

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 3, 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

Absent: City Clerk Whitney Shaw

- c. **Invocation:** Aaron Doan, Generations Church
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Boys & Girls Club Members
- e. **Public Notice:** December 19, 2024 at 9:10 a.m. and October 28, 2025, at 10:20 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: 876 6851 1799 **Password:** 4560651

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kayla Rector: American Legion.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Jaylene Studie, PD-25 years/William Fritts, Street-10 years
- b) Nathan Reed, 2025 Bluegrass & Chili Festival
- c) Karen Murphy, 2025 Trunk or Treat
- d) United Way Proclamation

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 October 6, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the statement regarding the June, July, August, and September 2025 General Fund Executive Summaries.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the September 2025 Open PO Report.

- g) Acknowledge receipt of October 2025 Tourism report.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2025 Tahlequah Main Street report.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2025 Tahlequah Regional Development Authority report.
- j) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2025 Tahlequah Public Works Authority Board report.
- k) Acknowledge receipt of the October 2025 Tahlequah Hospital Authority report.
- l) Accept the contractual payment from Cherokee Nation in the amount of \$7,500.00 and amend the budget accordingly, placing the funds in the Restricted Donations account to be used for the animal shelter/clinic.
- m) Accept the contractual payment from Cherokee County in the amount of \$1,200.00 and amend the budget accordingly, placing the funds in the Restricted Donations account to be used for the animal shelter/clinic.
- n) Accept a donation from Brookshire Grocery Co DBA Reasors in the amount of \$2,000.00 and amending the budget accordingly, placing funds in the Restricted Donations account to be used for the Police Department.
- o) Accept a donation from Brookshire Grocery Co DBA Reasors in the amount of \$2,000.00 and amending the budget accordingly, placing funds in the Restricted Donations account to be used for the Fire Department.
- p) Accept the donations in the amount of \$100.00 and amending the budget accordingly, placing the funds in the Animal Shelter Restricted Donations account
- q) Approve Hellas change orders as follows: Change Order #1, an addition of \$11,800.00; Change Order #2, an addition of \$24,061.00; and Change Order #3, a deduction of \$64,972.00. The combined total results in a net deduction of \$29,111.00
- r) Approve agreement between the City of Tahlequah and the Eastern Oklahoma Library System with respect to the Tahlequah Public Library.
- s) Approve the Tahlequah Fire Department Mutual Assistance Agreements with the Lowrey Fire Department.
- t) Approve the budgeted promotion of Jacob Bingham to the position of Firefighter/Driver, with salary adjustment to reflect the rate outlined in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- u) Hire Justin Downing, Collector in Solid Waste at 35,500 annually, effective October 15, 2025.
- v) Accept the resignation of Isabella Sierra, PT Laborer in Parks and Recreation, effective September 28, 2025.
- w) Accept the resignation of Robert Chanate, Laborer/Operator in Street Department, effective October 22, 2025.
- x) Accept the resignation of Joshua Blackbird, Driver in Solid Waste, effective October 22, 2025.
- y) Accept the resignation of Francisco Federico, Collector in Solid Waste, effective September 19, 2025.
- z) Accept the resignation of David Jorgensen, Driver in Solid Waste, effective October 31, 2025.

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

6. REGULAR SESSION

- a) No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.
- b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Ordinance No. 1394-2025, an ordinance of the City of Tahlequah, amending Section 11-103, camping prohibited without consent, fine; and adding Section 11-106, parks closure established, and Section 11-107, trespass; Providing for codification, severability, repealer, and declaring an emergency

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

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to declare Ordinance No. 1394-2025 and emergency.

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

- c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Resolution No. 11-03-2025, a resolution for zoning change from RS-3, (single family high density) to O-1 (office low density), located at 225 N. College Ave., Tahlequah, OK.

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

d) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the creation of three new lieutenant positions within the Fired Department, not included in the 2025-2026 budget.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

e) Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the recommendation from Holloway, Updike, & Bellen, Inc., an engineering firm, to replacing the existing yield sign on westbound Jamestown Street with a stop sign.

Ayes: Allen, Baker, Perry, Highers, Allen

Nays: Baker

Motion carried

f) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with engineering firm, Kimley-Horn to design plans for a road at Cherokee Elementary for a smoother process for student pick-up/drop-off.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers

Nays: none

Motion carried

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to exit the Open Meeting and enter into an Executive Session at 6:14 p.m.

Ayes: Highers, Perry, Baker, Allen

Nays: Baker

Motion carried

8. RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION at 7:14 p.m.

a) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to authorize the Mayor to sell property located in Tahlequah, OK as discussed in executive session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to authorize the Mayor to buy property located on Basin Street as discussed in executive session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Resolution 11-03-2025A, a resolution of the City of Tahlequah, authorizing the Mayor to acquire property through condemnation, and to hire John Chapman Young as legal counsel for the Allen Road Improvement Project, as discussed in the Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Perry

Abstain: Baker

Nays: none

Motion carried

c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to authorize forming the River Center TIF Committee and to hire Missy Westfall as legal counsel on the project as discussed in executive session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers

Nays: none

Motion carried

d) Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.