

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 1, 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 JT Hammons, City Administrator Taylor Tannehill, City Clerk Whitney Shaw, City Treasurer Mary Hainzinger, and IT Support Jordan Poppino

- c. Invocation: Nate King, Chief of Police
- d. Flag salute: Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers
- e. Public Notice: December 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and May 26, 2026, at 11:55 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [849 9078 2432](#) Password: [4560651](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments by: Ariel Longoria and Cathy Cott.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5. Bryan Qualls, PD-10 yrs., Hackworth, Justin-Retirement from FD. Mayor Myers spoke on TIF Project and thanked the Committee.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the May 4 and May 19, 2026 City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt the April 2026 General Fund Executive Summary.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2026 Investment Schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2026 Check Register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2026 Purchasing Card Statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the April 2026 Open PO report.
- g) Acknowledge and accept the \$3,500 restricted funds earmarked for the Fire Department from Cherokee Nation and amend the budget accordingly.
- h) Accept the contractual amount of \$7,020.00 from Cherokee Nation for the Animal Shelter, placing the funds in the Animal Shelter Restricted Donations account and amending the budget accordingly.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of the May 2026 Tahlequah Hospital Authority Board report.

- j) Acknowledge receipt of the May 2026 Tourism report.
- k) Acknowledge receipt of the May 2026 Tahlequah Regional Development Authority report.
- l) Acknowledge receipt of the May 2026 Tahlequah Main Street Association report.
- m) Acknowledge receipt of the May 2026 Tahlequah Public Works Authority Board report.
- n) Approve the 2026-2027 FY Tourism Budget.
- o) Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Stephen Highers to the Tahlequah Public Works Authority Board, term ending May 3031.
- p) Approve the Mayor's appointment of Rod Ross to fill a vacated seat, term ending May 2028, on the Historic Preservation Board.
- q) Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Betty Brown to the Historic Preservation Board, term ending May 3031.
- r) Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Ryan Cannonie to the Board of Adjustments, term ending May 2029.
- s) Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Andy Harris to the Planning Commission, term ending May 2029.
- t) Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Melissa Harris to the Abatement Board, term ending May 2031.
- u) Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Matt Cochran to the Municipal Airport Board, term ending May 3031.
- v) Approve the legal services agreement with BJ Baker, City Prosecutor, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- w) Approve agreement with Cherokee County for Emergency Management Services for fiscal year 2026-2027.
- x) Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Cherokee County Detention Center for inmate meals beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
- y) Approve the Inter-Local Agreement on the handling of juvenile cases with the Cherokee County District Court for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- z) Engage the services of Edie Bailly, LLP to conduct the Financial Compilation for the FY 2026-2027 audit.
- aa) Approve the 2026-2027 contract for Eric Lathrop for the opening/closing of cemetery graves at the cost of \$300 per grave.
- bb) Engage the services of St. Pierre, Kimble, & Associates, CP, PC to conduct the Financial Audit for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- cc) Approve the School Resource Officer contract with Tahlequah Public Schools for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- dd) Approve the 2026-2027 Disposal Agreement with Waste Management of Oklahoma, Inc.
- ee) Promote Darrel Deckard to Maintenance Superintendent, increasing salary to \$51,292.04, effective May 24, 2026.
- ff) Promote Chloe B. White from Head Lifeguard to Senior Head Lifeguard in Parks & Rec at \$15.00 per hour, effective May 10, 2026.
- gg) Promote Jeremiah Auguston from Lifeguard to Head Lifeguard in Parks & Rec at \$13.00 per hour, effective May 24, 2026.
- hh) Promote Dynashia Bailey and Emma Fields from Part Time Laborer/Concessions to Lifeguards in Parks & Rec at \$12.00 per hour, effective May 11, 2026.
- ii) Hire Drake Chaffin as Part-time Laborer, Parks & Rec at \$12.00 per hour, effective May 12, 2026.
- jj) Hire Fisher Davis as Part-time Laborer/Concessions, Parks & Rec at \$10.07 per hour, effective April 29, 2026.
- kk) Hire Skylyn Robinson as Head Lifeguard, Parks & Rec at \$13.00 per hour, effective May 4, 2026.
- ll) Hire Chloe E. White as Lifeguard, Parks & Rec at \$12.00 per hour, effective May 4, 2026.
- mm) Hire Christopher Blevins Part-time Laborer, Parks & Rec at \$12.00 per hour, effective May 18, 2026.
- nn) Hire Wesley Davis as Driver, Solid Waste, at \$40,500.00 annually, effective May 19, 2026.
- oo) Hire Edward Scott as Collector, Solid Waste, at \$35,500.00 annually, effective May 19, 2026.
- pp) Hire Avery Clinton as Collector, Solid Waste, at \$35,500.00 annually, effective June 1, 2026.
- qq) Accept the resignation (retirement) of Justin Hackworth, Lieutenant in the Fire Dept., effective May 29, 2026.
- rr) Accept the resignation of Sawyer Henderson and Christian Goins, Part-time Laborer/Concessions in Parks & Rec, effective May 21, 2026.
- ss) Accept the resignation of Jaxon Robinson, Lifeguard in Parks & Rec, effective May 27, 2026.
- tt) Accept the resignation of Karsen Shankle, Part-time Laborer/Concessions in Parks & Rec, effective June 1, 2026.

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

- a) No items were removed from the Consent agenda. No action taken.
- b) The PUBLIC HEARING on the PROPOSED 2026-2027 CITY BUDGET began at 5:40 pm. No public comments or questions. Meeting ended at 5:44 pm.
- c) No action was taken on **Resolution No. 06.01.2026A**, a resolution to approve the City Budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year and establishing a budget amendment authority.
- d) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve **TEFA Resolution No. 06-01-2026**, a resolution of the Trustees of the Tahlequah Educational Facilities Authority terminating the trust and distributing any remaining assets of the trust to the City of Tahlequah.

e) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve with the modification of specifying the amount of reimbursement not to exceed \$20,000 for work on areas of the project that cannot be funded by City tax dollars, in the MOU with TPS to provide construction management services for the Cherokee Elementary Access Road project.

f) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve the Mayor entering into an agreement with Kimley-Horn for engineering services of East Shawnee Street Improvements, beginning on S. Bluff Ave and ending at S. Cedar Ave.

g) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve the Mayor entering into an agreement with Kimley-Horn for engineering services of Cedar Avenue Improvements, beginning at E. Ross St. and ending at E. Downing St.

h) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve 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.

06-01-2026 Minutes-City Council

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers

Nays: none

Motion carried

8. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION at 6:07 pm.

- a) Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to authorize the Mayor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 201 as discussed in the Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Allen, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

- b) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers Seconded to authorize the Mayor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with International Association of Firefighters Local 4099 as discussed in the Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry

Nays: none

Motion carried

- c) Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.