



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 Coke
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,
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Thursday, April 25, 2019

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Byrd called the meeting to order at 101 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Crittenden gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 16 - Keith Austin; Buel Anglen; Dick Lay; David Walkingstick; Shawn Crittenden; Rex Jordan; Bryan Warner ; Joe Byrd; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez; Harley Buzzard; E. O. "JR." Smith; Mike Shambaugh; Mike Dobbins; Mary Baker Shaw and Canaan Duncan

Absent 1 - Wanda Hatfield

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Shaw moved to approve the March 28th regular session minutes.
Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Marshal Service - Shannon Buhl

Marshal Buhl followed up on some questions from last month including the number of marshals currently and of those how many did not get the raise to meet BIA standards. The investigations they conduct are not public information. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the investigations at the casinos. Councilor Shaw requested clarification on the security at the clinics, hospital and at the casinos. Councilor Dobbins commented on the cross deputation and the Three Rivers Clinic. Chair Byrd shared comments of praise toward our Marshal Service and Marshal Buhl while in attendance at the Federal Bar Conference.

Office of the Attorney General - Chrissi Nimmo

Ms. Nimmo gave an update on the ICWA cases. She commented on ICWA not applying to parents divorcing in a custody battle. Chair Byrd inquired where to refer those calls. Councilor Crittenden inquired if the AG's office uses attorneys outside of the Cherokee Nation. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the status of the old trust accounting cases we contracted with an outside attorney to investigate. Ms. Nimmo announced the Health General Counsel position, formally held by Elizabeth Odell, was advertised yesterday.

FOIA-GRA - Gwen Terrapin

Ms. Terrapin reported for 2019 there are a total of twenty-four requests to date, nineteen of those are FOIA and three are GRA. Three of those FOIA requests are outstanding and one of the GRA requests is outstanding.

Tax Commission - Sharon Swepston

Ms. Swepston offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Buzzard inquired if they track veterans or attend events to provide them information with the tax-exempt applications. Chair Byrd inquired about the veteran discount on car tags.

Election Commission - Marcus Fears

Councilor Crittenden requested an update from the Election Commission.

Self-Governance - Karen Ketcher

No one was available to report.

Gaming Commission - Jamie Hummingbird

Ms. Debra Wilson offered to answer questions from the report in the absence of Mr. Hummingbird.

Human Resources - Nason Morton

Mr. Morton included with the regular report, an average from 2014 to 2017 time to fill positions report was also included. Councilor Shaw inquired if all physicians are on an employment contract, can they be terminated without notice, and can their contract not be renewed without cause at the end of the term. She also inquired if Cherokee Nation Human Resources is over the employees at Hastings, if there are background checks for employees at Hastings and if promotions or job changes occur are the background check performed again to search for criminal activity and or DUI. She asked if something does appear on the background check of an employee what is the policy, what happens. Councilor Lay inquired if the physicians on contract are considered employees. Councilor Crittenden inquired if the attorneys and/or law firms on contract are considered the same way as physicians in regard to the contracts and benefits of the Cherokee Nation. Councilor Shambaugh inquired if the attorneys, we contract with, would fall under the Cherokee Bar Association for ethics issues.

RECESS

Chair Byrd suggested a recess until the Election Commission arrives to report.

Councilor Taylor moved to recess. Councilor Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried at 1:45 p.m.

RECONVENNE

Councilor Taylor moved to reconvene. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:00 p.m.

Election Commission - Marcus Fears

Chair Byrd gave appreciation for Mr. Fears and Commissioner Carolyn Allen coming to answer questions. Councilor Crittenden inquired about updated voter lists and any other updates available. Mr. Fears reported the updated voter lists are available. They are still processing the absentee ballots requests. Councilor Shaw inquired about the number of candidate names listed on the ballot and of those how many are eligible to run. She questioned why an ineligible candidate is listed on the ballot. What happens if someone votes for that ineligible candidate. Chair Byrd inquired if the appeal time has expired for the candidate who has been deemed ineligible. Councilor Shaw asked of the number of registered voters how many are At Large. She also inquired if someone votes for the ineligible candidate and it doesn't count does their vote for the Chief and Deputy count. Councilor Buzzard inquired if the earlier election date has created any of the timeline issues. Councilor Crittenden inquired about the process for the investigations. Councilor Walkingstick inquired if an absentee ballot or a walk in challenge vote takes precedence.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

None pending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Duncan moved to adjourn. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:30 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

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|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Shannon Buhl</i> | <i>Taryn King</i> | <i>Todd Enlow</i> |
| <i>Sharon Sweptston</i> | <i>Nason Morton</i> | <i>Gwen Terrapin</i> |
| <i>Chrissi Nimmo</i> | <i>Debra Wilson</i> | <i>Marcus Fears</i> |

VISITORS PRESENT:

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| <i>Teddy Snell</i> | <i>Tahlina Nofire Blakestad</i> | <i>Carolyn Allen</i> |
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