



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
Phone: 1-800-995-9465
E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Kevin Easley, Jr., Deputy Speaker of the Council

Deputy Speaker Easley 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 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Absent 2 - Julia Coates and Danny Callison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

STATE OF THE NATION

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief

Chief Hoskin announced Councilor Blackfox-Qualls has been selected as an Obama Foundation Leader of 2025. He gave highlights from the 73rd Cherokee National Holiday. He commented on the Public Health and Wellness Act Amendments. Chief Hoskin stated he visited with the Claremore Clinic staff this morning. They celebrated the new Salina Health Facility including the Child Watch and Wellness Center. He commented on the high daily participation at the Carson Wellness Center in Stilwell. He recognized guests in attendance from Harvard. Lastly he commented on the passing of the fiscal year 2026 budget.

CHEROKEE WARRIOR VETERAN AWARDS

Bryan Warner, Deputy Principal Chief

and

S. Joe Crittenden, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Chief of Staff Bunch and Secretary of Veteran Affairs Crittenden presented Anthony Lee Hunnicutt with the Cherokee Medal of Patriotism.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monthly Reports:

Cherokee Nation Business, LLC - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett gave an update on the financials, federal contracting and finalizing the upcoming year's budget to present to the board. They are in discussion on the available options for gaming in Arkansas. He spoke of a recently purchased federal contracting company. He offered to answer questions from the report.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

Rules Committee

1. [25-079](#) **A RESOLUTION ELECTING A MEMBER OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL TO THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Sponsors: Kevin Easley

Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Judge Barteaux performed the swearing in ceremony for Speaker Johnny Jack Kidwell.

Speaker Kidwell took over the meeting.

Enactment No: R-059-25

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2. [25-080](#) **A RESOLUTION ELECTING A MEMBER OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL**
- Sponsors:** Kevin Easley
- Councilor Blackfox-Qualls moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Enactment No: R-060-25
3. [25-081](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARILYN VANN AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION**
- Sponsors:** Kevin Easley, Johnny Kidwell, Dora Patzkowski, Candessa Tehee, Joe Deere, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Joshua Sam, Daryl Legg, Melvina Shotpouch, Lisa Hall, Codey Poindexter, Danny Callison and Kendra McGeady
- Councilor Deere moved to approve items 3 -5 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Enactment No: R-061-25
4. [25-082](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF J. BLAKE FLETCHER AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION**
- Sponsors:** Kevin Easley, Johnny Kidwell, Dora Patzkowski, Candessa Tehee, Joe Deere, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Joshua Sam, Daryl Legg, Melvina Shotpouch, Lisa Hall, Codey Poindexter, Danny Callison and Kendra McGeady
- Councilor Deere moved to approve items 3 -5 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Enactment No: R-062-25
5. [25-083](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LOWELL WALKER AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION**
- Sponsors:** Kendra McGeady, Johnny Kidwell, Dora Patzkowski, Candessa Tehee, Joe Deere, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Joshua Sam, Daryl Legg, Melvina Shotpouch, Lisa Hall, Codey Poindexter and Danny Callison
- Councilor Deere moved to approve items 3 -5 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Enactment No: R-063-25
6. [25-084](#) **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF BARRY REYNOLDS FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Sponsors:** Kevin Easley, Johnny Kidwell, Kendra McGeady, Dora Patzkowski, Joe

Deere, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Joshua Sam, Daryl Legg, Melvina Shotpouch, Lisa Hall, Codey Poindexter, Danny Callison and Candessa Tehee

Councilor Tehee moved to approve items 6 - 10 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-064-25

7. [25-085](#)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF BILL HICKMAN FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Councilor Tehee moved to approve items 6 - 10 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-065-25

8. [25-086](#)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF BRENDA THOMPSON FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Councilor Tehee moved to approve items 6 - 10 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-066-25

9. [25-087](#)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF LAURA DISHMAN FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Councilor Tehee moved to approve items 6 - 10 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-067-25

10. [25-088](#)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RENOMINATION OF JULIE EDDY ROKALA FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sponsors: Kevin Easley, Johnny Kidwell, Dora Patzkowski, Candessa Tehee, Joe Deere, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Joshua Sam, Daryl Legg, Melvina

Shotpouch, Lisa Hall, Codey Poindexter, Danny Callison and Kendra McGeady

Councilor Tehee moved to approve items 6 - 10 in Toto. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-068-25

11. [25-057](#)

**AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 21 ("CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS")
OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED**

Sponsors: Candessa Tehee

Councilor Tehee moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-23-25

Resource Committee

12. [25-078](#)

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EASEMENT / SERVICE LINE
AGREEMENT TO OZARKS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CORPORATION TO SUPPLY ELECTRIC SERVICES ACROSS USA
IN TRUST LAND FOR CHEROKEE NATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF
MIKE AND JENNIFER TAYLOR IN SEQUOYAH COUNTY**

Sponsors: E. O. "JR." Smith and Daryl Legg

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

Enactment No: R-069-25

Executive and Finance Committee

13. [25-089](#)

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION
WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO SOUTHERN
CHEROKEE HELPERS**

Sponsors: Mike Dobbins, Daryl Legg and Uriah Grass

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

Enactment No: R-070-25

14. [25-090](#)**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION
WAREHOUSE TO DONATE SURPLUS ITEMS TO HULBERT
PUBLIC SCHOOL****Sponsors:** Sasha Blackfox-Qualls

Councilor Blackfox-Qualls moved to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Enactment No: R-071-25

15. [25-091](#)**AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #34-24 AUTHORIZING THE
COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2025 - MOD. 12 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY****Sponsors:** Joshua Sam

Secretary Sam moved to approve. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote.

Yea: 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-24-25

16. [25-092c](#)**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR
2026 CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY****Sponsors:** Dora Patzkowski

Councilor Patzkowski moved to approve. Secretary Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-25-25

17. [25-092o](#)**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026
OPERATING BUDGET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY****Sponsors:** Dora Patzkowski

Councilor Grant moved to approve. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Candessa Tehee; Uriah Grass; Ashley Grant ; Joshua Sam; Clifton Hughes; Melvina Shotpouch; Kendra McGeady; Johnny Kidwell and Kevin Easley Jr.

Enactment No: LA-26-25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Deere congratulated Codey Poindexter and Brooke Neff on being selected to 30 under 30.

Numerous Councilors announced the passing of citizens over the past month.

Deputy Speaker Easley gave appreciation to the Council for stepping up when called upon. He stated he enjoyed the time but is looking forward to Speaker Kidwell.

Speaker Kidwell announced the Warrior Flight send off is tomorrow at Hard Rock. This coming weekend the At Large community meetings will be held in Texas. He gave appreciation to our friends from Harvard in attendance. He recognized At Large citizens in attendance. He gave appreciation for his dad, sister and niece in attendance. Lastly he recognized Shelli Brittain Coke, staff of the Council, for her assistance of calling 911 for an At Large citizen who fell. She remained on the phone until help arrived. He stated he was humbled.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Patzkowski moved to adjourn. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. The motion carried at 6:44 p.m.

Next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14th, 6:00 p.m. at the tribal headquarters, W.W. Keeler Complex.