

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 1, 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, and IT Support Jordan Popinno

- c. **Invocation:** Pastor Shana Dry, Tahlequah First United Methodist Church
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. **Public Notice:** December 19, 2024 at 9:10 a.m. and November 12, 2025, at 10:05 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [810 4615 5592](#) Password: [4560651](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kayla Rector: American Legion, Brendon for Jeff Thorpe regarding the "Step up Project"

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

a) Justin Hackworth, TFD-25 years

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the November 3, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b) Acknowledge receipt the June, July, August, and September 2025 General Fund Executive Summaries.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the October 202 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2025 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2025 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2025 Open PO Report.
- g) Accept the donation earmarked for the Animal Shelter in the amount of \$100.00, placing the funds in the Restricted Donations-Animal Shelter account and amend the budget accordingly.
- h) Accept the donation earmarked for the Employee Christmas Dinner in the amount of \$2,500.00, placing the funds in the Restricted Donations-Christmas Dinner account and amend the budget accordingly.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of the \$7,500.00 contractual payment from Cherokee County earmarked for the Animal Shelters Restricted Donations account and amend the budget accordingly.

- j) Acknowledge receipt of the November 2025 Tahlequah Hospital Authority report.
- k) Acknowledge receipt of November 2025 Tourism report.
- l) Acknowledge receipt of the November 2025 Tahlequah Regional Development Authority report.
- m) Acknowledge receipt of the December 2025 Tahlequah Main Street report.
- n) Acknowledge receipt of the November 2025 Eastern Oklahoma Library System report.
- o) Acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Regional Development Authority 2025 Audit Report.
- p) Acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce 2025 Audit Report.
- q) Acknowledge receipt of the 2024-2025 Tahlequah Educational Facilities Authority audit.
- r) Acknowledge receipt of the 2024-2025 Tahlequah Public Facilities Authority audit.
- s) Approve the following 2026 Tahlequah meeting schedules to be submitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State: Abatement Board, Airport Board, Board of Adjustments, Historic Preservation Board, Joint Airport Zoning Board, City Council, Education Facilities Authority, Hospital Authority, Municipal Utility Board, Planning Commission, Public Facilities Authority, Public Works Authority, and Regional Development Authority.
- t) Hire Vincent Garuccio, Collector in Solid Waste at 35,500 annually, effective November 10, 2025.
- u) Hire Joshua Perdue, Driver in Solid Waste at 40,500 annually, effective November 10, 2025.
- v) Accept the resignation of Logan Webber, PT Laborer-Parks and Recreation, effective October 29, 2025.
- w) Accept the resignation of Aaron Palmer, Laborer-Parks and Recreation, effective November 12, 2025.
- x) **Removed to Regular Session by Councilman Baker; see item 6a.**

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

6. REGULAR SESSION

- a) Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to accept the resignation of Fire Chief Casey Baker, effective January 31, 2025.

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

- b) Councilor Perry made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve Resolution No. 12-01-2025, a resolution of the City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma of sponsorship for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application and maintenance commitment to extend the existing trail system near the intersection of E. 4th St. and Basin Avenue.

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

- c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Resolution No. 12-02-2025A, a resolution of the City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, providing for the creation of a Review Committee for Increment District #1, City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma (River Center Project) and containing other provisions related hereto.

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

- d) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to award construction project #2025-09, Kelly & Larry Streets, and authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the lowest, responsible bidder.

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

- e) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to award construction project #2025-10, Cherokee Fields Parking, and authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the lowest, responsible bidder.

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

- f) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to award construction project #2025-11, White Ave. Phase II, and authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the lowest, responsible bidder.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Baker, Highers, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

- g) Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve authorizing the Mayor to enter into a supplemental project agreement between the Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation and the City of Tahlequah, JP#21646(04), STP-111B(069)UR, Grade-Drain-Surface Project on 4th Street.

Vote: Ayes: Baker, Allen, Highers, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

- h) Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.