

**MINUTES**  
**TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 - 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 Catron at 7:01 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  | Trae Ratliff    |

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Attorney Grant Lloyd, City Treasurer Lanny Williams, Fire Chief Ray Hammons, Police Chief Nate King, Emergency Director Mike Underwood, Planning and Development Director Clinton Johnson, Superintendent Charles Poteet, Human Resource Director M'Lynn Pape, IT Department Randy Powell, Administrative Assistant Tesina O'Field, Public Relations Jami Murphy.

**Invocation – Police Chief Nate King**  
**Flag salute.**

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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- **Dr. John Uzzo spoke regarding information he said he received on money owed to patients from Tahlequah Hospital Authority and/or Northeastern Health Systems.**
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**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

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Councilor Long made the motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a) Approve the **minutes** of the August 5 & August 19, 2019 City Council Meetings.
- b) Approve the transfer of Cody Warren from Law Enforcement to Cops In Schools and Kyle Reed from Cops in Schools to Law Enforcement.
- c) Approve the resignation from Brian Powers, Patrolman, in the Police Department effective August 28, 2019.
- d) Approve the resignation from Billy Sunday, Part Time Laborer, in the Recreation Department, effective August 15, 2019.

Vote: Ayes: Long, Combs, Highers, Ratliff

Nays: none Motion carried.

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#### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

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Recognition of Years of Service for September Employees:

- **Josh L. Girdner – 5 years – Police Department**

Report from Library- none at this time

Report from Tahlequah Convention and Visitors Bureau – **Written/Verbal**

Report from Chamber of Commerce – **Slide Show/Written/Verbal**

Report from the Tahlequah Main Street Association – **Written/Verbal**

Reports from City Departments:

Street Department – **Written**

#### REGULAR SESSION

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5. There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

6. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to deny the **appeal of Lisa Huber related to** the decision of the animal control officer **banning a vicious dog named Sebastian.**

Vote: Ayes: Combs, Highers, Ratliff, Long

Nays: none Motion carried.

7. Discussion was had and Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **Table** further discussion and possible action related to adoption of **Ordinance No. 1290-2019**, amending Part 12, Planning, Zoning and Development, Chapter 2, **Zoning, General and District Provisions**, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tahlequah, including but not limited to definitions and uses permitted in R-1 Single-Family Dwelling District, R-2 Two-Family Dwelling District, R-3 Multi-Family Dwelling District, C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District, C-2 General Commercial District, I-1 Restricted Light Industrial District, and I-2 Light Industrial District, **until the Public Hearing to be held September 11, 2019 at 5:30 in the City of Tahlequah Council Chambers located at 111 S. Cherokee, Tahlequah, OK.**

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Long, Combs,

Nays: none Motion carried.

8. Discussion item only, to adopt **Ordinance No. 1291-2019, amending Part 3, Alcoholic Beverages**, Taxation and Regulation, of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Tahlequah.

9. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to allow for Tahlequah High School & Northeastern State University to utilize **Anthis-Brennan Sports Complex softball fields and concession stand** for a softball tournament held September 26, 27, & 28, 2019, as part of the City's soft opening of said complex.

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

- Mayor Catron requested a 5 minute break at 8:39 p.m.
- Mayor Catron reconvened meeting at 8:45 p.m.

10. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to adjust the **grade of the Chief's Executive Assistant** within the **Police Department from a T113 to a T115 Step 8, effective September 11, 2019.**

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

11. **No action was taken to creating a cost reimbursement account for the FBI Safe Trails** working group in the amount of \$12,000.

12. **No action was taken to funding 2018 DOJ Bullet Proof Vest Grant account #337-46-1010** in the amount of \$3,375.00 with match funds from the City of Tahlequah in the same amount of \$3,375.00.

13. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **Table** discussion and possible action to allow **TNT Crane Rigging to close N. Muskogee Ave.** at 210 N. Muskogee for 4 days to perform work on tower behind AT&T building, **until the Tahlequah City Council Regular Meeting on October 7, 2019.**

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

14. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to **accept the donation of a 2015 Chevy One Ton truck** with four door cab **from NOPFA.**

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

15. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **authorize the City Attorney and City Clerk** to allow the **Cherokee County District Attorney's Office and Cherokee County Sheriff's Office to review the official sealed executive session minutes from the June 7, 2019 City Council Meeting** and then placing them directly back in the sealed envelope without retaining a copy.

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

16. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 9:21 p.m.

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

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- Discussion regarding the **City's employment agreement** with the **City Administrator** Edward Carr, as provided in 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (1).
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- Mayor Catron reconvened meeting at 10:57 p.m.

**17. Councilor Long** made a motion and councilor Ratliff seconded to terminate the City Administrator Edward Carr's employment agreement, for legal cause, effective September 3, 2019, and direct Mayor Catron to provide written notice to Edward Carr specifying the reasons for such termination.

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

**18.** There will be a September 16, 2019 Mid-Month Special meeting starting at 6:00 p.m.

**19. Councilor Highers** made a motion and **Councilor Combs** seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:58 p.m.

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