

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 5, 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: Aaron Doan, Generations Church
- d. Flag salute: Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. Public Notice: December 19, 2024 at 9:10 a.m. and April 28, 2025 at 8:56 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [861 2165 3728](#) Password: [4560651](#)

3. NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Dexter Scott, 10yrs & Elden Graves, 20yrs-TPD, Vicki Johnson, 25yrs-Street Dept.
- b) Anthis-Brennan update-Special Projects Director Ray Hammons

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 April 7, 11, and 18, 2025, City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2025 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2025 Purchasing Card Statement.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2025 Investment Schedule.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2025 Check Register.
- f) Accept the FY 2025-2026 TACC Tourism Budget.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2025 TACC report.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2025 Tourism report.

- i) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2025 TRDA report.
- j) Approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Mark Hodson to the Municipal Airport Board for an additional 5-year term.
- k) Approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Darren Tobey to the Historic Preservation Board for an additional 5-year term.
- l) Approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Connie Davis to the Tahlequah Hospital Authority Board for an additional 5-year term.
- m) Approve the Mayor's appointment of Mandy King to the Abatement Board's at-large seat for a 5-year term.
- n) Approve the Mayor's appointment of Jeff Thorne to the Abatement Board to fill a vacated term ending May 2030.
- o) Accept payment from Cherokee Nation in the amount of \$7,500 and amend the budget accordingly, placing funds in the restricted donations account to be used for the animal shelter/animal vaccination clinic.
- p) **Removed to Regular Session by Councilman Keith Baker.**
- q) Approve Amendment No. 2 from Hudson Prince in the amount of \$138,016.13 for an additional 24 weeks of continued inspection services on the South Muskogee project.
- r) Hire Yovani Guerta as a Collector in the Solid Waste Department at \$35, 500 annually, effective April 21, 2025.
- s) Hire Dynashia Bailey, Eyzel Baltazar, and Mya Soap-Henson as PT Laborers/Concessions (Pool) in the Parks & Rec Department at \$10.07 per hour, effective May 5, 2025.
- t) Hire Trent Havens, Tripp Rozell, Brooke Norton, Miracle Munoz, Beckett Robinson, and Grier Robinson as Lifeguards in the Parks & Rec Department at \$12.00 per hour, effective May 5, 2025.
- u) Promote Elder Baltazar from Lifeguard to Head Lifeguard in the Parks & Rec Department at \$13.00 per hour, effective May 5, 2025.
- v) Accept the resignation of Jacob Bingham, Dispatcher in the Police Department, effective April 4, 2025.
- w) Accept the resignation of Jarvis Stroman, Driver in the Solid Waste Department, effective April 15, 2025.
- x) Terminate Tyronne McCree, Driver in the Solid Waste Department, effective May 5, 2025.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Perry, 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 (p):** Accept payment from Walmart Community Grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 and adjust the budget accordingly.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- 6b) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Councilman Keith Baker to the Eastern Oklahoma Development District (EODD) Board of Directors.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

6c) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve the longevity pay of the Assistant Chief of Police within the Police Department, as discussed in Open Session.

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

6d) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve Resolution No. 05-05-2025A, a resolution setting the salary, payments, and/or compensation for the Judge of the City of Tahlequah.

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

6e) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve Resolution No. 05-05-2025B, a resolution establishing a Complete Streets Resolution, requiring the City of Tahlequah to implement guidelines from this policy to allow safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users.

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

6f) Council Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve Resolution No. 05-05-2025C, a "Vision Zero" resolution enforcing strategies to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

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

6g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Ordinance No. 1386-2025, and ordinance of the City of Tahlequah, repealing Ordinance No. 1385-2025.

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

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to declare Ordinance No. 1386-2025 an emergency.

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

6h) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve Ordinance No. 1387-2025, an ordinance detaching certain real property from the corporate limits of the City of Tahlequah.

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

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to declare Ordinance No. 1387-2025 an emergency.

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

6i) First Reading: Ordinance No. 1388-2025. No action or emergency vote taken.

6j) First Reading: Ordinance No. 1389-2025. No action or emergency vote taken.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to Exit Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 6:20 pm.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers

Nays: None

Motion carried

8) RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:08 p.m.

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

b) No action required on negotiations with the International FireFighters Local 4099, as discussed in the Executive Session.

c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to amend the City Administrator's contract as discussed in the Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Highers, Baker

Nays: None

Motion carried

d) No action required related to Case #CJ-24-64, as discussed in the Executive Session.

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

e) Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.