



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final RULES COMMITTEE

*Joe Byrd, Chair*

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

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Thursday, January 31, 2019

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Byrd called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Crittenden gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

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

**Absent** 1 - Harley Buzzard

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Taylor moved to approve the December 17th regular session minutes. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*Danny Tanner offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Duncan gave appreciation to a Marshal who assisted in a situation off duty. Chair Byrd inquired if they had been contacted in regard to the Museum in Ft. Smith. Councilor Walkingstick inquired about payment of hotel rooms for the tornado victims through emergency management.*

Office of the Attorney General - Chrissi Nimmo

*John Young reported for the Attorney General's office. He reported the Supreme Court requested additional briefing in the Murphy vs. Carpenter case. Councilor Crittenden inquired about the number of attorneys in the AG's office.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

*Ms. Terrapin was unable to attend.*

Election Commission - Marcus Fears

*Mr. Fears gave appreciation for everyone involved in the District 7 Special election. He gave highlights from the report along with important dates for the upcoming general election. Councilor Crittenden inquired why someone would receive an absentee ballot that they hadn't requested. He also inquired about a voter registration and absentee ballot form both being presented at the same time. Councilor Crittenden requested clarification on the absentee ballot process and if the absentee or a challenged ballot are counted. Ms. Connie Parnell gave an overview of how the Election Commission office handles absentee ballots from beginning to end. Councilor Lay inquired about mathematical uncertainty. He also inquired if the absentee ballots are tabulated prior to the election. Councilor Walkingstick inquired if a report of early voters is available. He asked if the date an absentee ballot requests is filled out matters when turned into their office. Councilor Dobbins inquired if there is a red flag or issue if a large number of absentee requests are sent to one address. Mr. Chaffin stated they have a very detailed written absentee ballot process that could be provided to the Council.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Swepston offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Walkingstick inquired about the amount for schools from car tags. Councilor Hatfield inquired where the At Large tags funds go. Councilor Shaw inquired about the discount to At Large citizens to get a tag.*

Self-Governance - Karen Ketcher

*Ms. Ketcher offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Taylor requested clarification on the Housing Improvement Program referred to in the report.*

Gaming Commission - Jamie Hummingbird

*Mr. Hummingbird reported their board meeting will be held in Catoosa at the golf course on Friday. He reported on updates at the Tahlequah facility. The FY2018 audits have been filed. He announced at the current pace by April the tribal impact on gaming to mark \$1.5 billion for the State over the term of the compact.*

Human Resources - Nason Morton

*Mr. Morton offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. [19-001](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF FANNIE E. ROBINSON AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION TAX COMMISSION  
  
**Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilors Crittenden, Vazquez, Warner, Walkingstick and Duncan requested to be added as sponsors.**
  
2. [19-002](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DR. STEPHEN JONES AS A BOARD MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION HEALTH PARTNERS  
  
**Councilor Shaw made a motion to approve. Councilor Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilor Vazquez requested to be added as a sponsor.**
  
3. [19-003](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF SHAUN SHEPHERD AS A BOARD MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES, LLC  
  
**Councilor Taylor moved to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor Crittenden abstaining. Councilors Walkingstick, Vazquez and Smith requested to be added as sponsors.**
  
4. [19-004](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF JOHNNIE EARP AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
  
**Councilor Anglen moved to approve. Councilor Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilors Warner and Anglen requested to be added as sponsors.**
  
5. [19-005](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARTY D. MATLOCK AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
  
**Councilor Jordan moved to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilor Smith requested to be added as a sponsor.**
  
6. [19-009](#) DISCUSSION ONLY - AN ACT AMENDING LA-12-16 TITLE 26 "ELECTIONS" OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED  
  
*Councilor Walkingstick gave an overview for the proposed amendments and stated they wouldn't go into effect if passed until after the 2019 election.*  
  
**Councilor Taylor made a motion to table indefinitely. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:**  
  
  - Yea:** 9 - Keith Austin; Wanda Hatfield; Rex Jordan; Bryan Warner ; Joe Byrd; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez; E. O. "JR." Smith and Canaan Duncan
  
  - Nay:** 5 - Buel Anglen; Dick Lay; David Walkingstick; Shawn Crittenden and Mary Baker Shaw
  
  - Abstain:** 1 - Mike Dobbins
  
  - Not In Room:** 1 - Mike Shambaugh

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Duncan moved to adjourn. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion.  
The motion to adjourn carried at 2:31 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>John Young</i>	<i>Anna Knight</i>	<i>Sharon Swepston</i>
<i>Steve Jones</i>	<i>Nason Morton</i>	<i>Connie Parnell</i>
<i>Marcus Fears</i>	<i>Bill John Baker</i>	<i>Jamie Hummingbird</i>
<i>Todd Hembree</i>	<i>Danny Tanner</i>	<i>Taryn King</i>
<i>Ethan Green</i>	<i>Taylor Edwards</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>
<i>Brandon Scott</i>	<i>Karen Ketcher</i>	<i>Stephen Highers</i>
<i>Londa Cox</i>	<i>Joe Crittenden</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Tahlina Nofire Blakestad</i>	<i>Teddy Snell</i>	<i>Johnnie Earp</i>
<i>Rick Doherty</i>	<i>Harvey Chaffin</i>	<i>Fan Robinson</i>
<i>Shaun Shepherd</i>	<i>Shawn Slaton</i>	