



# 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, May 28, 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 Shotpouch gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

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

**Absent** 1 - Danny Callison

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Daniel Mead

*Mr. Tyler Trammel offered to answer questions from the Marshal's report. Councilor Shotpouch gave appreciation for the Marshal's presence in Delaware County.*

Office of the Attorney General - Chad Harsha

*Mr. Harsha provided an update on pending litigation. He offered to answer any questions. Councilor Coates inquired about the deadline for the Election Code reform to be submitted to the BIA and if it is submitted for approval or informational purposes. She inquired about the possibility of clarifying the ambiguous language to determine if submission is needed at all. She requested clarification on if the 1970 law is more controlling than the others. Lastly she inquired if the voters list, absentee ballot*

*list or any other documents are also submitted to the BIA.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

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

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Swepston gave highlights from the report and provided copy of the form to transfer ownership. She provided explanation for the form and stated they are working with Communications to get the word out to our citizens. She offered to answer any questions.*

Gaming Commission - Audra Imhoff

*Ms. Imhoff introduced Mr. Cody Quetone. She announced the next commission meeting then offered to answer any questions.*

Human Resources - Samantha Hendricks

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### RESOURCE COMMITTEE

- A. [26-042](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO CHEROKEE CEMETERIES RESTORATION ORGANIZATION  
**Councilor Hall moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- B. [26-043](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO CHICKEN CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**Councilor Hughes moved to approve. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- C. [26-044](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO OAKS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**Councilor Poindexter moved to approve. Councilor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- D. [26-045](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO THE WESTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**Councilor Hall moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

- E. [26-046](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO SPARROW HAWK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Councilor Hughes moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

#### RULES COMMITTEE

- F. [26-048](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN LENDING TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES, L.L.C., A CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, AND AUTHORIZING A LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

*Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. Mr. Garrett gave a brief overview of the request then offered to answer any questions. Chair Kidwell gave appreciation for the calls to the Council prior to the meeting where most questions were answered. He gave appreciation to Mr. Evans and his staff for all of the hard work.*

**The motion to approve carried with no opposition.**

- G. [26-049](#) AN ACT AMENDING THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED TITLE 26 "ELECTIONS" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

*Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Legg seconded the motion. Chair Kidwell requested Council Attorney Young give the background of the BIA approval to our election code changes and requirements. A handout was provided pertaining to the 1970's Principal Chief's Act and the 1999 Constitution. Chair Kidwell commented on the pattern of consistency to submit to the BIA and suggested at this time we keep with the pattern. Councilor Coates inquired if changes to the election code during non Chief elections are also submitted to the BIA. It was suggested by Councilors to inquire about a certain due date from the BIA. Councilor Patzkowski inquired of proof that the BIA even reviews the changes submitted. Chair Kidwell officially gave appreciation to the Election Code Work Group, Shelli Coke, and the Election Commission on all of the hard work and time put in on these amendments. Councilor Tehee gave an overview of how the Work Group approached all of the recommendations submitted not only by the Council but also by the Executive Branch and the Election Commission. She spoke of the suggestion to form a task force to review the suggestions that were more substantive to possibly have ready for the 2029 election cycle. Councilor Coates commented she started on the Work Group and due to the difference in time zones and the lengthy meetings she had to resign. She voiced a concern with § 34 the Establishment of Residency. She offered a friendly motion to #1 to change domicile or abode to legal domicile and then to remove the word "permanent" and end the sentence with home. She requested input from the Election Commission representatives present. Councilor Tehee didn't accept the friendly amendment.*

**Councilor Coates restated her motion to amend §34. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.**

*Co Chair Easley commented on his reasoning for not seconding the motion. He then commented on the three submissions he provided to the Work Group for consideration. Councilor Coates voiced concern for §36 the Withdrawal of Candidacy. She questioned the time allowance for a runoff with the proposed dates. Discussion was held. Chair Kidwell suggested both of Councilor Coates concerns be included with*

*the list for the Task Force to consider. Councilor Tehee provided a handout of the items the Work Group suggests go to a Task Force for consideration. The Work Group felt there wasn't enough time to implement these items prior to the upcoming Chiefs race. She provided an overview of the handout and expressed the thoughts of the Work Group that the Task Force try to implement these prior to the 2029 race. Councilor Deere made comments pertaining to his recommendations to the Work Group along with his participation.*

*Councilor Patzkowski offered a friendly amendment to eliminate anonymous donations and that a candidate cannot use campaign funds to pay their filing fee. Councilor Tehee commented on the Work Group's discussion on this issue and the decision made to reduce the total amount of anonymous donations allowed and to increase the filing fee. She suggested this request also be added to the Task Force, she didn't accept the friendly amendment.*

*It was suggested the Task Force should begin immediately to address these items of concern.*

**The motion to approve as submitted carried with the following roll call vote:**

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

#### AMEND THE AGENDA

**Councilor Tehee moved to amend the agenda to add item I to create the Election Reform Task Force. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

#### H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - AMENDMENT TO THE TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY

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

#### I. Discussion and Possible Action to Create the Election Code Task Force

*Councilor Tehee moved to create the Election Reform Task Force for consideration of the items on the list provided today plus the addition of the 4 items discussed today. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. Councilor Coates requested clarification as to if the task force members would be from the Council or appointed by the Council. It was agreed that it should be at least 2 members from the Council, at least 2 members from the Executive Branch and at least 2 members from the Election Commission. The members of the task force from the Council shall be determined at the July Rules Committee.*

**The motion to create the Election Code Task Force carried.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilor Tehee requested everyone keep Councilor Callison and his wife Sherry in their prayers.*

*Legal & Legislative Coordinator Shelli Coke presented the Council with the new Council webpage. She gave an overview of the work in progress from each tab. Co Chair Easley commented on the codification process and our Code being added to this website. He gave appreciation for the amazing work from Shelli, Attorney Young, Opveon and 3C Group. Co Chair Easley commented with us having an online searchable Code it speaks of our sovereignty. Very few other tribes offer this, we are the tip of the spear.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:55 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Chad Harsha</i>	<i>Brooke Neff</i>	<i>Sharon Swepston</i>
<i>Audra Imhoff</i>	<i>Tyler Trammel</i>	<i>Samantha Hendricks</i>
<i>Marcus Fears</i>	<i>Connie Parnell</i>	<i>Gwen Terrapin</i>
<i>Shella Bowlin</i>	<i>Sydnee Krynek</i>	<i>Cody Quetone</i>
<i>Jody Reece</i>	<i>Canaan Duncan</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>John Young</i>	<i>Chuck Garrett</i>	<i>Doug Evans</i>
<i>Amber Edwards</i>	<i>Rick Doherty</i>	