

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2, 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: City Attorney JT Hammons, City Administrator Taylor Tannehill, City Treasurer Marty Hainzinger, City Clerk Whitney Shaw, and IT Director Randy Powell

- c. **Invocation:** Rev. 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. and August 25, 2025, at 2:26 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [842 2136 5453](#) Password: [4560651](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chamber of Commerce's Nathan Reed thanked various City departments and Council for help with the Bluegrass Festival. Kelly Campbell thanked the Street Department for visiting Learning Ladder Daycare

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Mitchell Sellers 5yrs-Tahlequah Police Dept./Bruce Gower, 5yrs-Tahlequah Police Dept.
- b) Presentation by Director Jill Zimmer of Talking Leaves Job Corp

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the August 4, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the statement regarding the July 2025 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the July 2025 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the July 2025 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the July 2025 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the July 2025 Open PO Report.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the August 2025 Tahlequah Regional Development Authority report.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of August 2025 Tourism report.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of the August 2025 Tahlequah Main Street report.
- j) Accept the contractual payment from Cherokee Nation in the amount of \$7,500.00 and amend the budget accordingly, placing funds in the restricted donations account to be used for the animal shelter/animal clinic.

- k) Accept the grant award from PetCo Love in the amount of \$2475.00, and amend the budget accordingly, placing the funds in the restricted donations account to be used for the animal shelter/clinic.
- l) Approve the continued waiver of business fees, including but not limited to, occupational licenses and alcohol licenses/fees, for businesses located along South Muskogee Avenue within the construction area for the S. Muskogee Improvements project.
- m) Approve a reduction in fees for the following dumpster rentals: from \$450 to \$350 for a 20yd dumpster and from \$500 to \$450 for a 30yd dumpster.
- n) Approve the budgeted purchase of dumpsters ranging from 4yds to 30yds to accommodate Tahlequah growth in the coming year from GL#115-65-830 in the amount of \$72,000.
- o) Approve the purchase of a budgeted automated trash truck in the amount of \$340,750.00 from River City Hydraulics using GL#115-65-8701.
- p) Enter into an agreement with Clay Davis for Cherokee Fields Tournament Coordination, beginning September 1, 2025.
- q) Hire Robert Chanate, Laborer/Operator in the Street Department at \$34,844.78 annually, effective September 2, 2025.
- r) Hire Joshua Scott, Patrolman II in the Police Department; salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 2, 2025.
- s) Hire Houston Ingram, Patrolman II in the Police Department; salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 2, 2025.
- t) Hire Daniel Goad, Patrolman I in the Police Department; salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 2, 2025.
- u) Hire Jordain Poppino, Computer Support Specialist in the IT Department at \$37,000/ annually, effective September 2, 2025.
- v) Hire Caleb Wofford, Computer Support Specialist in the IT Department at \$35,000/ annually, effective September 2, 2025.
- w) Hire Michael Gonzales, Driver in the Solid Waste Department at \$40,500/annually, effective September 2, 2025.
- x) Accept the resignation of Violet Swearington, PT Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective August 13, 2025.
- y) Accept the resignation of Nicholas Crittenden, Firefighter, effective September 2, 2025.
- z) Accept the resignation of Clay Davis, Anthis-Brennan Coordinator, effective September 1, 2025.

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

6. REGULAR SESSION

6a) No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

6b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the Health Benefit renewal and offerings for the plan year November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026.

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

6c) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve waiving the fees at Riverlinks for a round of golf, token to the driving range, and a golf cart rental on Friday, October 17, and Saturday, October 18, 2025, and also a discount of ½ off membership rates at the Riverlinks Open House Event on those same dates.

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

6d) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve a Task Order Agreement with Lochner Engineering to re-package and re-bid the Tahlequah Municipal Airport Ramp Project in the amount of \$45,000.00.

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

- Councilor Perry made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to declare Ordinance No. 1392-2025 an emergency. The votes were as follows:
- Ayes: Perry, Allen, Highers* *Nays: Baker* *Motion failed*

*** The record reflects the Emergency vote failed and renders the previous vote null and void. Record will reflect No Action Taken.

- Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to declare Ordinance No. 1393-2025 an emergency. The votes were as follows:
- | | | |
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| <i>Ayes: Perry, Allen, Highers</i> | <i>Nays: Baker</i> | <i>Motion failed</i> |
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*** The record reflects the Emergency motion failed and renders the previous vote null and void. Record will reflect No Action Taken.

- 09-02-2025 Minutes-City Council