



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Tribal Council Minutes - Final TRIBAL COUNCIL

Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker
Kevin Easley, Jr., Deputy Speaker

Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke
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Monday, December 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker of the Council

Speaker Kidwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Present 17 - 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; Danny Callison; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Shotpouch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief

Chief Hoskin reported on the SNAP benefits and food pantry donations we have provided during the government shutdown. Our 35th Anniversary of Gaming was celebrated. He commented on his recent testimony given in Washington D. C. Chief Hoskin commented on the two new apps released; pharmacy app and language dictionary app. The milestone was met this year with in regard to raising the minimum wage and reducing the disparity between gender pay. He reported on grants received for transit, teachers and testing, parks and recreation. He commented on the hunting and fishing lawsuit filed with two other tribes against the State of Oklahoma and Governor Stitt. Lastly he commented on the Wildlife Conservation Departments controlled hunts.

CHEROKEE WARRIOR VETERAN AWARDS

Bryan Warner, Deputy Principal Chief
and
S. Joe Crittenden, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Deputy Chief Warner and Secretary of Veteran Affairs Crittenden presented Ricky L.S. Parris and Brian Keith Turner with Cherokee Medals of Patriotism.

RECOGNITION: Kenwood School Softball Team

Councilor Hughes made a motion to table this item to the January meeting. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett reported on the October financials, gaming and federal contracting. He commented on the party held to celebrate 35 years of gaming in the Cherokee Nation. He announced there is a call for art for the child care center. The Cherokee Federal has received an award. He offered to answer any questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

AMEND THE AGENDA

Councilor Hall moved to amend the agenda to include an item passed out of Resource committee. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rules Committee

- A. [25-109](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION TO GRANT AN EASEMENT FOR RIGHT OF WAY TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION (HACN) FOR INGRESS,**

EGRESS AND UTILITIES ACROSS A PORTION OF TRIBAL TRUST LAND LOCATED IN DELAWARE COUNTY OKLAHOMA

Sponsors: Lisa Hall and Clifton Hughes

Secretary Sam moved to approve. Councilor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-082-25

B. [25-110](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION TO GRANT AN EASEMENT FOR RIGHT OF WAY TO THE OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS COMPANY A DIVISION OF ONE GAS INC., FOR AN EXISTING NATURAL GAS PIPELINE UNDER A PORTION OF THE ARKANSAS RIVERBED MUSKOGEE COUNTY OK

Sponsors: Lisa Hall and Uriah Grass

Councilor Grass moved to approve. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-083-25

Executive and Finance Committee

C. [25-111](#)

AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #26-25 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - MOD. 2 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Dora Patzkowski

Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve. Councilor Shotpouch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Yea: 17 - 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; Danny Callison; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-33-25

D. [25-112](#)

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING LITIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

Sponsors: Johnny Kidwell, Kevin Easley, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Danny Callison, Julia Coates, Joe Deere, Uriah Grass, Lisa Hall, Clifton Hughes, Daryl Legg, Kendra McGeady, Codey Poindexter, Melvina Shotpouch, Candessa Tehee and Ashley Grant

Councilor Hall moved to approve. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-084-25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several Councilors requested prayers and remembrance of Cherokee citizens who have passed over the last month.

Councilor Tehee gave congratulations to Councilor Blackfox-Qualls for receiving her Masters in Nursing.

Speaker Kidwell announced the Council Christmas Social and Open House is tomorrow. The Veterans Christmas Social is Friday at 10:00 a.m. and Inter-Tribal will be January 7-9 at the Hard Rock Casino, we host.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Shotpouch seconded the motion. The motion carried at 6:36 p.m.

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.