

MINUTES

TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

Date/Time of
City Council Meeting: Monday, December 6, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.
Place of Meeting: The meeting was held at 111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK
74464 (voting members of the public body were present in
person) and by Videoconference and/or Teleconference.

All voting members of the public body attended the meeting in person, any member of the public, nonvoting elected officials, and/or City staff was able to attend the meeting in person with appropriate distancing or remotely by Zoom Videoconference and/or Teleconference. Instructions for remote attendance are provided below.

1. MEETING CONVENED

Meeting **called to order** by Mayor Catron at 5:30 p.m.
City Clerk DeAnna Hammons Called the **Roll call as follows:**

Councilors Present:

Councilor Ward I	Bree Long
Councilor Ward II	Keith Baker
Councilor Ward III	Stephen Highers
Councilor Ward IV	Trae Ratliff

Others Present:

Mayor Sue Catron, City Attorney Grant Lloyd, City Clerk DeAnna Hammons,
City Administrator Alan Chapman, City Treasurer Marty Hainzinger

Absent: none

Invocation – Pastor Joe Tschirhart – Hillside Church

Flag salute.

Public Notice: A Public Notice of meeting was provided December 8, 2020 at 3:32 p.m. to the Secretary of State of Oklahoma and additional notice was provided November 23, 2021 at 10:25 a.m.

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS:

Videoconference and/or Teleconference Access Instructions for Public Attendance at the Meeting: the Public may remotely attend this meeting by joining the Zoom meeting via the web or the Zoom app (www.zoom.us) **Access Code 838 9249 4344 Password 4560651 Access.** Materials presented electronically to Councilors that attend remotely will be made

available to those Councilors via the Zoom meeting platform and/or or another digital platform. If you wish to receive a copy of any materials that are presented to the City Council via Zoom or otherwise, please submit your request to cityclerk@cityoftahlequah.com.

Videoconference and/or Teleconference Notice: This meeting will include communication by City Staff to the City Council, and those communications may be by auditory communication or by visual and auditory communication. Communication by and between the City Council and/or members of the Public may be limited to auditory only communication.

The Public may ask questions during the discussion of each agenda item by typing the word “question” along with his or her name in the chat bar and waiting to be called on. If communicating via the Zoom Videoconference and/or Teleconference, the Mayor will call upon you to unmute yourself so that you may speak. Only questions spoken out loud are allowed to be responded to. Please do not type out your questions in the chat bar.

Should there be any technical difficulties during the meeting please refer to the City of Tahlequah website and/or City of Tahlequah Facebook page as the City will address any issues and/or provide further instructions.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Sontae spoke regarding concerns of speed on East Shawnee St.
Dr. John Uzzo spoke regarding concerns related to Northeastern Health System.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) To approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 & November 15, 2021 City Council meetings.
- b) To acknowledge receipt of October 2021 financial statements.
- c) To acknowledge receipt of the monthly check register for November 2021.
- d) To acknowledge receipt of October & November P-Card transactions list.
- e) To approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule for the Tahlequah Hospital Authority Regular Board of Trustees.
- f) To approve agreement with VIP for hosted e-mail service.
- g) To acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Education Facility Authority Fiscal Year June 30, 2021 Audit.
- h) To acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Public Facility Authority Fiscal Year June 30, 2021 Audit.
- i) To acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Hospital Authority Fiscal Year June 30, 2021 Audit.
- j) To accept the resignation from Johnny Murphy, Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective October 29, 2021.
- k) To hire Kenneth Sohns, Part Time Laborer (999) in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$10.50 hour.

- l) To hire Kyle Sherley, Part Time Laborer (999) in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$10.50 hour.
- m) To hire James Graves, Part Time Animal Control (999) in the Managerial Department at \$10.50 per hour.
- n) To hire Charles Bryant, Dispatcher at \$27,671.00 annually, in the Police Department effective December 13, 2021.

Vote: Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers, Ratliff

Nays: none Motion carried.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Recognition of Years of Service for **December** Employees:

- **Stephen Arnall – 25 years – Tahlequah Police Department**

Tahlequah **Employee of the Month**, Vicki Johnson, **recognized** for December 2021.

Report from Library – No report provided

Report from Chamber of Commerce – Verbal report provided

Report from Tour Tahlequah a Department of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce – Verbal and written report provided

Report from the Tahlequah Main Street Association – No report provided

REGULAR SESSION

- 6. There were no items removed from the **consent** agenda.
- 7. Discussion only related to conducting a **controlled burn of the Bluff Ave.** hillside between Choctaw and First Street.
 - Councilor Ratliff excused himself from the meeting at 5:50 p.m.
- 8. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to deny the **appeal** of the violation notice dated November 15, 2021 regarding the decision of the animal control officer **to ban a vicious dog**.

Vote: Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers

Nays: none Motion carried.

- 9. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve **paying overtime** in lieu of compensatory time to **officers who worked security** for the annual Christmas parade from General Funds with a cap of \$2,500.00.

Vote: Ayes: Baker, Highers, Long

Nays: none Motion carried.

10. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded approving the “Supplemental Operating Agreement for **Detention Service between Cherokee Nation and City of Tahlequah.**”

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Long, Baker

Nays: none Motion carried.

11. Chief of Police Nate King requested removal of the agenda item and therefore no action was taken to fully execute and sign **City Addendum to the Deputation Agreement for law enforcement** as filed with the Oklahoma Secretary of State on January 23, 2006, **within the exterior boundaries of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians** in Oklahoma and instruct City Clerk to file the same with the Oklahoma Secretary of State.

12. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the **Equipment Lease Agreement** between the City of Tahlequah and the **United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians.**

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Long, Baker

Nays: none Motion carried.

13. Discussion item only related to **Ordinance 1328-2021.** An ordinance changing the zoning from R-1 and C-2 to I-1 for a marijuana producer facility (growing facility) generally located on the **West side of Highway 62/S. Muskogee Avenue** behind Cherokee Housing Authority Offices more particularly described as follows: The E2 SW4 SE4 NW4; and the S2 NW4 SE4 NW4 of; and the W2 SW4 SE4 NW4 of Section 16, Township 16 North, Range 22 East, City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, State of Oklahoma.

14. Discussion item only related to **Ordinance No. 1330-2021,** an ordinance amending “Exhibit A of Ordinance No. 1303-2020 to include **Excessive Nuisance Alarms.**”

15. No action was taken to confirm or not confirm the **appointment of Dr. Doug Nolan** as a Trustee of the **Tahlequah Hospital Authority Board of Trustees** to succeed Trustee Dr. Charles Gosnell.

16. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded **to exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 6:28 p.m.**

Vote: Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers

Nays: none Motion carried.

- City Attorney Grant Lloyd made note that he would excuse himself from executive session during the discussion of the employment agreement with the City Administrator.
- Councilor Baker requested Attorney Harvey Chaffin attend during the discussion of the employment agreement with the City Administrator.
- Mayor Sue Catron requested Attorney Michael Vanderburg attend during the discussion of the employment agreement with the City Administrator as well.

17. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to reconvene Regular Session at 9:27 p.m.
- Vote:* Ayes: Baker, Highers, Long Nays: none Motion carried.
18. No action was taken regarding the 2021-2022 contract with IAFF Local 4099.
19. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to hire Brian Lambert as the Airport Manager at a grade T-115.
- Vote:* Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers Nays: none Motion carried.
20. No action was taken regarding the city's employment agreement with the City Administrator.
21. No mid-month special meetings was set at this time.
22. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:31 p.m.
- Vote:* Ayes: Baker, Highers, Long Nays: none Motion carried.