



# 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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Monday, January 22, 2024

11:00 AM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Shambaugh called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

*Councilor Vazquez and Smith attended remotely.*

**Present** 13 - Candessa Tehee; Danny Callison; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Mike Dobbins; Mike Shambaugh; Johnny Kidwell ; Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere and Julia Coates

**Absent** 1 - Daryl Legg

**Late Arrival** 3 - E. O. "JR." Smith; Victoria Vazquez and Kevin Easley Jr.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Deere moved to approve as submitted. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*Mike Roach reported in the absence of Mr. Buhl. He gave highlights from the report provided and then offered to answer questions. Chair Shambaugh inquired about the GRDA pulling their MOA with the Cherokee Nation.*

Office of the Attorney General - Chad Harsha

*Mr. Harsha gave update on the Chief's Criminal Law Task Force, the compact negotiations and the pending lawsuits. He offered to answer questions. Chair*

*Shambaugh inquired as to what type of changes the State is requesting in the compacts.*

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

*Ms. Terrapin gave an update and offered to answer questions.*

Election Commission - Marcus Fears

*Mr. Fears offered to answer questions from the report.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Sweptson

*Chief of Staff Bunch offered to answer questions on behalf of the Tax Commission.*

Self-Governance - Ashawna Miles

*Chief of Staff Bunch offered to answer questions on behalf of Self Governance.*

Gaming Commission - Audra Imhoff

*Ms. Purcell provided an update on their finger printing of key employees. She offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

Human Resources - Samantha Hendricks

*Ms. Hendricks introduced Paula Starr and gave some of her background. She offered to answer questions from the report.*

OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. [24-002](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DWIGHT BIRDWELL AS MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION GAMING COMMISSION  
*Mr. Birdwell attended remotely.*  
**Councilor Easley moved to approve. Councilor Callison seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilors Shotpouch, Deere, Callison, Tehee, Poindexter, Coates, Blackfox-Qualls, Hall and Dobbins requesting to be added as sponsors.**
  
2. [24-003](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JANICE PURCELL TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE CHEROKEE NATION  
*Ms. Purcell attended remotely.*  
**Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Coates seconded the motion. Councilor Patzkowski offered a friendly amendment to correct the term to read from 2024 to 2028. Councilor Dobbins inquired if this would add a judge or replace. The motion carried with no opposition. Councilor Coates requested**

to be added as a sponsor.

- 3. [24-004](#) AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 20 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED

**Councilor Tehee made a motion to approve. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilors Kidwell, Callison and Deere requesting to be added as sponsors.**

- 4. [24-005](#) THE DURBIN FEELING LANGUAGE PRESERVATION ACT - 2024 PERMENANT REAUTHORIZATION

**Councilor Poindexter moved to approve. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. Councilor Patzkowski offered a friendly amendment to the Kenwood Language and Culture Reserve to be located on more than 1,400 acres instead of approximately 1,268.4 acres. All Councilors present requested to be added as a sponsor. The motion to approve carried.**

- 5. [24-006](#) A COMPREHENSIVE CHEROKEE NATION EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ACT

**Councilor Sam moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. The motion carried. All Councilors present requested to be added as a sponsor.**

- 6. [TMP-409](#) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY - NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS (NCAI) UPDATE

**Councilor Deere presented an update from the recently held NCAI conference.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Shambaugh commented on the safety of everyone on the icy road conditions.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Kidwell seconded the motion. The motion carried at 11:44 a.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Chad Harsha</i>	<i>Mike Roach</i>	<i>Corey Bunch</i>
<i>Austin Patton</i>	<i>Marcus Fears</i>	<i>Samantha Hendricks</i>
<i>Howard Paden</i>	<i>Paula Starr</i>	

*Remote:*

<i>Taralee Montgomery</i>	<i>Janice Purcell</i>	<i>Shella Bowlin</i>
<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>John Young</i>	<i>Teddy Snell</i>	<i>Rick Doherty</i>
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*Remote:*  
*Dwight Birdwell*

