



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Meeting Minutes - Final EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Janees Taylor, Chair

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

Thursday, May 30, 2019

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilor Smith gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 16 - Buel Anglen; Keith Austin; Shawn Crittenden; Wanda Hatfield; Rex Jordan; Dick Lay; David Walkingstick; Bryan Warner; Janees Taylor; Joe Byrd; Victoria Vazquez; Harley Buzzard; E. O. "JR." Smith; Mary Baker Shaw; Mike Dobbins and Mike Shambaugh

Late Arrival 1 - Canaan Duncan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Vazquez moved to approve the April 25th regular session minutes. Councilor Lay seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Cherokee Nation Businesses - Shawn Slaton

Mr. Slaton reported on the financials for gaming and our diversified businesses. He stated the gaming in Northeast Oklahoma is saturated. He reported on the opening of the new Tahlequah casino and how well it has been received. The Bass Master Tournament on Lake Ft. Gibson has been rescheduled to September. The exterior remodel of the Hard Rock will soon begin. They are also going to remodel the rooms within the Hard Rock Tower and the Cherokee Tower. He announced they received notice to evacuate on of our diversified businesses located in Bagdad. He gave a detailed timeline for the events taken place at the Ft. Gibson casino during the flood and the South Coffeyville casino closing due to drinking water issues. Councilor Lay inquired about the difference in the 100 year flood and a 500 year flood building. He

inquired if the land where the Ft. Gibson Casino is built is on trust land. Councilor Lay inquired about a safe room at the Ramona Casino. He inquired about the revenue from the diversified businesses in regard to profit margins. Mr. Slaton announced they are filing today an application for racing in Polk County, Arkansas. Outside of Oklahoma we are in the commercial market. Councilor Crittenden asked about the cost of gaming in Arkansas. He also inquired about CNB building more homes. Mr. Slaton reported the initial estimate to reopen the Ft. Gibson Casino is September. Chair Taylor gave appreciation for allowing CNB employee, Jerry Keener, the time away from his job to drive the airboat to assist during all of the flooding. Councilor Buzzard commented on a fundraiser he just attended where we were sponsors but none of the Council were invited.

Financial Report/Treasurer Report - Jamie Cole

Mr. Cole offered to answer questions from the report provided. He gave appreciation to all of the departments and their staff for the timely submittal of their 2020 budget. Councilor Crittenden requested an update from Mr. Enlow in regard to the work group on the community work out facilities. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the TERO bids referred to in the report.

Commerce - Anna Knight

Ms. Knight announced it is grant season. She gave further information on the procurement chart on page 6 of her report in regard to the TERO opportunities.

Career Services/Employment - Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley reported they have close to 600 summer youth kids. They continue to have job fairs. The Management Team will be traveling to Dallas to meet with the Department of Labor this month. She announced there will be seven Job Corp Center closing across the United States and have been requested to increase our capacity to 250. She provided an update on TANF, Summer Youth the interns. She offered to answer questions from the report. Chair Taylor commented the TERO policies have been provided and if there are general questions Ms. Kelley is able to answer but questions shouldn't be asked about specific companies, those questions would need to be addressed off line. Councilor Buzzard voiced concern for companies not performing then they go and change their business name and rebid. He stated he has requested our Council Attorney to draft amendments to the TERO Act in this regard. Ms. Kelley gave an explanation of partnerships. Councilor Lay voiced concern for slow work from a company and them being allowed to continue to bid on additional projects. Ms. Kelley stated a company must be reported for an investigation to happen.

Chair Taylor requested to go into executive session to discuss a TERO vendor contract. Councilor Vazquez made the motion to enter executive session. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. Ms. Nimmo, Assistant Attorney General, commented the reason stated to enter into executive session is not acceptable. Following discussion on be able to enter executive session Chair Taylor suggested if less than a quorum have questions she would request a recess of this meeting to allow those questions to be answered. The motion to enter executive session was withdrawn by Councilors Vazquez and Shambaugh. Ms. Nimmo commented there has been a lawsuit filed in connection with this issue. Councilor Shambaugh inquired as to what the lawsuit states. Chair Taylor commented businesses should be held in the same regard as an individual name and not be said in a public meeting. She inquired about being able to legislate something to this effect. Ms. Kelley stated both sides need to

be heard and also cautioned about using company names as it may make it more difficult to certify TERO businesses in the future.

CONSENT ITEMS:

T.E.R.O. CERTIFICATIONS

Councilor Vazquez moved to approve. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Chair Taylor commented a new list has been provided. Mr. Reece added \$750 for Councilor Shambaugh to the Oaks Mission School. Councilor Crittenden added \$200 to Hope Center. Councilor Dobbins requested \$3,000 to Ft. Gibson First Baptist Church. The motion to approved as amended carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUESTS

Councilor Crittenden requested the addition of \$1,500 to the Adair County Reserve Coalition. Councilor Dobbins made a motion to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SPORTS TEAMS APPLICATIONS

Councilor Smith moved to approve. Councilor Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

LIVESTOCK PREMIUM SHOW APPLICATIONS

Councilor Warner moved to approve. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ROADS

Councilor Duncan moved to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [19-032](#) AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #22-18 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 - MOD. 8B; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Chair Taylor announced budget modification 8 in your packet has been replaced with modification 8a on your desk. This is adding funding to aide in the disaster relief along with create a mechanism to allow donations to assist with the relief efforts.

Councilor Austin moved to approve Mod 8a. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Byrd inquired about the turnaround time for the reimbursements of the relief funds. Councilor Byrd announced in 1996 the tribe declared itself a disaster area and didn't wait on the State or FEMA.

Mr. Todd Enlow announced the donations for disaster relief can be done at the link on our website "Natural Disasters of 2019".

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Duncan moved to adjourn. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried at 4:21 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Jamie Cole</i> | <i>Chrissi Nimmo</i> | <i>Rebecca Mitchell</i> |
| <i>Cliff Powell</i> | <i>Willard Mounce</i> | <i>Diane Kelley</i> |
| <i>Michael Lynn</i> | <i>Connie Chandler</i> | <i>Anna Knight</i> |
| <i>Jody Reece</i> | <i>Todd Enlow</i> | <i>Bill John Baker</i> |
| <i>Suzanne Drywater</i> | | |

VISITORS PRESENT:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Tahlina Nofire Blakestad</i> | <i>Teddy Snell</i> | <i>Cheryl Parrish</i> |
| <i>Shawn Slaton</i> | <i>Charles Gourd</i> | |