

**MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 4, 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 Caleb Wofford

- c. **Invocation:** Mo Bassime
- d. **Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. **Public Notice:** December 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and April 28, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: 827 4292 4231 **Password:** 4560651

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments by: Ariel Longoria, Brian Barlow, Joan Bush, Margaret Carlisle, Karen Murphy, and Paige Harjo.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5. Brad Hale, FD-20 yrs., Angela Retzloff, FD-5 yrs., Regina Walker, SW-10 yrs.

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 April 6, 2026 City Council meeting.
- b) Acknowledge receipt the March 2026 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the March 2026 Open PO report.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2026 Tahlequah Main Street report.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2026 Tahlequah Public Works Authority Board report.
- i) Accept the donation and grant award from Best Friends Animal Society, amending the budget accordingly.
- j) Accept the donation from Jerry Cook for the City Employee Golf Tournament, amending the budget accordingly.

- k) Hire Kelly Webb as Part-time Laborer, Parks & Recreation Department at \$12.00 per hour, effective April 17, 2026.
- l) Hire Jason Wilder as Part-time Laborer, Parks & Recreation Department at \$12.00 per hour, effective April 29, 2026.
- m) Hire Alexis Trammel, Adelyn Torres, Tsiyyonyah Auguston, Jerome Simmons, Laynie Bates, and Aspen Duvall as Part-time Laborer/Concessions, Parks & Recreation Department at \$10.07 per hour, effective April 29, 2026.
- n) Hire Bostynne Norton and Braxton Baker as Lifeguards, Parks & Recreation Department at \$12.00 per hour, effective April 29, 2026.
- o) Accept the termination of Justin Downing, Collector in Solid Waste, effective May 4, 2026.
- p) Accept the resignation (retirement) of Mark Manship, Maintenance Director, effective May 22, 2026.
- q) Accept the resignation of Tripp Rozell, Lifeguard, Parks & Recreation Department, effective April 20, 2026.
- r) Accept the resignation of Kassidy Fertig, Part-time Laborer/Concessions, Parks & Recreation Department, effective April 27, 2026.
- s) Accept the public utility easement from David and Laura Kooy.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

6. REGULAR SESSION

- a) No items were removed from the Consent agenda. No action taken.

- b) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve or deny the Revenue Certification Report for FY 2025-2026.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- c) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the Hellas Closeout documents for the construction of the South Anthis-Brennan Sports Complex Baseball Fields (Cherokee Fields).

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- d) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve Resolution No. 05-04-2026A, a resolution for a zoning change from C-2 (Community Commercial) to RM-3 (Multi-Family High Density) for multifamily housing located near 1702 E. Downing Street, Tahlequah, OK.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- e) First Reading and discussion of Ordinance No. 1395-2026, an ordinance of the City of Tahlequah, amending the Tahlequah City Code by adding Section 119-13; Density of animals to be kept.

- f) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve 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.

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

Nays: none

Motion carried

- g) First Reading and discussion of Ordinance No. 1396-2026, an ordinance of the City of Tahlequah known as the 2026 Capital Improvement Sales Tax ordinance, establishing use of funds for .5% sales tax.

- h) No action taken regarding Resolution No. 05-04-2026B, a resolution of the City of Tahlequah, calling for a special election.

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

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

Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to exit the Regular Session and enter into an Executive Session at 6:39 pm.

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

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

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

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

- e) Special Meeting set for Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

- f) Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.