

**MINUTES**  
**TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 - 7:00 PM**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 111 S. CHEROKEE AVE.**

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**1. MEETING CONVENED**

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Meeting **called to order** by Mayor Nichols at 7:06 pm.  
City Clerk DeAnna Hammons Called the **Roll call as follows:**

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|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Councilor Ward I   | Bree Long       |
|                 | Councilor Ward II  | Dower Combs     |
|                 | Councilor Ward III | Stephen Highers |
|                 | Councilor Ward IV  | Joshua Bliss    |

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Attorney Grant Lloyd, City Administrator Ed Carr, City Treasurer Lanny Williams, Street Commissioner Wayne Ryals, Finance Director Danya Curtis, Police Chief Nate King, Planning and Development Director Clinton Johnson, Personnel Director Jessica Petty, Public Relations Jamie Murphy

**Invocation – Pastor Matthew Franks – First United Methodist Church**  
**Flag salute.**

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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There were no comments from the public.

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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

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Councilor Combs made the motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Acknowledge receipt of the **Financial** Reports from December 2017.  
To accept the resignation of Peter Stovall as an Operator in the Street Department, effective February 12, 2018.  
To accept the resignation of Stephanie Aryan as the Purchasing Agent in the Managerial Department, effective February 28, 2018.  
To accept the transfer of Robert Jones from a School Resource Officer to a Patrolman.  
To accept the transfer of Reed Felts from a Patrolman to a School Resource Officer.

Vote: Ayes: Bliss, Long, Combs, Highers Nays: none

Motion carried.

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#### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

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Recognition of Years of Service for March Employees:

**Dickie Neugin – 25 years – Cemetery**

**Larry Dallis – 20 years – Solid Waste**

Report from Chamber of Commerce – Verbal - Chamber Director Cindy Morris  
Street Department – Written

#### REGULAR SESSION

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5. Councilor Bliss made the motion and Councilor Combs seconded to approve the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 City Council Meeting minutes as submitted with the addition of 201 S. Lena Tahlequah, OK in reference to Buffy Guthrie who spoke during Public Comments and approve the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 City Council Meetings minutes as submitted with the deletion of the duplicate 110-66-9316 at the end of agenda item number 10.

Vote: Ayes: Combs, Long, Bliss, Highers Nays: none Motion carried

6. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to petition the County Commissioners for access to **city-owned properties adjacent to, and near Diedrick Lane** so the City may continue the City's analysis and feasibility studies related to a potential **recreational trail system** and to form a working group to evaluate and work through details of property use **of city-owned properties adjacent to, and near Diedrick Lane as the site of a recreational trail system.**

Vote: Ayes: Bliss, Long, Combs, Highers Nays: none

Motion carried.

7. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to enter into the **Land Lease Agreement** between the **City of Tahlequah and Alltel Communications, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless with appropriate exhibit A and B** regarding property located at Anthis Brennan Sports Complex.

Vote: Ayes: Long, Combs, Mayor Nays: Highers, Bliss  
carried.

Motion

8. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long Seconded to adopt **Ordinance No. 1253-2018, rezoning** the property located at the southwest corner of the intersection of **North Cedar Avenue and Diedrick Lane**, from Single-Family Dwelling District (R-1) to Multiple Family Dwelling District (R-3).

*Vote:* Ayes: Combs, Highers, Long      Nays: Bliss      Motion carried.

9. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to adopt Resolution No. 03-05-18 a **Resolution Supporting the Modernization of Cherokee County Alcohol Laws**.

*Vote:* Ayes: Highers, Bliss, Long, Combs      Nays: none      Motion carried.

10. Councilor Bliss made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **approve initial Policies** of the **new Tahlequah Police Department Policy Manual. Policies 100-103, 103.2.1, 103.5, and 200-207 with Chief King's recommendation to add language to section 103.2.1 that any revision or new policy must be approved or acknowledged by City Council.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Bliss, Long, Combs, Highers      Nays: none      Motion carried.

11. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to accept additional **Funds from the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office** in our current **Occupant Protection Grant in the amount of \$5,500 and amend the current grant budget to reflect an increase of \$5,100 in salaries and \$400 in fringe benefits.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Long, Combs, Highers, Bliss      Nays: none      Motion carried.

12. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to accept the 2017 **DOJ Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant** and create a budget for the grant in the amount of \$3,633.74 which will consist of \$1,816.87 (City portion) and loan of \$1,816.87 that will be reimbursed by DOJ.

*Vote:* Ayes: Combs, Highers, Bliss, Long      Nays: none      Motion carried.

13. Councilor Bliss made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded **adding School Resource Officer position(s)** within the police department with recommendation from Chief King to use proposal number 2 for 2 full-time and 1 part-time School Resource Officers.

*Vote:* Ayes: Highers, Bliss, Long, Combs Nays: none Motion carried.

14. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **hire Kyle Reed as a patrolman 1 and Robert Bacon as a patrolman 3 as School Resource Officers** in the Police Department.

*Vote:* Ayes: Bliss, Long, Combs, Highers Nays: none Motion carried.

15. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **hire William Jacob Robertson at \$17.00 per hour as a part-time School Resource Officers** in the Police Department.

*Vote:* Ayes: Long, Combs, Highers, Bliss Nays: none Motion carried.

16. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **hire Jessy O'Kelly as an Operator** in the **Street Department at a T112 Step 1.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Combs, Highers, Bliss, Long Nays: none Motion carried.

17. No action was taken to **adjust the Step and Grade Matrix to** move the **Encumbering Clerk position from a T112 to a T114.**

18. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **amend section 602- Promotion of the Employee Handbook of Personnel Policies.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Bliss, Long, Combs, Highers Nays: none Motion carried.

19. No action was taken to accept the **transfer of Heather Torrento**, from a **Cashier to the Purchasing Agent**, in the Managerial Department.

20. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to approve the **Purchase of asphalt from Arkhola Sand and Gravel** in the amount of \$23,500.00 to be used on N. Bluff Avenue Street.

*Vote:* Ayes: Combs, Highers, Bliss, Long Nays: none Motion carried.

21. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded **implementing a Media Relations Policy with recommended amendments and excluding the Police Department.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Highers, Combs, Mayor Nays: Long, Bliss Motion carried.

22. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

*Vote:* Ayes: Bliss, Long, Combs, Highers Nays: none Motion carried.

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- ❖ Discussion regarding property located at **Lot Five (5) Block Thirty-Nine (39), of the original townsite of City of Tahlequah, State of Oklahoma**, as provided in O.S. Title 25, Section 307 (B) (3), (4), and/or (7).
  - ❖ Discussion on the purchase of **real properties located on Park Street**, as provided in O. S. Title 25, Section 307 (B) (3).
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23. **Mayor Nichols Reconvened** regular meeting at 10:48 p.m.

24. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded directing the City Attorney to initiate a lawsuit against Springwater Properties L.L.C. and all other necessary parties to quiet title and/or determine all parties rights to Lot 5 Block 39 original townsite of City of Tahlequah, State of Oklahoma.

*Vote:* Ayes: Long, Combs, Bliss Abstained: Highers Motion carried.

25. **No action was taken on the purchase of real properties located on Park Street.**

26. There was no mid-month Special meeting scheduled.

27. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **Adjourn** at 10:50 p.m.