

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 6, 2026 - 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 Clerk Whitney Shaw, City Treasurer Mary Hainzinger, and IT Support Jordan Poppino

- c. Invocation: Councilor Josh Allen
- d. Flag salute: Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. Public Notice: December 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and March 25, 2026, at 1:39 p.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: **833 1099 5628** Password: **4560651**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments by: Kathy Cott, Christopher Weir, Kathy Tibbets, DJ Battiest-Tomasi, Brian Barlow, John Bush, and Monica McCrary.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) John Sutton, Parks & Recreation Department, 25 years of service certificate.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the March 2, 2026, and March 16, 2026, City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt the February 2026 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Open PO report.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Tahlequah Hospital Authority report.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Tahlequah Regional Development Authority report.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Tourism report.
- j) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Tahlequah Public Works Authority Board report.
- k) Accept the donation and grant award from PetCo for the Animal Shelter, amending the budget accordingly.

- l) Authorize the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of agreement between the City of Tahlequah and Cherokee County Health Services Council-SAMHSA FR-CARA for opioid use prevention.
- m) **Moved to Regular Session by Councilor Keith Baker.**
- n) **Moved to Regular Session by Councilor Keith Baker.**
- o) **Moved to Regular Session by Councilor Keith Baker.**
- p) Promote Christopher Hetherington from Part-Time Laborer to Full-Time Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$15.00 per hour, effective March 15, 2026.
- q) Hire Levi Dusty Johnson as Laborer/Operator in the Street Department at \$38,484.88 annually, effective April 2, 2026.
- r) Hire Caden Waits as Part-Time Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$13.00 per hour, effective March 20, 2026.
- s) Hire Colby Morrison as Part-Time Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$12.00 per hour, effective March 26, 2026.
- t) Hire Antonio Nunez as Part-Time Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$12.00 per hour, effective April 6, 2026.
- u) Hire Ryan Walker as Laborer/Operator in the Street Department at \$38,484.88 annually, effective April 22, 2026.
- v) Accept the resignation of Ethan Monholland, Laborer/Operator in the Street Department, effective March 13, 2026.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

6. REGULAR SESSION

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

Consent (m) Promote Lieutenant Sean Valdez to Captain in the Fire Department and adjust pay according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective March 29, 2026.

Consent (n) Promote Firefighter Heath Pennington to Lieutenant in the Fire Department and adjust pay according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective March 29, 2026.

Consent (o) Promote Volunteer Firefighter Colton Cox to a Full-Time Firefighter in the Fire Department and adjust pay according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective March 29, 2026.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- b) Councilor Perry made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve the appointment of Jon Asbill to the Tahlequah Regional Development Authority to replace the seat currently held by Paula Mutzig.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve Resolution No. 04-06-2026A, directing filing and notification of the publication of Municode Supplement No. 1 of the City of Tahlequah Code.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- d) Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Resolution No. 04-06-2026B, a resolution of the City of Tahlequah, amending the City of Tahlequah Open Records payment fee schedule.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- e) Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve Resolution No. 04-06-2026C, a resolution amending the appointment of custodians for the public records for the City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, providing for designation of additional record custodians and providing for the maintenance,

preservation, and protection of public records and amending procedures for accessing and copying open public records.

Vote: Ayes: Baker, Perry, Highers, Allen

Nays: none

Motion carried

f) Council tabled Resolution No. 04-06-2026D, a resolution of the City of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, changing zoning from RS-1 (Single Family Low Density) to AG (Agriculture) for use of animal husbandry, located at 1276 Amity Lane, Tahlequah, OK.

g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve Resolution No. 04-06-2026E, a resolution applying for grant and accepting a grant offer from the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace & Aeronautics (ODAA) for the construction of taxilane and relocate the automated weather observing system (AWOS), Project No. TQH-26-2.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Perry, Baker

Nays: none

Motion carried

h) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Tahlequah and LandPlan Consultants, Inc. for landscape architectural design services on SouthRidge Road in the amount of \$64,598.00

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Perry, Baker, Allen

Nays: none

Motion carried

i) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve change order #1 in the amount of \$3,842.50 on the S. Muskogee Light Pole project, Project No. 2026-01.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Allen, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

j) Discussion only related to the East 4th Street Improvement Project.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to exit the Regular Session and enter into an Executive Session at 6:53 pm.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Highers, Baker

Nays: none

Motion carried

8. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION at 7:28 pm.

a) No action taken related to negotiations with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 201 as discussed in the Executive Session.

b) No action taken relating to negotiations with International Association of Firefighters Local 4099 as discussed in the Executive Session.

c) No action was taken related to the sale, purchase, lease, acquisition, or appraisal of real property located near the airport as discussed in the Executive Session.

f) Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.