



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes

### Language History and Culture Committee

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Tuesday, July 17, 2007

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

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#### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Keener called the meeting to order.**

#### INVOCATION

**Chair Keener gave the invocation.**

#### ROLL CALL

**Present** 10 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Taylor Keen and Jack D. Baker

**Absent** 2 - Jackie Bob Martin and Meredith Frailey

**Late Arrival** 1 - Audra Smoke-Conner

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12th regular session. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

#### REPORTS:

1. Cemetery Restoration Assistance Report  
Don Greenfeather

*Ms. Donna Chuculate reported receipts were received for Gray and Flute Springs cemeteries after the report was compiled. She stated these two cemeteries are now complete. She announced she received notice from someone with concern regarding Oaks cemetery. She was told the trailer purchased with the \$500.00 in cemetery assistance funds is missing and the lady who received the funds is no longer a part of the cemetery committee. She stated the committee now in effect for the cemetery just want the trailer back. Councilman Bill John Baker stated this committee and the program has received the paperwork accounting for the \$500.00 therefore the missing trailer should be the cemetery board's problem. Ms. Chuculate stated the lady voicing the concern is supposed to submit her complaint in writing and was directed if it needed to be pursued further they would need to contact the Attorney General's office. Council member Yargee stated Fishertown cemetery listed on page 1 of the report should be in District 4 not 3, felt Mouse Drycreek cemetery should be listed as complete if they returned the check unused, and Clay cemetery never received the funds and should also be listed as complete.*

2. Directors Report

Dr. Gloria Sly

*Dr. Gloria Sly announced there are 125 participants at the summer camp being held at Cherokee elementary. They attended the Language Summit in Washington DC to request and lobby for \$10ml. The Martinez Language Act is in support of moneys for pre school, immersion, and language survival schools. There are 5 schools eligible for the funds. They have trained an employee to use the GPR equipment and have already begun work at a cemetery in Park Hill. The Heritage Center held educational workshops in stone carving, and corn stock shoot, and blow gun. They are assisting with the Under the Cherokee Moon festivities and the 40th annual celebration. The Cultural staff is going out to the communities to listen to the people to hear what they recommend to improve the language classes.*

## OLD BUSINESS

### Former Chief's Gravesite Monuments (Discussion)

*Dr. Sly provided a copy of 3 quotes for markers. The dimensions are the same as the Veteran's markers. Council member Cowan Watts stated she didn't want to put Dr. Sly in the procurement position. Dr. Sly stated once the decision is made on the marker it would be sent through the proper channels. Councilman Bill John Baker agreed with the black granite and suggested using Hart Monument Company because they do good work and are a TERO company. Councilman Jack Baker made a motion for the marker to be the standard stone size of either 18x24 or 24x24. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Council member Yargee voiced concern for additional cost if a specific size was picked that isn't standard. Councilman Jack Baker amended his motion to be the standard size as approximately 2 feet square. Councilman Bill John Baker agreed with the amendment and inquired if the marker at the entrance of the cemetery would be larger. Dr. Sly stated it would be larger. Councilman Anglen suggested placing the foot marker on concrete bases to keep them from settling over time. Councilman Bill John Baker inquired if these markers were meant to be buried in the ground to be level for mowing. Dr. Sly stated they are buried just like the veteran's markers. Councilman Anglen stated the VA is also adding concrete under the marker to make them harder to remove but they are still level with the ground for mowing. Council member Cowan Watts made a friendly amendment to include the concrete. Chair Keener requested the motion with the amendments be restated.*

**Councilman Jack Baker stated the motion is to approve the marker as approximately 2ft square the standard size with a concrete base. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### Approval of the Cemetery Restoration Assistance Applications

**Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve Foreman, and Mt. Zion cemeteries in Cherokee County District 1. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Crittenden made a motion to approve Elm Grove, Freewater, and Hickory Vann Hollow cemeteries in Adair County District 2. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve Cherokee McCoy cemetery in Sequoyah County District 3. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve Berry and Oaks cemeteries in District 5. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Cemetery Restoration Assistance Policy & Procedure

*Council member Yargee stated in last months committee meeting it was suggested the Community Service Department review and develop policy and procedures for the cemetery assistance. She stated we were to be notified of the development so the committee could attend if so wished. Councilman Bill John Baker stated he had problems with the criteria of the cemetery being within in the 14 county jurisdiction area. Councilman Jack Baker stated he thought the legislation had been amended to allow cemeteries outside the jurisdiction. Council member Yargee voiced concern for the requirement of providing receipts. She suggested to not making this difficult for the people. We need to determine if we are going to require receipts and stick to it. Right now the application and the accounting form state a written accounting. The council needs to make a determination and stand behind the decision. Councilman Anglen stated it is more important to review the cemetery for improvements rather than requiring receipts. Councilman Jack Baker suggested stating or written explanation for why receipts are not available. Councilman Bill John Baker agreed and suggested receipts when possible. He made a motion to amend the policy by striking the words "within the Cherokee Nation jurisdiction" and "receipts when possible". Council member Yargee stated it also needed to be amended to address extensions beyond the 120 day requirement. Councilman Thornton expressed that a written report should be sufficient in regard to how the funds are expended. Ms. Darlene Foreman from Community Services stated she worked with Charlie Soap in the development of the policies and Mr. Soap felt it would be best to develop a draft then bring to the committee for input. Councilman Garvin agreed with the changes of policy and called for the question. Council member Cowan Watts stated she didn't believe there was a second to the motion. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Council member Cowan Watts requested the motion be restated. Councilman Bill John Baker stated the motion as accepting this policy and procedures striking number 1 under eligibility "cemetery must be located within the Cherokee Nation jurisdictional area.", and under funding amounts adding the words "when possible" to the end of "a copy of receipts for purchases made using the funds." Councilman Jack Baker pointed out the within the 14 county jurisdiction is also in the type of service. Councilman Bill John Baker agreed to strike it also. Council member Cowan Watts suggested an amendment for employees randomly check the cemeteries for maintenance. Mr. Willard Mounce reminded the committee the employee is Donna Chuculate who is paid through NAHASDA funds and if this is going to be requirement there may need to be additional funds. Council member Cowan Watts clarified this isn't a requirement it is just to ensure the public knows and must take ownership of the funds. She made a request for an agenda item at the next meeting to look at how staff is funded for this program. She suggested a friendly amendment for it to be stated in the policy that they could be physically checked up on. Councilman Bill John Baker agreed to the friendly amendment. Councilman Thornton stated it would be simpler if the Council would check on the cemeteries in their districts.*

**Councilman Bill John Baker restated the motion is to under type of service strike "within the 14 county service area", under eligibility strike bullet 1 "cemetery must be located within the Cherokee Nation Jurisdictional area", under funding amounts add a bullet "if not provided Cherokee Nation reserves the right to inspect the site", and receipts when possible. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilman Bill John Baker announced he received a phone call from Council member Frailey. Her store was robbed last night and she will be running late for meetings today.*

*Chair Keener announced he has enjoyed chairing this committee and as a council*

*member is isn't ashamed of anything. He thanked each and every council member and staff.*

*Council member Yargee thanked Chair Keener for his service. She expressed her honor to serve as a council member and as co chair of this committee. She encouraged everyone to continue to work for the betterment of our people.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Council member Cowan Watts moved for adjournment. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 10:03 a.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Dr. Neil Morton      Willard Mounce      Ben Phillips  
Dr. Gloria Sly      Donna Chuculate      Darlene Foreman*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Julia Coates*

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

**Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary**

**Motion to approve minutes made by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes attested and concurred by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_