



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Meeting Minutes - Final EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Janees Taylor, Chair

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

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

10:30 AM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Byrd gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Deere, Shaw and Coates attended remotely.

Present 16 - Janees Taylor; Joe Byrd; Victoria Vazquez; Harley Buzzard; E. O. "JR." Smith; Mary Baker Shaw; Mike Dobbins; Mike Shambaugh; Canaan Duncan ; Rex Jordan; Wes Nofire; Shawn Crittenden; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Keith Austin and Julia Coates

Absent 1 - Daryl Legg

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

REPORTS:

Cherokee Nation Businesses - Chuck Garrett

Mr. Garrett reported the CNE gaming and hospitality division continues to head in the right direction although performing less than last year. They continue to refine the hospitality protocols and operational strategies. They are closing the food and beverage areas at 11:00 p.m. They are preparing for New Year's Eve although due to the pandemic it will be much lower key than past years. Cherokee Federal continues on an outstanding path in regard to budget and expectations. The business development side has been very successful this year. He reported on the opening of Tru by Hilton and the new Starbucks to open in January, both at the Cherokee Plaza. Will Rogers Downs had a record setting performances. He offered to answer questions

from the report provided. Councilor Buzzard inquired about some of the workers at WRD not having any benefits while working full time. Councilor Nofire requested clarification on the multi-use building more specifically the food, security and sound stage recently announced in a news article.

Financial Report/Treasurer Report - Tralynna Scott

Ms. Scott reported they haven't yet received notification from Congress on an extension on the financial relief funds. They will continue to forge ahead with the deadline of December 31st although there is still a possibility of an extension and additional funding. They continue to do research on possibilities for funding issues in regard to McGirt. She offered to answer questions. Chair Taylor inquired if we would receive funding to help administer the COVID vaccine. She also requested clarification on the travel expenses listed in the report. Councilor Nofire congratulated Treasurer Scott for her board position on the Red Cross. He inquired if we know how much of the CARES Act funding has been expended and if the remaining would be expended by December 31st. He requested a breakdown of how the CARES Act (CRF) funding was expended when available.

Career Services/Employment - Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley began her report by bragging on the Restore Program. The Re-Entry Program is excited to roll out the three new Department of Justice Grants and the renewal of another. They recently worked with the Administration to help get the disability checks out to our citizens. She provided an update on the TERO department including the virtual banquet. She offered to answer questions from the report. Chair Taylor requested clarification from the report under Tribal Economic Development. Councilor Deere inquired if the wastewater and water licenses would be paid all the way through the aid.

Commerce - Anna Knight

Ms. Knight reported they are looking at a series of workshops for communities beginning in January, the workshops theme would be Building a Framework. She offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Vazquez inquired if the artist workstation with internet access is being used. Chair Taylor gave appreciation for all of the grants received and reported.

CONSENT ITEMS:

T.E.R.O. CERTIFICATIONS

Chair Taylor announced Integrated Insurance on page 3 would not be voted on due to them not returning their documents and Artist Rodslen Brown has passed away and therefore will not be included in the vote today. Councilor Vazquez moved to approve as requested with the 2 removals. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor Deere abstaining.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

A new community assistance list has been provided. Councilor Duncan

requested the addition of \$2,000 each from him and Councilor Crittenden to Stilwell Indian Baseball. Councilor Vazquez requested \$500 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Vinita. Councilor Shambaugh requested \$2,000 to Oak Mission High School and \$2,500 to Kansas High School. Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve as amended. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUESTS

No new law enforcement requests were submitted. Mr. Reece announced the new funding will be available in January or February.

ROADS

Councilor Duncan moved to approve. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. Mr. Reece announced the \$7,500 from the general fund is included in today's budget modification. The motor vehicle tax funds will be available in January or February. The motion to approve carried.

SPORTS TEAMS APPLICATIONS

Councilor Duncan moved to approve. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

LIVESTOCK PREMIUM SHOW APPLICATIONS

No new livestock requests were submitted.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The special projects updated report was provided.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [20-096](#) AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #16-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - MOD. 3 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Councilor Austin made a motion to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. [20-092](#) AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #17-20 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - MOD. 3; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Councilor Duncan made a motion to approve. Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. Mr. Reece provided clarification on the confusion of the titles of the Supreme Court and District Court within this modifications. Chair

Taylor requested clarification on where going and who for in regard to the judicial increases. Councilor Byrd inquired about the salaries of the Justices and the Judges being reviewed in light of the McGirt case. Councilor Nofire requested clarification on one of the judges being considered part time. The motion to approve carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Byrd announced the Veterans Center is handing out food to veterans today at the recycling center starting at 11:00 a.m.

Councilor Duncan commented with Christmas coming up to please wear your mask and social distance.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dobbins made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Patzkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried at 11:14 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Taralee Montgomery Todd Enlow Jody Reece
Sara Hill

Remote:
Diane Kelley Tralynna Scott Debra Lack
Anna Knight

VISITORS PRESENT:

Teddy Snell

Remote:
Chuck Garrett Tim Brown