

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016 - 7:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 111 S. CHEROKEE AVE.

1. Mayor Nichols called the meeting of the City Council **to order** at 7:03 pm in the City Council Chambers at 111 S. Cherokee Avenue.

2. 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, Street Commissioner Wayne Ryals, Police Chief Nate King, Emergency Management Director Mike Underwood, Stormwater Manager Clinton Johnson, News Media Josh Newton.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sue Bingham submitted a list of high weeds on City right-of-way and other high weeds and trash violations that have not been taken care of by the City. JoEllen Rogers was grateful for the lines that have been painted on south Muskogee Ave. Ms. Rogers also said that there is no signage at the new swimming pool that will let the public know what the hours are, what days they are open and the price of admission. She also mentioned that the slides are broken and have been broken since last year. Ms. Rogers also mentioned weed and trash violations. Pam Stern said she is very proud of the job the Police Department is doing concerning thefts. Ms. Stern also brought to the Council's attention that 4th Street from the by-pass west to Muskogee Ave. needs attention because it is overgrown.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING:** A Public Hearing was held regarding the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Application. There were suggestions from the public on what the funds (approx. \$105,000.00) might be spent on. The list is as follows: The new Trail project, bathrooms and lighting at the old swimming pool and skate park, town branch clean-up, City Golf Course, Library parking lot, Law Enforcement technology and programs to protect the public. The Public Hearing was closed.

5. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to adopt the Community Development Block **Grant** Small Cities Citizens **Participation Plan**.

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

6. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to adopt the Community Development Block **Grant** Small Cities **Resolution** for the application and utilization of CDBG funds.

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

7. Because of an emergency Clifford Fritts was not present to request that the Council allow for horse drawn **carriage rides** on the city streets of Tahlequah. He requested that it be put on an upcoming agenda.

No action taken.

8. Stormwater Manager Clinton Johnson presented **Ordinance** No. 1236-2016, **rezoning** the property located at 123 W. Willis Rd. from Multiple-Family District (R-3) to Open Display Commercial District (C-3). This was the introduction of the Ordinance. It will appear on the next agenda for action.

No action taken.

9. Councilors voiced their approval and/or concerns about the proposed budget as follows: Councilor Weston had concerns about the Special Assessment Mowing Account and said that she was in favor of this budget.

Councilor Carroll voiced his concerns about the plans for the new skate park and was reluctant to put that much money into something that they had not seen any plans for. Councilor Carroll also objected to \$600,000.00 being spent on street lighting when TPWA already provides street lights. Carroll's other concern was that they had discussed putting \$400,000.00 in the budget for a centralized garage but he did not see it in the proposed budget. Mayor Nichols said that it must have been overlooked and that it was his intention to follow through with that plan.

Councilors Highers said that he thought it was a good budget and that it was just the skeleton and that the Council would have to approve the spending as it arises.

Councilor Bliss wanted to delay approving until next Thursday so that some of the Education Incentive Pay recipients could be added. He was assured that it could be done after passage.

Councilor Bliss also wanted to make sure we had money budgeted for the company that will do the financial compilations for the auditor. Bliss also wanted money budgeted for the Rainy Day Fund and the bond money from TPWA to be paid on the bond so that we could get it paid back sooner and the public could keep the tax money in their pocket.

After discussion Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Weston seconded to approve **Resolution** No. 06-06-16, **adopting** the FY 2016-2017 Tahlequah City **Budget**.

Vote: Ayes: Weston, Carroll, Highers Nays: Bliss Motion carried.

10. City Attorney Angela Jones affirmed that since the City would not be supplying any funds that no action would be necessary on a proposal from The Weekly Leader/Leader Action TV to provide a service to the community by providing a **LIVE STREAM** Broadcast of the City Council Meetings Via the CityLink TV (Tahlequah) Channel. City Council is an open meeting and they are free to film it if they want.

No action taken.

11. No action was taken 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. It will appear on the July 5, 2016 City Council agenda for action.

No action taken.

12. Councilor Bliss made the motion and Councilor Carroll seconded to **create** a social media **policy** for the City of Tahlequah and it will be presented at a later date for approval.

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

13. No action was taken to **reactivate** the City of Tahlequah **Tree Board**. Mayor Nichols said that he would appoint 5 members to the Tree Board.

No action taken.

14. Councilor Weston made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to **amend** current Residential **Landscape Ordinance** by amending the required one tree per each 8 parking spaces to one tree per each 5 parking spaces and omitting section C & E.

Vote: Ayes: Carroll, Bliss, Weston Nays: Highers Motion carried.

15. Councilor Bliss made the motion and Councilor Carroll seconded to accept the **resignation** of Diane Weston as Ward I City **Councilor**, effective July 1, 2016.

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

16. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Carroll seconded to accept the **retirement** of Kevin Smith, Assistant City **Administrator**, effective July 1, 2016.

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

17. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to **appoint** Stephanie Zamarron to the **Library System's Board of Trustees**.

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

18. Councilor Bliss made the motion and Councilor Carroll seconded to approve General Fund Budget **Reallocation** in the amount of \$1,408.89 for approved step raises for May and June 2016.

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

19. **PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Bliss seconded to exit regular session and enter into executive session at 9:01 pm.

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

❖ Discussion on the **employment** of Willie Epps in the **Police Department**, as provided in O. S. Title 25, Section 307 (B) (1).

20. Mayor Nichols **Reconvened** Regular Meeting at 9:16 pm.

No action needed.

21. Councilor Bliss made the motion and Councilor Weston seconded allow Willie Epps to participate in the leave share plan but not to exceed 300 hours.

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

22. Councilor Weston made the motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **adjourn** at 9:20 pm.

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