



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final RULES COMMITTEE

*Joe Byrd, Chair*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli-Brittain*

*Phone: 1-800-995-9465,*

*E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

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Thursday, April 24, 2014

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Byrd called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Hargis gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 14 - Cara Cowan Watts; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Dick Lay; Lee Keener Jr.; David Walkingstick; Julia Coates; Harley Buzzard; Joe Byrd; Frankie Hargis; Curtis Snell; Janees Taylor; David Thornton, Sr. and Victoria Vazquez

**Absent** 2 - Jack D. Baker and Don Garvin

**Late Arrival** 1 - Tina Glory Jordan

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Hargis moved to approve the March 27th regular session minutes. Councilor Snell seconded the motion. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the vote on the motion to table on page 4 of the minutes. She made a motion to table for one month to allow time for review of the minutes. Councilor Walkingstick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

*Captain Scot Craig reported in the absence of Marshal Buhl. Councilor Keener inquired about the changes made to the M-rap vehicle.*

Office of the Attorney General - Todd Hembree

*Attorney General Hembree gave an update on the upcoming and pending court cases. He reported the State of Oklahoma has filed an objection to the land in trust*

*application in South Coffeyville. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Taylor requested an update on the Bay Mills case. Councilor Buzzard inquired if the Nation has the ability to object to the State purchasing land or removing it from the tax rolls. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired what the intended use is for the land in South Coffeyville the State filed the objection to.*

Codification - Todd Hembree

*Mr. Hembree announced everything is with West. They are collecting the forewords at this time for each branch of government. They are awaiting the final okay to begin printing.*

Election Commission - Bill W. Horton

*No one was present to report. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the contents of the safety deposit box. Councilor Coates voiced concern for the Election Commission not appearing each month to provide their report and answer questions.*

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

*Ms. Swepston offered to answer questions from the report. She provided a handout showing the tag by county and a color-coded map showing jurisdictions and what is needed in each area to purchase a tag. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the tobacco tax rebates. She requested a news release and a posting to the website stating the July 1st implementation of the purchase of the At Large tags. Councilor Walkingstick inquired if they are considering working with the State tag locations to sell the tags. Councilor Keener inquired about a tag office location in the northern area. Chair Byrd inquired about the status of the new Tahlequah tag office location.*

Self-Governance - Vickie Hanvey

*Chair Byrd announced Ms. Hanvey is away on travel at this time and not available to report.*

Gaming Commission - Jamie Hummingbird

*Ms. Tracy Asher reported in the absence of Mr. Hummingbird. At the request of Mr. Hummingbird she recognized employees Kyle Sourjohn and Robby Johnson who just received their certified fraud examiners certification and Debra Wilson who just received her OSCA certification. She offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired why they perform food and beverage inspections and safety inspections, why their staff enters the human resource area, she inquired why protocol isn't being followed, why agents are interviewing employees without the presence of HR or an attorney, why the gaming investigators are insisting upon the release of documents directly involved in litigation and requesting personal information, and she stated since 2007 they are out of compliance with the NIGC. She requested follow up on all of these issues. Attorney General Hembree commented on the out of compliance issues.*

Human Resources - Nason Morton

*Mr. Morton provided a handout of the appeal process for termination. He announced the open enrollment process has closed. Councilor Cowan Watts requested clarification on the GSA policy.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

1. **TMP-310** DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FORMATION OF WORK GROUP TO CONSIDER RECOGNITION REQUESTS  
  
**Councilor Glory Jordan announced she would like to form a work group to consider all of the recognitions and confirm their tribal citizenship. She requested Councilor Hargis chair the work group.**
  
2. **TMP-311** DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FORMATION OF A WORK GROUP TO CONSIDER CULTURAL, LANGUAGE AND ART ISSUES  
  
**Councilor Glory Jordan also requested the formation of a work group to consider culture, language and art issues. She requested Councilor Vazquez chair this work group and develop policy and procedures. She requested these be continuing work groups that report back to the Rules committee. Councilor Coates requested examples of issues for need of these work groups.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Walkingstick moved to adjourn. Councilor Hargis seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:01 p.m.**

## STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Scott Craig</i>	<i>Jon Overacker</i>	<i>Elizabeth Odell</i>
<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>	<i>Todd Hembree</i>	<i>Rhonda Trumbla</i>
<i>Tracy Asher</i>	<i>Sharon Swepston</i>	<i>Nason Morton</i>
<i>Brenda Lance</i>	<i>Alana Casteel</i>	<i>John Paden</i>

## VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Gina Olaya</i>	<i>Dianne Barker Harrold</i>
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