

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 2, 2026 - 5:30 PM
111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464

APPROVED

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 BJ Baker, City Administrator Taylor Tannehill, City Clerk Whitney Shaw, City Treasurer Mary Hainzinger, and IT Support Caleb Wofford

- c. Invocation: Pastor Shana Dry, First United Methodist Church
- d. Flag salute: Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. Public Notice: December 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and February 17, 2026, at 10:43 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [833 2863 2929](#) Password: [4560651](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments by: Kathy Cott regarding Norris Park bathrooms and Darrin Chiaverini, NSU Head Football Coach regarding support for NSU Athletics.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Richard Coffron-Compliance, 5 years of service certificate.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the February 2, 2026, City Council meeting.
- b) Acknowledge receipt the January 2026 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2026 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2026 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2026 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2026 Open PO report.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the Community Impact report from DOCServices, Inc. regarding the Sr. Citizen's nutritional program.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Tahlequah Hospital Authority report.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Tourism report.
- j) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Tahlequah Regional Development Authority report.
- k) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Tahlequah Main Street report.

- l) Accept the donation from Tahlequah Animal Outreach for the Animal Shelter in the amount of \$454.68 and amend budget accordingly.
- m) Accept the grant award in the amount of \$9,000.00 from VCA Charities for the Animal Shelter.
- n) Approve construction lease for lot FH44, Tahlequah Municipal Airport to Jace Young.
- o) Approve amendment to contract for mowing, awarded to Kirk Lawn Care, to reflect bid packet specified end date of November 1, 2026.
- p) Adjust base salary for Mark Whittmore from \$80,000.00 to \$85,000.00 effective February 1, 2026.
- q) **Moved to Regular Session by Councilor Keith Baker.**
- r) Hire Christa Mankin, unbudgeted Secretary-Street Dept., at \$41,715.00 annually, effective February 12, 2026.
- s) Hire Brendan Lee, Laborer/Operator-Street Dept., at \$38,484.87 annually, effective February 17, 2026.
- t) Hire Weston Jenkins, Ethan Cacy, Nicholas Morgan, and Karsyn Shankle as unbudgeted PT Laborers/Concessions-Cherokee Fields at Anthis-Brennan at \$10.07 per hour, effective February 25, 2026.
- u) Accept the resignation (retirement) of William Buddy Harris, Superintendent-Street Dept., effective March 31, 2026.
- v) Accept the resignation (retirement) of Vicki Johnson, Secretary-Street Dept., effective March 31, 2026.
- w) Accept the resignation of Tiffany Coones, Laborer-Parks and Rec Dept., effective February 6, 2026.
- x) Accept the resignation of Justin Jackson, Dispatcher-Police Department, effective February 5, 2026.
- y) Accept the termination of Vincent Garuccio, Collector-Solid Waste Dept., effective March 2, 2026.

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

6. REGULAR SESSION

- a) Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve, in one motion, the following items from the consent agenda:

- item (q)** Promote Kenny Barnes from Captain to Assistant Fire Chief in the Fire Department at \$74,000.00 annually, effective March 1, 2026.

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

- b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve Resolution No. 03-02-2026, a resolution to adopt amendments to the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the City of Tahlequah.

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

- c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the placement of the old downtown light poles on surplus, with all proceeds from the auction, of City Administrator's choosing, to be placed in the General Fund.

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

- d) No action was taken on change order #1 in the amount of \$2500 on the S. Muskogee Light Pole project, Project #2026-01.

- e) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve amendment #3 to the South Muskogee Inspection Services contract between the City of Tahlequah and Hudson Prince Engineering & Inspection Services, PLLC, in the amount of \$17,550.00.

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

- f) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to award and enter into an agreement with the lowest responsible bidder, Paragon Contractors, for the Tahlequah Municipal Airport Rehabilitate Apron project, Project #23140-TO02.

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

- g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to award and enter into an agreement with the lowest responsible bidder, Paragon Contractors, for the Tahlequah Municipal Airport, Construct taxilane and new automated Weather Observation System or AWOS, ODAA Project #TQH-26-S, or reject all bids.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers

Nays: none

Motion carried

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to exit the Regular Session and enter into an Executive Session at 5:55 pm.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

8. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION at 7:03 pm.

- a) No action was taken pertaining to economic development related to the River Center Project.

- b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the purchase or appraisal of real property located near the airport as discussed in the Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers

Nays: none

Motion carried

- c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to appoint City Administrator, Taylor Tannehill, as Chief Negotiator, in negotiations with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 201.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

- d) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to appoint City Administrator, Taylor Tannehill, as Chief Negotiator, in negotiations with International Association of Firefighters Local 4099.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

- e) No action was taken pertaining to the purchase or appraisal of real property located near Boone Street.

- f) Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.