

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016 - 7:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 111 S. CHEROKEE AVE.

1. **MEETING CONVENED**

Meeting **called to order** by Mayor Nichols at 7:01 pm.
The City Clerk Deb Corn called **the roll** as follows:

Present:	Councilor Ward I	Diane Weston
	Councilor Ward II	Dr. Charles Carroll
	Councilor Ward III	Stephen Highers
	Councilor Ward IV	Joshua Bliss

Others present: City Attorney Angela Jones, Assistant City Administrator Kevin Smith, Street Commissioner Wayne Ryals, Police Chief Nate King, Personnel Director Jessica Petty, Finance Director Marcie Gilliam, Solid Waste Assistant Superintendent Chris Armstrong, Emergency Management Director Mike Underwood, News Media Josh Newton.

Invocation – Vernon Friesen from Community Bible Fellowship.
Flag salute.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Phil Jones requested that the City enforce the current ordinances before passing more ordinances, in particular the brush ordinance. The City has piles of brush that has been stacked beside the road for a year. The trash cans on curbs are also falling over and the wind is spreading trash everywhere. JoEllen Rogers also made a second request for the stripes on south Muskogee Avenue to be repainted.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Weston made the motion and Councilor Carroll seconded to remove the following items (Self-**termination** of Michael Grey Jr. as a part-time laborer in the **Rec Dept.** and **Hire** Heather Wright as a part-time 552-hr laborer in the **Rec Dept** with a salary of \$8.25 hr) and approve the rest of the consent agenda as follows:

- Approve the **minutes** of the May 2, 12, 16 and 26, 2016 City Council Meetings
- Approve the amended **minutes** of the March 7, 2016 City Council Meeting (item # 6)
- Acknowledge receipt of April 2016 **Financial Report**
- Accept the **resignation** of Fisher Eastham as a part-time laborer in the **Park Dept.**
- Accept the **resignation** of Shane Siever as a part-time laborer in the **Park Dept.**
- Accept the **resignation** of Nicholas Summers as a full-time collector in **Solid Waste Services**
- Accept the **resignation** of Alberto Huerta as a full-time collector in **Solid Waste Services**

Accept the **resignation** of Justin Ford as a full-time Operator in **Street** Dept.

Hire Justin Johnson as a part-time 999-hr laborer in the **Park** Dept with a salary of \$8.95 hr

Hire Cody Cole as a part-time 552-hr laborer in the **Park** Dept with a salary of \$8.25 hr

Acknowledge the **retirement** of Estel Tidwell from the **Street** Dept, effective June 1, 2016

Approve Capital Improvement Fund **Budget Amendment** # 07 in the amount of \$15,000.00 due to sponsorship for equipment for police department received from Cherokee Nation

Vote: Ayes: Carroll, Highers, Bliss, Weston Nays: none Motion carried.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Recognition of Years of Service for May Employees: Brad Robertson in the Police Department – 20 years

Presentation of Awards to Officer Chase Reed and Officer Bronson McNeil, by Chief Nate King, for Bravery on the job

Report from Library - none

Report from Tahlequah Convention and Visitors Bureau – Melissa Harris

Report from Chamber of Commerce – Laura Doss

Report from the Tahlequah Main Street Association – Drew Haley

Reports from City Departments: Fire Department, Street Department, Emergency Management, Police Department, Solid Waste Services

REGULAR SESSION

5. There were two items removed from Consent Agenda: Self-**termination** of Michael Grey Jr. as a part-time laborer in the **Rec** Dept. and **Hire** Heather Wright as a part-time 552-hr laborer in the **Rec Dept** with a salary of \$8.25 hr. Councilor Bliss indicated that he was informed from Mr. Grey that it was not a self-termination. More research will be required before the Council makes a determination. The hire of Heather Wright was dependent on the termination of Mr. Grey. No action was taken by Council.

No action taken.

