

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

1. MEETING CONVENED

- a. Meeting called to order by Mayor Suzanne Myers at 5:30 pm.
- b. Deputy City Clerk, Amber Payton, 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, Deputy City Clerk Amber Payton, and IT Support Jordan Popinno

Absent: City Clerk Whitney Shaw

- c. **Invocation:** Councilman Josh Allen
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. **Public Notice:** December 19, 2024 at 9:10 a.m. and September 22, 2025, at 3:36 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: **879 2679 0075** Password: **4560651**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kathy Cott spoke regarding E. Shawnee St. and Cedar and Bluff Avenues. Kayla Lector spoke regarding the American Legion.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the September 2 and September 25, 2025, City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the statement regarding the August 2025 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the August 2025 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the August 2025 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the August 2025 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the August 2025 Open PO Report.
- g) Accept the donations from PetSense (adoption fees) and Tahlequah Animal Outreach in the amount of \$200.00 each for the Animal Shelter, placing the funds in the Animal Shelter Restricted Donations account and amending the budget accordingly.
- h) Accept the donation from PetCo Love in the amount of \$2700.00 for the Animal Shelter, placing the funds in the Animal Shelter Restricted Donations account and amending the budget accordingly.

- i) Accept the donations from Lake Region Electric Cooperative (\$500.00), Shafa Enterprise/Xpress Stop (\$1,000.00), and GRDA (\$500.00) for the Annual Trunk or Treat, placing the funds in the Trunk or Treat Donations account and amending the budget accordingly.
- j) Accept the donations from River City Hydraulics in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Annual Employee Christmas Dinner, placing the funds in the Christmas Dinner Restricted Donations account and amending the budget accordingly.
- k) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Chamber of Commerce report.
- l) Acknowledge receipt of September 2025 Tourism report.
- m) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Tahlequah Main Street report.
- n) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Library Board report.
- o) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Tahlequah Regional Development Authority report.
- p) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Tahlequah Public Works Authority Board report.
- q) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Tahlequah Hospital Authority report.
- r) Approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Troy Kent Davis to the Tahlequah Hospital Authority Board for an additional 5-year term.
- s) Approve the Mayor's appointment of Jenine Hembree to the Tahlequah Hospital Authority Board for a 5-year term.
- t) Approve the Tahlequah Fire Department Mutual Assistance Agreements with the following Fire Departments: Cookson Volunteer Fire Department, Fort Gibson Fire Department, Hulbert Volunteer Fire Department, Muskogee Fire Department, Peggs Fire Department, and the Welling Tri-Community Fire Department, Inc.
- u) Approve the purchase of a new Tornado Siren from CDL Electric in the amount of \$55,000.00 to be installed at Cherokee Fields/Anthis Brennan Sports Complex.
- v) Reject all bids for Bid Project #2025-8, Police Department Fencing.
- w) Hire Dante Grayson, Collector in Solid Waste at 35,500 annually, effective September 26, 2025.
- x) Hire Joshua Blackbird, Driver in Solid Waste at \$40,500 annually, effective September 30, 2025.
- y) Hire Ethan Monholland, Laborer/Operator in Street Department at \$38,484.87 annually, effective October 6, 2025.
- z) Accept the resignation of Anthony Pritchett, Collector in Solid Waste, effective September 19, 2025.
- aa) Accept the resignation of Carl Dallis, PT Laborer/Operator in Street Department, effective September 8, 2025.
- bb) Accept the resignation of Levi Daniels, PT Laborer in Parks and Recreation, effective September 16, 2025.
- cc) Accept the resignations of Elder Baltazer, Beckett Robinson, Daisy Teague, and Karsyn Shankle, Lifeguards in Parks and Recreation, effective September 16, 2025.
- dd) Accept the resignation of Yovani Guerta, Collector in Solid Waste, effective September 19, 2025.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

5. REGULAR SESSION

5a) No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

5b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Ordinance No. 1392-2025, an ordinance of the City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma providing an easement/right-of-way closure located at 807 W. Choctaw, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

5c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve Ordinance No. 1393-2025, an ordinance of the City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma providing an easement/right-of-way closure located at 118 W. Morgan St., Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

5d) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve Resolution No. 10-06-2025, a resolution concerning bridge inspection responsibility by the local government for compliance with National Bridge Inspection Standards. Bridge Contracts for April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Perry, Baker

Nays: none

Motion carried

5e) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, and Sequoyah County for temporary emergency management services.

Ayes: Allen, Baker, Perry, Highers

Nays: Baker

Motion carried

5f) No Action Taken on installing a stop sign southwest-bound at Jamestown Drive intersecting with Jamestown Street according to the recommendation by Holloway, Updike, and Bellen, an engineering firm.

5g) No Action Taken regarding White Ave. resurfacing and storm water project.

5h) No Action Taken regarding the Street Department purchasing materials, providing labor, and/or contracting for labor/professional services, if necessary, for Phase 2 of the White Avenue Project.

5i) No Action Taken regarding the Street Department purchasing materials, providing labor, and/or contracting for labor/professional services, if necessary, for intersection improvements at Kelly Street and Larry Avenue.

5j) No Action Taken on the closure of Spring Street and an unnamed alley near the low-water bridge.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to exit the Open Meeting and enter into an Executive Session at 6:09 p.m.

7) RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION at 6:22 p.m.

7a) No Action Required related to the purchase or appraisal of property located in Tahlequah as discussed in the Executive Session.

7b) Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.