

**MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – January 6, 2025 - 5:30 PM
111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464**

1. MEETING CONVENED

- a. Meeting called to order by Mayor Suzanne Myers at 5:54 pm.
- b. City Clerk, Whitney Shaw, called the roll as follows:

Present:	Councilor Ward I	Danny Perry
	Councilor Ward II	Keith Baker
	Councilor Ward III	Stephen Highers
	Councilor Ward IV	Josh Allen

Others present: Mayor Suzanne Myers, City Attorney JT Hammons, City Administrator Taylor Tannehill, City Treasurer Marty Hainzinger, City Clerk Whitney Shaw, Deputy City Clerk Amber Payton, and IT Support Kendall Collins

- c. **Invocation:** Pastor Shana Dry, First United Methodist Church
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. **Public Notice:** December 19, 2024 at 9:10 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: 885 0134 7465 **Password:** 4560651

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Recognition for Years of Service Employees:
Brian Swim, Tahlequah Police Department, 20 years
- b) OML 25yr. Honor Roll by Mike Fina, OML Executive Director
- c) Presentation by Kristy Woodard, CN Office of Veteran Affairs

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a) Approve the minutes from the December 2 and December 18, 2024, City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the November 2024 Financial Statement.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the November 2024 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the December 2024 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the December 2024 Purchasing Card Statement.

- f) Acknowledge receipt of the December 2024 Open PO Report.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the June 2024 Financial Statement.
- h) Accept the payment from Cherokee Nation in the amount of \$7,500 and amend the budget accordingly, placing funds in the restricted donation account to be used for the animal shelter/animal control vaccination clinic.
- i) Accept the donation from Kelly Collins in the amount of \$3,000 and amend the budget accordingly, placing funds in the restricted donation account to be used for the animal shelter.
- j) Accept the donation from Kelly Collins in the amount of \$1,000 and amend the budget accordingly, placing funds in the restricted donation account to be used for the Police Department.
- k) Approve the amended agreement between the City of Tahlequah and Cherokee County 911. This amendment changes the end date from December 31st, to June 30th.
- l) **Moved to Regular Session by Councilor Baker.**
- m) Approve the Municipal Court's use of the "Fresh Start Program" for the 5th year, beginning February 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2025.
- n) Accept the resignation of Adam Gaudreau, Collector in the Solid Waste Department, effective December 19, 2024.
- o) Accept the resignation (retirement) of Robert Shrum, Foreman in the Street Department, effective December 6, 2025.
- p) Accept the resignation of Bradley Hix, Laborer/Operator in the Street Department, effective January 1, 2025.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Baker, Highers Nays: None Motion carried

6. REGULAR SESSION

- 6a) Councilor Baker made a motion to approve and Councilor Highers seconded to approve **consent item (l): Promote Jacob Bingham, Volunteer Firefighter in the Fire Department to Full Time Dispatcher in the Police Department at \$16.00 per hour, effective January 7, 2025.**

Vote: Ayes: Baker, Highers, Allen, Perry Nays: None Motion carried

- 6b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to affirm the appointment of Stephen Highers to the Municipal Utility Board/Tahlequah Public Works Authority.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker Highers abstained Motion carried

Comments by Fire Chief Casey Baker and Police Chief Nate King

- 6c) **NO ACTION TAKEN** on the reappointment of Sherry Baker to the Municipal Utility Board/Tahlequah Public Works Authority for an additional 5 year term.

- 6d) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the reappointment of Mark Gish to the Municipal Utility Board/Tahlequah Public Works Authority for an additional 5 year term.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Perry, Baker Nays: Allen Motion carried

6e) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to deny the appointment of Scott Wright to the Municipal Utility Board/Tahlequah Public Works Authority for an additional 5 year term.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker* *Nays: Highers* *Motion carried*

6f) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve authorization for the Mayor to enter into a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Tahlequah and Nichols & Freese, Inc. for the purpose of including additional tasks to the current City-wide Drainage Master Plan Study being conducted. Additional tasks include Pecan Creek Drainage Analysis, Downtown Drainage Analysis, and Drainage Criteria Update.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers* *Nays: None* *Motion carried*

6g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve authorization of the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Tahlequah and the Cherokee Nation for the purpose of submitting a road/bridge improvement request in accordance with the guidelines established by the NATION, the CITY agrees to construct road and/or bridge projects with CITY forces and agrees to be reimbursed by the NATION for the cost of the materials upon satisfactory completion of the work from the funds allocated by the NATION for said projects.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry* *Nays: None* *Motion carried*

6h) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve authorization of the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Tahlequah and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the purpose of pedestrian/bike improvements along South Muskogee Street from Chickasaw Street to Goingsnake Street.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers* *Nays: None* *Motion carried*

6i) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve acceptance of the bid amount of \$3,295.00 per mowing from Kirk Lawn Care for the mowing of specified City properties.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry* *Nays: None* *Motion carried*

6j) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Resolution No. 01-06-2025, a resolution to support the appointment of Tyler Tannehill to the District #2 Seat of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Municipal League.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers* *Nays: None* *Motion carried*

6k) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve authorization for the Mayor to sign a Quit Claim Deed, deeding a property located at 612 and 630 Guinn Ave. to William Berry, more particularly described as follows: The Easterly 80 feet of Lots 3& 4 in Block 2 Guinn Addition, City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, State of Oklahoma.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers* *Nays: None* *Motion carried*

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Perry made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to Exit Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 6:33 pm.

Vote: Ayes: Perry, Highers, Allen, Baker

Nays: None

Motion carried

8) RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:44 p.m.

- a) Authorize the City Attorney to employ Randall Yates to represent the City of Tahlequah in regards to case #CIV-24-303-GLC, Deboraugh Rodgers v. City of Tahlequah as discussed in Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers

Nays: None

Motion carried

- b) **No action required** pertaining to case #CJ-24-225, Cherokee County.

- c) Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.