 401k element is still in play as well. Ms. Hendricks offered to answer questions from the regular monthly report provided. Councilor Legg inquired about feedback on the newly implemented PTO plan.*

Marshal Service - Daniel Mead

*Marshal Mead introduced Senior Director of the Marshal Services, Joe Rainwater, Senior Director of the Department of Public Safety, Corey Keele, and Senior Director of Justice Services, Tyler Trammel. He offered to answer any questions from the report provided. Chair Kidwell commented on the inauguration event held for the Marshal's yesterday. He requested the Council be told about the awards that were given at the event. Mead reported awards were given to Cody Colburn and Anthony Alizando for saving the life of a little girl who was seizing, these Marshals were off duty at the time. An award was also given to Kyle Whitmire who administered aide on a lady choking during the Elder Summit. Chair Kidwell requested those Marshals be brought to the next Rules Committee meeting.*

Office of the Attorney General - Chad Harsha

*AG Harsha gave update on pending litigation. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Callison inquired about the status of being able to hunt and fish on other tribes land through the compact.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

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

Election Commission - Marcus Fears

*Mr. Fears gave appreciation for being part of the Election Code Revision Work Group. He offered to answer any questions from the report.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Swepston gave highlights and comparisons from the report. She provided the rebate report as requested by Chair Kidwell. She offered to answer any questions. Chair Kidwell requested the rebate report be included in the monthly report. Councilor Grass inquired about the tentative release date for the branch specific military tags.*

Self-Governance - Ashawna Miles

*Ms. Miles offered to answer questions from the report.*

Gaming Commission - Audra Imhoff

*Ms. Imhoff gave highlights from the report. The next board meeting will be held February 6th at the Chota Center. The 2026 licenses were issues and approved. Chair Kidwell inquired about the handling of free play at casinos during Inter-Tribal.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. [26-001](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CYNTHIA MYERS AS A BOARD MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION HOME HEALTH SERVICES, INC.  
**Councilor Blackfox-Qualls moved to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- B. [26-002](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT STOVER AS A BOARD MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION HOME HEALTH SERVICES, INC.  
**Councilor Grant moved to approve. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- C. [26-008](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA PROCTOR AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION  
**Councilor Hall moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. Ms. Proctor was given a moment to address the Council. The motion to approve carried. All Councilors present requested to be added as sponsors.**
- D. [26-005](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) TO REVISE AND UPDATE THE CHEROKEE NATION'S INVENTORY OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES  
**Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried.**
- E. [TMP-426](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - CHANGE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES  
**Councilor Easley moved to enter discussion and possible action. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. Chair Kidwell provided explanation for the possible change of the meetings to be on the second Monday of the month instead of the first Monday following the second Saturday of the month. Councilor Tehee commented historically the November, December and July meetings are all held in one day, should that be codified or leave on ad hoc. Chair Kidwell commented this is primarily for Council meetings. He stated the change would begin this February. The February meetings would be held on the 9th instead of the 16th. The motion to change to the second Monday for Council and committee meetings and the last Thursday of the month for Executive & Finance and Rules Committees carried. Chair Kidwell commented an amendment to Title 19 "Council" will be brought forward to Rules Committee next month with this reflection.**

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Council Attorney John Young, Chief of Staff Corey Bunch and Human Resources Director Samantha Hendricks were requested to be part of the Executive Session discussion.*

**Councilor Easley moved to enter executive session for discussion and possible action of personnel hiring. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition at 1:39.**

**Chair Kidwell announced they exited executive session with no votes taken at 2:25 p.m.**

**Chair Kidwell requested a motion to allow the Speaker of the Council to move forward with an internal transition to fill the position of Senior Director of Communications. Councilor Sam made the motion requested. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Kidwell announced there will be a Work Group meeting for the Creation of the Council Seal immediately following this meeting in the Speaker's office.*

*Chair Kidwell announced the next meeting will be chaired by Co-Chair Easley. He stated he would be arriving late from an At Large Public Health and Wellness check presentation for the Northeast Oklahoma A&M College on February 26th.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Tehee moved to adjourn. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:27 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Samantha Hendricks</i>	<i>Daniel Mead</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>
<i>Chad Harsha</i>	<i>Sharon Swepston</i>	<i>Paiten Qualls</i>
<i>Gwen Terrapin</i>	<i>Corey Bunch</i>	<i>Marcus Fears</i>
<i>Audra Imhoff</i>	<i>Canaan Duncan</i>	<i>Brooke Neff</i>
<i>Joe Rainwater</i>	<i>Ashawna Miles</i>	<i>Josh Newton</i>
<i>Tyler Trammel</i>	<i>Corey Keele</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>John Young</i>	<i>Rick Doherty</i>	<i>Deb Proctor</i>
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