

**MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 3, 2025 - 5:30 PM
111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464**

1. MEETING CONVENED

- a. Meeting called to order by Mayor Suzanne Myers at 5:30 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:** Josh Allen
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. **Public Notice:** December 19, 2024 at 9:10 a.m. and February 24, 2025 at 12:48 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [853 4047 4483](#) Password: [4560651](#)

3. NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Anthis-Brennan update-Special Projects Director Ray Hammons
- b) Senate Bill 701 Presentation by Dr. Rodney Hanley, NSU
- c) Tahlequah Farmer's Market presentation by Marla Saeger

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the February 3, 2025, City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2025 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2025 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2025 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2025 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2025 Open PO Report.

- g) Acknowledge receipt of the 2023-2024 Tahlequah Hospital Authority Board audit.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the TRDA February 2025 report.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of the TACC February 2025 report.
- j) Acknowledge receipt of the Tourism February 2025 report.
- k) Accept the donation from Walmart in the amount of \$1000.00 for the Police Department and amend the budget accordingly.
- l) Accept the donation from PetCo Love in the amount of \$3,000 and amend the budget accordingly.
- m) Approve budget amendment for the 2024-2025 fiscal year for TRDA.
- n) Acknowledge receipt of the Purple Wave Surplus Auction proceeds dated 01.21.2025, resulting in deposit of \$17,860.00.
- o) Approve the withdrawal of hangar construction lease for Site FH23 to Tom Farmer.
- p) Approve construction lease for Young Farms Partnership for a 50' X 60' hangar on site FH23.
- q) **Removed to Regular Session by City Administrator Taylor Tannehill.**
- r) Reinstate/rehire Justin Jackson as a dispatcher in the police department at \$16.96 per hour, effective January 21, 2025.
- s) Promote Dustin Jackson for PT Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department to FT Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$15.00 per hour, effective March 3, 2025, and amend the budget accordingly.
- t) Accept the resignation of Daniel Sosa and Noe Sosa, Lifeguards in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective February 24, 2025.
- u) Accept the resignation of Dulce Melo, PT Laborer/Concessions in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective February 24, 2025.

Vote: *Ayes: Baker, Allen, Highers, Perry*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6. REGULAR SESSION

- 6a) NO ACTION TAKEN. **Consent item (q): Hire Eliahna Auguston, Madison Sherron, Kennedy Baker, and Libby Baker as Lifeguards in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$12.00 per hour, effective May 1, 2025.**

- 6b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve with the modification the authorization for the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Tahlequah and the Tahlequah Farmer's Market for the use of the facilities for market seasons 2025 through 2026. Date on first page under "USE" to be changed from "2021 and 2022" to "2025 and 2026".

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry*

Nays: none

Motion carried

- 6c) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Ordinance No. 1384-2025. An Ordinance establishing the 2025 Street Improvement Sales tax, assessing and levying an excise tax on one-half of one percent (.5%), commencing on January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030.

Vote: *Ayes: Highers, Perry, Baker, Allen*

Nays: none

Motion carried

6d) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve **Resolution No. 02-03-2025**. A resolution authorizing the calling and holding of a Special Election in the City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, State of Oklahoma, on Tuesday, the 13th day of May 2025, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, State of Oklahoma, the question of their approval or rejection of the proposed 2025 Street Improvement Sales Tax Ordinance, and for other purposes.

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

6e) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve **Ordinance No. 1385-2025**. An ordinance detaching certain property from the City of Tahlequah city limits located south of West Fox Street, West of Highway 51.

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

6f) Council Baker made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Council Member Josh Allen to represent the City of Tahlequah on a board to implement the Homelessness Study.

Vote: *Ayes: Baker, Perry, Highers* *Nays: none* *Motion carried*
Allen did not vote.

6g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the appointment of Danny Perry to a vacant seat on the Municipal Utility Board/Tahlequah Public Works Authority, fulfilling a term expiring in March 2030.

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

6h) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the appointment of Scott Wright to a vacant seat on the Municipal Utility Board/Tahlequah Public Works Authority, fulfilling a term expiring in March 2030.

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

6i) Councilor Perry made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to reject all bids for the Concession building project.

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

6j) Councilor Highers made a motion and Council Perry seconded to approve Change Order #1 for the Woodard Bridge Project.

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

6k) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the City Administrator authorization to award a competitive bid for concrete work related to the White Avenue Street project.

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

- 6l) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve **Resolution No. 03-03-2025**, a resolution to change the zoning from the hereinafter described real estate from RS-3 (Single Family High Density) to C-3 (Regional Commercial) located at 717 West Choctaw St., Tahlequah, OK, more particularly described as Lot 1 and the W 30' of Lot 2, Block 102, Tahlequah Lots, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

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

6m) NO ACTION TAKEN

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to Exit Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 6:46 pm.

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

8) RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:06 p.m.

- a) Council voted to approve purchase of real property as discussed in Executive Session.

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

- b) Council voted to designate the City Attorney as primary negotiating agent with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 201.

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

- c) Council voted to designate the City Attorney as primary negotiating agent with International Association of FireFighters Local 4099.

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

- d) No action required related to the purchase or appraisal of property located near the Tahlequah City Airport, as discussed in Executive Session.

- e) Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.