



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Meeting Minutes - Final TRIBAL COUNCIL

Joe Byrd, Speaker

Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke

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Monday, February 22, 2021

5:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

THIS MEETING WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

CALL TO ORDER

Joe Byrd

Speaker of the Council

Speaker Byrd called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Duncan gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke

Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Present 15 - Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Mary Baker Shaw; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Joe Byrd; Victoria Vazquez; Harley Buzzard; Canaan Duncan ; Rex Jordan; Wes Nofire; Daryl Legg; Shawn Crittenden; Dora Patzkowski and Keith Austin

Absent 2 - Joe Deere and Julia Coates

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke

Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Councilors Deere and Coates attended remotely.

Speaker Byrd announced we are still in a global pandemic and are in a state of emergency which allows council members to attend the Council meeting remotely. Following a motion from Councilor Vazquez and a second from Councilor Duncan and no objections heard a second roll call was performed to add the Councilors attending remotely.

Present 17 - Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Mary Baker Shaw; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Joe Byrd; Victoria Vazquez; Harley Buzzard; Canaan Duncan ; Rex Jordan; Wes Nofire; Daryl Legg; Shawn Crittenden; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Keith Austin and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to approve the January minutes. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. Councilor Austin requested the minutes also reflect on the approval of Deb Haaland's resolution it also states "and support her confirmation". The motion to approve carried.

STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief

Chief Hoskin gave appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the Council during the snow storm and energy crisis over the last couple of weeks. He commented the storm has left citizens with frozen pipes and other plumbing issues therefore, with funds the Council has already appropriated they are setting aside \$4ml for a program to address these plumbing problems. The Respond, Recover, Rebuild website has recently been rolled out which shows how the COVID funding has been spent across the reservation. He reported elders have recently moved in to the low-income efficiency homes in Hulbert and speakers will soon be able to move into efficiency homes next to the language center here. Chief Hoskin encouraged the Council and every member of the Cherokee Nation to read the decision of the Supreme Court made today. His view in reading the decision is a sense of fulfilling a promise our ancestors made a hundred and fifty-five years ago in the treaty of 1866. Councilor Nofire commented on the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court's decision today to remove "by blood" from the Constitution.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett reported with the energy stain across the Cherokee Nation due to the winter storm a decision was made, as a major power user, to shut down from Monday through Friday for all casino locations and businesses. All employees were paid who were scheduled to work during this time. Both business units had very strong financial performances in January. Gaming continues to gain strength in FY2021. On February 4th the Arkansas Supreme Court unanimously ruled in CNB's favor on a very significant procedural matter pertaining to gaming in Arkansas. The federal contracting business has shown significant growth in January. Starting tomorrow they will provide lunches for the various clinics and health care offices within the

reservation. All CNB employees are now eligible to receive the COVID 19 vaccine. The Cherokee Nation Film Office has announced a partnership with the largest film festival in Oklahoma. Cultural Tourism has begun a virtual lineup to all museums. He offered to answer any questions from the report. Councilor Shambaugh gave appreciation for the efforts in the battle for gaming in Arkansas. He and Councilor Crittenden commented on the decision to shut down to save power. Speaker Byrd inquired about the next step with gaming in Arkansas. He also inquired about the percentage of vaccinations at CNB. Lastly, he inquired about the future of the Restaurant of the Cherokees with the current operators' decision to retire.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

Rules Committee

1. [21-001](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BETTY FROGG AS AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION NATIONAL TREASURES PROGRAM
Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Austin seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. [21-002](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF EDDIE MORRISON AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION NATIONAL TREASURES PROGRAM
Councilor Patzkowski made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. [21-003](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JANE OSTI AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER OF CHEROKEE NATION NATIONAL TREASURES PROGRAM
Councilor Vazquez made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.
4. [21-004](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF LYNDON EMBERTON AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION SEQUOYAH HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Councilor Legg made a motion to approve. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. [21-006](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHEROKEE NATION PARK, WILDLANDS, FISHING AND HUNTING PRESERVE ACT OF 2021
Councilor Smith made a motion to approve. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. [21-007](#) AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 21 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to approve. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7. [21-008](#) AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 22 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED

Councilor Deere made a motion to approve. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive and Finance Committee

8. [21-010](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO NATIVE AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP, INC

Councilor Vazquez made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9. [21-011](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO TOWN OF DISNEY

Councilor Buzzard made a motion to approve. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. [21-012](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO ZOE INSTITUTE, INC

Councilor Nofire made a motion to approve. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. [21-013](#) AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #17-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - MOD. 4; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilor Taylor made a motion to approve. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion.

Councilor Nofire moved for division to consider separately, part 2, the Supreme Court budget modification. Councilor Buzzard seconded the motion. The motion failed by voice vote.

Councilor Nofire raised concerns about the 140% pay raise of the Supreme Court and without justification. He stated he would be voting no on the entire budget due to this one item.

The motion to approve operating modification 4 as submitted in its entirety carried with Councilors Dobbins and Buzzard abstaining and Councilors Nofire and Coates in opposition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Numerous Councilors announced the passing of Cherokee citizens within their districts. Speaker Byrd requested a moment of silence in the remembrance of those who have passed during the last month. Speaker Byrd commented on the need to recruit Honor Guard members. Councilor Dobbins commented the Honor Guard and Color Guard needs to be considered during the budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Duncan made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Legg seconded the motion. The motion carried at 5:40 p.m.

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 15th at 5:00 p.m. at the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.