



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final RULES COMMITTEE

*Mike Shambaugh, Chair*

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

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Thursday, September 30, 2021

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Shambaugh called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Tehee gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

*Councilors Coates and Nofire attended remotely.*

**Present** 17 - Rex Jordan; Wes Nofire; Daryl Legg; Shawn Crittenden; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Keith Austin; Julia Coates; Johnny Kidwell; Candessa Tehee; Danny Callison; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Mike Dobbins; E. O. "JR." Smith; Mike Shambaugh and Victoria Vazquez

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Jordan moved to approve the August minutes as submitted.**  
**Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*Mr. Buhl provided incarceration costs and an update on the dive team. He offered to answer questions from the report. Chair Shambaugh inquired about the cost increase of the emergency detention orders(EDO).*

Office of the Attorney General - Sara Hill

*Ms. Hill provided an update on the Opioid lawsuit and other pending cases. She provided an update on their caseload and employee changes. She provided a federal update in that the Northern District of Oklahoma has sworn in twenty-four new federal prosecutors. Ms. Hill provided an update on the MOA's with municipalities. She provided an update on some State cases pertaining to McGirt where it was determined not to be retroactive. Oklahoma civil case filed over coal mining. She provided an*

*update on the ICW Bracken 5th Circuit case. Councilor Callison requested clarification on the opioid lawsuit and settlement with the pharmacies. Councilor Coates inquired if an official opinion was asked for by the Election Commission in regard to walk in absentee ballots. Councilor Tehee inquired where to locate for review the cases referred to in the report. Chair Shambaugh inquired about the future of a case taken by the feds and if it could be remanded back. Councilor Nofire inquired who represented the Cherokee Nation in the opioid case.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

*Ms. Terrapin reported there are now fifteen FOIA requests and one GRA request. The website has been updated.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Swepston offered to answer questions from the report provided. Chair Shambaugh inquired about the short staff at the Jay tag office. Councilor Deere inquired about the pay level at the tag office.*

Gaming Commission - Janice Purcell

*Ms. Purcell announced the commissioners held their meeting yesterday and the next meeting is scheduled for October 15th at Catoosa. All of their audits have been submitted on time. She offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

Human Resources - Samantha Hendricks

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

## OLD BUSINESS

1. [21-068](#) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY - AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHEROKEE NATION STOMP GROUNDS PRESERVATION ACT  
**Councilor Vazquez moved to table indefinitely. Councilor Austin seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor Nofire opposed.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### AMEND THE AGENDA

**Councilor Vazquez made a motion to amend the agenda to include 2 Environmental Protection Commission appointment resolutions. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

1. [21-086](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF GABE MOSTELLER AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST AUTHORITY  
**Councilor Dobbins made a motion to approve. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
2. [21-087](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THOMAS MERRELL AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST AUTHORITY

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

3. [21-088](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF AMBER LYNN GEORGE AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION FOUNDATION

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

4. [21-089](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DIANNA MAYFIELD AS COMMISSIONER OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Councilor Jordan made a motion to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

5. [21-090](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF CANDLE MELTON AS COMMISSIONER OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHEROKEE NATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Councilor Legg made a motion to approve. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

6. [21-091](#) AN ACT RELATING TO CODIFYING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR SEQUOYAH SCHOOLS

**Councilor Tehee made a motion to approve the revised version provided with a friendly amendment to include "to be confirmed by the Tribal Council" in the text. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

7. [21-093](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN HAIR AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION SEQUOYAH HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Councilor Deere made a motion to approve the nomination of Steven Hair. Mr. Hair was the only resume submitted for consideration. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

8. [21-092](#) VERNA D. THOMPSON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2021

**Councilor Jordan made a motion to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

9. [21-094](#) THE COMPREHENSIVE BUILDING NAMING ACT OF 2021

**Councilor Sam made a motion to approve. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried with Councilor Nofire opposed.**

10. [21-095](#) AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 26 SECTION 78(A) OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED TO CHANGE THE LAST DAY THE ELECTION COMMISSION SHALL ACCEPT PERSONAL DELIVERY OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND TO CLARIFY THIS CHANGE IN THE AS PREVIOUSLY ENACTED UNDER LA-22-20

**Councilor Coates made a motion for discussion. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. Following discussion and debate Councilor Dobbins withdrew this item.**

- 11. [21-096](#) AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 26 SECTION 11(C) OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED TO REQUIRE THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION TO AMEND THEIR RULES, REGULATIONS AND FORMS UPON PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION BY THE COUNCIL  
  
**Councilor Dobbins made a motion to approve. Councilor Coates seconded the motion. Following lengthy debate Councilor Coates made a motion to table. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
  
- 12. [21-100](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF J. BLAKE FLETCHER AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
  
**Councilor Vazquez made a motion to approve with the clarification that this resolution corrects the term to 4 years. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
  
- 13. [21-101](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARILYN VANN AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
  
**Councilor Deere made a motion to approve with the clarification that this resolution corrects the term to 4 years. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Speaker Shambaugh presented the Tribal Council Attorney, Tim Brown, with a Pendleton blanket in appreciation of his work and dedication.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Patzkowski made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:22 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Camerin Fite James</i>	<i>Taralee Montgomery</i>	<i>Todd Enlow</i>
<i>Shannon Buhl</i>	<i>Sharon Swepston</i>	<i>Gwen Terrapin</i>
<i>Stephen Highers</i>	<i>Sara Hill</i>	<i>Nick Hammons</i>
 <i>Remote:</i>		
<i>Alana Casteel</i>	<i>Janice Purcell</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Tim Brown</i>	<i>Teddye Snell</i>	<i>Thomas Merrell</i>
<i>Dianna Mayfield</i>	<i>Candle Melton</i>	
 <i>Remote:</i>		
<i>Amber George</i>		