

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 7, 2025 - 5:30 PM
111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464

1. MEETING CONVENED

- a. Meeting called to order by Mayor Suzanne Myers at 5:34 pm.
- b. City Clerk, Whitney Shaw, called the roll as follows:

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

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:** Steve Parker, South College Church of Christ
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. **Public Notice:** December 19, 2024 at 9:10 a.m. and March 27, 2025 at 12:20 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [876 1372 7547](#) Password: [4560651](#)

3. NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Anthis-Brennan update-Special Projects Director Ray Hammons
- b) River City Park presentation from Dr. Reza Saeed Kandezy

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the March 3, 2025, and March 27, 2025 City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2025 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2025 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2025 Open PO Report.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the TACC March 2025 report.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the Tourism March 2025 report.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the TRDA March 2025 report.

- h) Acknowledge receipt of administrative award of competitive bid for the White Avenue Concrete project to T&K Construction in the amount of \$64,256.00.
- i) Approve hangar lease transfer for hangar 29, from Sooner Cattle & Land Co. llc, to Two Eight Investments, LLC.
- j) Approve a 3-year lease for Tahlequah Municipal Airport, cutting and bailing of hay.
- k) Hire Wyatt Vinson as a Laborer/Operator in the Street Department at \$35,285.94 annually, effective March 19, 2025.
- l) Hire Tyronne McCree as a Driver in the Solid Waste Department at \$40,500 annually, effective March 19, 2025.
- m) Hire Davin Jorgensen as a Driver in the Solid Waste Department at \$40,500 annually, effective April 7, 2025.
- n) Hire Sylvie Kruczek, Emma Fields, Cristian Goins, Aliza Dietz, Meagan Bell, Jaime Perez, Tressa Disler, and Karsen Kruczek as PT Laborers/Concessions in the Parks and Recreation Department, at \$10.07 per hour, effective March 25, 2025.
- o) **Removed to Regular Session by Councilman Baker.**
- p) Accept the resignation of Forrest Miller, Driver in the Solid Waste Department, effective February 26, 2025.
- q) Accept the resignation of Robby Morgan, Collector in the Solid Waste Department, effective March 13, 2025.
- r) Accept the resignation of Eli Blackbird, Collector in the Solid Waste Department, effective March 28, 2025.
- s) Accept the resignation of Kewen Crabtree, Driver in the Solid Waste Department, effective March 21, 2025.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Baker, Perry*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6. REGULAR SESSION

- 6a) NO ACTION TAKEN. **Consent item (o): Demote Justin Leatherwood from Lieutenant to Patrolment, step 7, effective, April 7, 2025.**

- 6b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to declare the 2006 Ford F-350 (VIN:1FDSF35Y06EC11276) surplus property and transfer to the Peggs Fire Dept. for the sum of \$1.00, with the condition that the Tahlequah Fire Dept. retains the option to reclaim the vehicle if the Peggs Fire Dept. decides to dispose of it.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Baker, Perry*

Nays: none

Motion carried

- 6c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve amending the FY 2025-2025 City Budget to allocate funding for the addition of one full-time firefighter/driver position in the Tahlequah Fire Department, including salary, benenefits, and associated costs.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker*

Nays: none

Motion carried

- 6d) NO ACTION TAKEN on directing the Street Commissioner to make street improvements to Mill Road.

6e) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the Mayor authorization to sign offer letters and finalize right-of-way acquisitions for the E. Allen Road Project.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker

Nays: none

Motion carried

6f) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement for Architectural and Engineering services with HSE Architects to design our Parking Garage, Retaining Wall, Ped Bridge and Sidewalks project for downtown.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker

Nays: none

Motion carried

6g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve the Tahlequah Transportation Safety Action Plan prepared by Kimley-Horn for the City of Tahlequah.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

6h) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker to approve a Zoning Change from RS-3 (Single-Family High Density) to RM-3 (Multi-Family High Density) located at 604 S. College Ave. Tahlequah, Oklahoma. A part of the NE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 32, T17N, R22E, more particularly described as a point of beginning at 70' S of the South Street, with the East line of the NE/4 of the SE/4 of said Section 32 thence W 210'; thence S 70'; thence E 210'; then N 70' to the POB, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

6i) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to a Zoning Change from RS-2 (Single Family Medium Density) to RM-3 (Multi-Family High Density) located at 1107 & 1109 W. 4th St. Tahlequah, Oklahoma. A part of land located in the 200' E of NW/C of E 25.01 AC of Lot 1 beginning E 90'; thence S 108.5"; thence W 90'; thence N 108.5' to POB And a part of land located in the 200" E & 108.5" S of NW/C of E 25.01 AC of Lot 1 beginning E 90'; thence S 108.5'; thence W 90'; thence N 108.5' to POB, located in Sec 5, T6N, R22E in Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to Exit Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 6:54 pm.

Vote: Ayes: Baker, Allen, Perry

Nays: None

Motion carried

8) RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:54 p.m.

a) No action required related to negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 201, as discussed in Executive Session.

- b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the FY 2025-2026 contract with the International Association of Firefighters, Local 4099, as discussed in Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker

Nays: None

Motion carried

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

- d) Council Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the purchase of real property located near Guinn Ave., as discussed in Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker

Nays: None

Motion carried

- e) No action required related to economic development to entice a business to remain or located within the City of Tahlequah, as discussed in Executive Session.

- f) No action required related to communications regarding case #CV-24-415, as discussed in Executive Session.

- g) No action required related to communications regarding case #CJ-24-64, as discussed in Executive Session.

- h) Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.