

**MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – November 4, 2024 - 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 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 Mario de La Hoya. **Not Present:** Councilor Ward I Danny Perry

- c. **Invocation:** Mike Murray, First Baptist Church
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. **Public Notice:** October 21, 2024 at 8:31 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: 839 7344 7837 **Password:** 4566500

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fire Chief Casey Baker thanked the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity for a donation and their continued support of the Tahlequah Fire Dept.

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 October 7, 2024, City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2024 Financial Statement.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2024 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2024 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2024 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2024 Open PO Report.
- g) Accept the Tahlequah Hospital's Authority monthly report for October 2024.
- h) Accept the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce monthly report for October 2024.
- i) Accept the TACC-Tour Tahlequah monthly report for October 2024.
- j) Accept Tahlequah Regional Development Authority's monthly report for October 2024.

- k) Accept a donation from Tim M. Synar in the amount of \$500.00 and amend the budget accordingly, placing the funds in the Restricted Donations Account to be used for the Animal Shelter.
- l) Accept the \$1,000.00 donation from Billie Davis for Decorations for Christmas and amend the budget accordingly, placing the funds in the Restricted Donations Account for Holiday Decorations.
- m) Accept the donation from Hellas, Inc in the amount of \$5,000 and amend the budget accordingly.
- n) Accept the donation from Cherokee Nation in the amount of \$41,362.00 and amend the budget accordingly, placing the funds in the Police-Restricted Donations Fund.
- o) Approve the 2025 Meeting Schedules for the following Boards, Committees, Trusts, etc. to be submitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State: Abatement Board, Airport Board, Cemetery Board, Historic Preservation Board, Joint Airport Zoning Board, Tahlequah City Council, Tahlequah Educational Facilities Authority, Tahlequah Hospital Authority, Tahlequah Public Facilities Authority, and Tahlequah Regional Development Authority.
- p) Approve overtime pay in lieu of comp time for all City employees who work the Christmas Parade and Red Fern Festival.
- q) Approve land lease for hangar construction for Braden Young on site FH47 at Tahlequah Municipal Airport.
- r) Approve land lease for hangar construction for Keith Shankle on site FH48 at Tahlequah Municipal Airport.
- s) Approve Amendment #01 to the Supplemental Operating Agreement for Detention Services with the Cherokee Nation.
- t) Hire Bradley Hix as a Laborer/Operator in the Street Department with an annual wage of \$33,829.88, effective October 21, 2024.
- u) Promote Jaide Wilks, PT Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$10.07 per hour to FT Pro Shop Employee in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$15.00 per hour, effective October 28, 2024.
- v) Accept the resignation of Mario DeLa Hoya, Computer Support Specialist in the IT Department, effective October 18, 2024.
- w) Accept the resignation of Martin Falcon, PT Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective October 26, 2024.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Baker, Highers

Nays: None

Motion carried

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Recognition for Years of Service Employees:
Randy Tanner, Tahlequah Police Department, 25 years
Mark Whittmore, Tahlequah Fire Department, 25 years
- b) Presentation on the Anthis-Brennan Expansion Project by Special Projects Coordinator Ray Hammons.

6. REGULAR SESSION

- 6a)** No items were removed from the Consent agenda. No action required.

6b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve with Ordinance No. 1381-2024, with the modification of reducing the per annum amount for City Councilors by \$50, making it \$7,950.00 and setting an effective date.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Baker, Highers*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve Resolution No. 11-04-2024(A), calling for an election on February 11, 2025, to elect Ward 1 Councilor, Ward II Councilor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Chief of Police, and Street Commissioner.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6d) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve, Resolution No. 11-04-2024(B), a resolution of support for the appointment of Taylor Tannehill, as representative to the Oklahoma Municipal League Regional Council.

Vote: *Ayes: Highers, Allen, Baker*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6e) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve Resolution No. 11-04-2024(C), a resolution to change the zoning from hereinafter described real estate from RS-3 (Single-Family High Density) to I-2 (Industrial Moderate) located at West Choctaw St. between S. West Ave. and S. Morris Ave., Tahlequah, Oklahoma, more particularly described as, the E 70.6' of Lot 2, Lot 3, less southerly 87' of both lots 2 & 3, Block 102, Tahlequah Lots, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Baker, Highers*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6f) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the authorization of the Mayor to enter into a contract with Kimley-Horn to prepare and develop a Transportation Safety Action Plan for the City of Tahlequah.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to adopt the City of Tahlequah Homelessness Strategic Plan.

Vote: *Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker*

Nays: None

Motion carried

6h) **No Action Taken.** Discussion only on the development of a Regional Planning Commission.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Allen made a motion to Exit Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 6:09 pm. Motion seconded by Councilors Higher and Baker.

8) RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council exits Executive Session and 6:34 pm.

a) No action taken on the discussion pertaining to the 2024-2025 contract with the IAFF.

- b) No action taken on the discussion pertaining to Case# CJ-24-64, H & G Paving Contractors, Inc. v. City of Tahlequah.
- c) Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.