6. After lengthy discussion there was no action to approve **Resolution** No. 06-06-16, **adopting** the FY 2016-2017 Tahlequah City **Budget**. Councilor Bliss had questions concerning the amount of funds taken from Operating Reserve and questioned whether those funds were supposed to be budgeted or put into the “Rainy Day Fund”. Bliss also indicated that he would like to see the Intergovernmental Revenue from TPWA be spent to pay down the Bond so that the citizens would be able to keep that portion of the tax sooner than scheduled and if not used to pay down the bond then to be spent on other projects that would be more in line with beautifying our community (improving streets). Councilor Weston had questions about the Residential Recycle Program that was included in the budget. Phil Jones questioned how much money was put into the maintenance of the streets.

No action was taken.

7. The **rental agreement** with **NORA** for office space at the Armory Municipal Center was discussed but the amount for rent was not decided upon. City Attorney Angela Jones said that the City could not give away or make donations with public funds. The amount of rent

charged would have to cover the expense of the rental space. No action was taken on this item.

No action taken.

8. The discussion to approve a **rental agreement** with **CASA** for office space at the Armory Municipal Center was also discussed in item # 7 and the same thing applied. No action was taken on this item.

No action taken.

9. Councilors listened to proposals from DeGeorge Enterprises Inc. and Barnard Media for the **recording** of the City Council **Meetings**. No action was taken.

No action taken.

10. Councilor Carroll made the motion and Councilor Weston seconded to **award** alternate # 1 (standing seam roof) on the **bid** that was awarded to Zenith Construction for the Morgan Street Pavilion Project in the amount of \$34,239.00.

Vote: Ayes: Bliss, Weston, Carroll, Highers Nays: none Motion carried.

11. Councilor Bliss made the motion to **engage** Crawford & Associates, P. C. for compilation/**preparation** of the **Financial Statements** of the City of Tahlequah for the period ending June 30, 2016. After discussion on whether the amount would come from 2015-2016 budget or 2016-2017 budget Councilor Bliss withdrew his motion. Councilor Bliss made the motion and Councilor Highers seconded to table this item.

Vote: Ayes: Weston, Carroll, Highers, Bliss Nays: none Motion carried.

12. After discussion to wait until after the new budget takes effect Councilors took no action to **engage** Michael W. Green, CPA for **Audit** of the Financial Statements of the City of Tahlequah for the period ending June 30, 2016.

No action taken.

13. Councilor Weston made the motion and Councilor Carroll seconded to table the **creation** a social media **policy** for all city employees.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Bliss, Weston, Carroll Nays: none Motion carried.

14. No action was taken to **appoint** members and **activate** the City of Tahlequah **Tree Board**. The Tree Board Ordinance will have to be amended first.

No action taken.

15. No action was taken to **amend** current Residential and Commercial **Landscape Ordinances**.

No action taken.

16. Councilor Weston made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to initiate the **creation** of a **training** program for elected officials and officers.

Vote: Ayes: Weston, Carroll, Highers, Bliss Nays: none Motion carried.

17. Councilor Carroll made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to renew the **Interlocal Agreement** on the handling of **Juvenile Cases** between the District Court, Fifteenth Judicial District, and the City of Tahlequah, effective June 30, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

Vote: Ayes: Carroll, Highers, Bliss, Weston Nays: none Motion carried.

18. Councilor Bliss made the motion and Councilor Weston seconded to **hire** Nathan Calhoon as a full-time Collector in **Solid Waste Services** at Grade 3, Step 1 and to hire Warren Hyslope as a full-time Collector in Solid Waste Services at Grade 3, Step 2 and to hire Buck Wood as a part-time laborer in Solid Waste Services with a salary of \$8.95 an hour.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Bliss, Weston, Carroll Nays: none Motion carried.

19. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Weston seconded to exit regular session and enter into executive session at 9:54 pm.

Vote: Ayes: Bliss, Weston, Carroll, Highers Nays: none Motion carried.

❖ Discussion on **grievance** # 001-2016 from Local 4099, as provided in O. S. Title 25, Section 307 (B) (2).

20. Mayor Nichols **Reconvened** Regular Meeting at 10:12 pm.
No action needed.

21. No action was taken on **grievance** # 001-2016 from Local 4099.
No action taken.

22. The **mid-month** special **meeting** will be on June 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm.
No action needed.

23. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to **adjourn** at 10:16 pm.
Vote: Ayes: Carroll, Highers, Bliss, Weston Nays: none Motion carried.