



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Tribal Council Minutes - Final TRIBAL COUNCIL

Joe Byrd, Speaker

Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke

Phone: 1-800-995-9465

E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org

Monday, January 11, 2021

5:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Joe Byrd

Speaker of the Council

Speaker Byrd called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Duncan gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke

Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Present 14 - Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; 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 3 - Mary Baker Shaw; Joe Deere and Julia Coates

ROLL CALL

Shelli Brittain Coke

Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Speaker Byrd announced we are still in the global COVID -19 Pandemic and are in a state of emergency which allows council members to attend the Council meeting remotely. Following a motion from Councilor Taylor and a second from Councilor Vazquez and no objections to the passage a second roll call vote was performed to add the councilors attending remotely.

Councilors Coates, Deere and Shaw attended 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 Duncan moved to approve the December 2020 minutes as submitted. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief

Chief Hoskin commented on the difficulties currently in the country. This year marks the 200th year since Sequoyah invented the Syllabary. A one year extension of the hunting and fishing compact has been signed. He announced he and Deputy Chief Warner will be bringing forward initiatives regarding hunting and fishing. He stated we continue to make an impact on our citizens across the reservation and beyond with the Cares Act dollars. There have been over 12,000 COVID cases in our system with sixty-seven deaths. Vaccines are currently being administered and he encouraged all Cherokee citizens to get the vaccine. Lastly the stated COVID is threatening the Cherokee language as we have already lost thirty fluent speakers.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett offered to answer question from the financial report previously submitted. He provided an update from New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. He reported as of today almost six-hundred of his colleagues have tested positive for COVID. The Cherokee Federal efforts continue to pay dividend with strong financial results. Starbucks in the Tahlequah Cherokee Plaza the grand opening will be held one week from today. In regard to Cultural Tourism he announced the new exhibition at the Saline Courthouse. The Cultural Art at the OSU Campus is almost complete with 75% of the art being from Cherokees. They will also plant several species of medicinal plants at the OSU Campus. The Virtual Cherokee Art Market ended on December 21st. The market featured over sixty artists and generated over \$140,000 in revenue. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Shaw requested an update on the Arkansas gaming.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

AMEND THE AGENDA

Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to amend the agenda to add the resolutions passed from Community Service Committee earlier today. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rules Committee

1. [20-087](#) **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF DEB HAALAND FOR SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

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

Councilor Austin moved to amend to state she has been nominated. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-001-21

Councilor Vazquez moved to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried as amended.

Enactment No: R-001-21

2. [20-093](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF AMY PAGE AS A DISTRICT JUDGE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

Sponsors: Victoria Vazquez, Canaan Duncan, Keith Austin, Daryl Legg, E. O. "JR." Smith, Joe Deere and Mike Shambaugh

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

Enactment No: R-002-21

3. [20-086](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF REX EARL STARR AS A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

Sponsors: Rex Jordan, Canaan Duncan, Shawn Crittenden, Mike Shambaugh and Joe Byrd

Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilors Coates and Nofire opposed.

Enactment No: R-003-21

4. [20-088](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MATT ANDERSON AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sponsors: Joe Byrd, Victoria Vazquez, Canaan Duncan, Mike Shambaugh, Janees Taylor and Keith Austin

Councilor Vazquez moved to approve and asked to be added as a sponsor. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion and also requested to be added as a sponsor. Councilors Austin, Shambaugh and Duncan also requesting to be added as a sponsors. The Motion to approve carried with Councilor Dobbins and Nofire abstaining. Councilor Dobbins commented in the future when there Council nominees to the board that each nominee be given equal consideration.

Enactment No: R-004-21

5. [20-090](#) **AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING A MEMORIAL TO FAMILIES OF EMPLOYEES WHOSE DEATHS HAVE RESULTED FROM COVID-19**

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

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

Enactment No: LA-01-21

6. [20-095](#) **AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 47 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Sponsors: Joe Deere and Canaan Duncan

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

Enactment No: LA-02-21

7. [20-094](#) **AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 21 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Sponsors: Joe Deere and Canaan Duncan

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

Enactment No: LA-03-21

Executive and Finance Committee

8. [20-096](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #16-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - MOD. 3 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**
- Sponsors:** Janees Taylor
- Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Enactment No: LA-04-21
9. [20-092](#) **AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #17-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - MOD. 3; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**
- Sponsors:** Janees Taylor
- Councilor Taylor made a motion to approve. Councilor Legg seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Enactment No: LA-05-21
10. [20-097](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF EASEMENT FOR RIGHT OF WAY ON DAHLONEGAH SOUTH ROAD ON USA IN TRUST LAND FOR CHEROKEE NATION TO THE BOARD OF ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND SAID UTILITY COMPANIES**
- Sponsors:** Mike Shambaugh
- Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion the motion carried.
- Enactment No: R-005-21
11. [20-098](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) TO REVISE AND UPDATE THE CHEROKEE NATION'S INVENTORY OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**
- Sponsors:** Mike Shambaugh
- Councilor Legg made a motion to approve. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Enactment No: R-006-21

SWEARING IN OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE PAGE AND SUPREME COURT JUSTICE STARR

Justice Garrett performed the swearing in ceremonies of District Court Judge Amy Page and Supreme Court Justice Rex Earl Starr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Legg announced he and Councilor Smith will be feeding the Redbird Smith clinic this Thursday as an appreciation to all of their hard work during this pandemic.

Councilor Crittenden wanted to take a moment to recognize the passing of J.R. Claphan.

Councilor Coated recognized the loss of two At Large citizens.

Chair Byrd and Councilors Shambaugh and Nofire announced the passing of other Cherokees who have recently passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Shambaugh made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried at 5:34 p.m.

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