

MINUTES

TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING

Date/Time of
City Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
Place of Meeting: 111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK

The Public was able to attend the meeting in person with appropriate distancing or remotely by Zoom Videoconference and/or Teleconference. Instructions for remote attendance by the Public were provided below.

1. MEETING CONVENED

Meeting **called to order** by Mayor Catron at 5:33 p.m.

City Clerk DeAnna Hammons Called the **Roll call as follows:**

Roll call.

Present:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Councilor Ward I | Bree Long |
| Councilor Ward II | Dower Combs |
| Councilor Ward III | Stephen Higher |
| 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

Public Notice: A Public Notice of meeting was provided January 7, 2021 11:26 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: 811 4695 4270 Password: 349086.** 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** – Bree Long reminded the public of a Candidate Forum scheduled for February 4, 2021 to start at 6 p.m.; Stephen Highers reminded the public of the online survey that is seeking input for potential new internet service providers.

4. Discussion and **update** from the **Crisis Task Force**.

5. Discussion and **update** from the **Recovery Task Force**.

6. **No action** was taken related to **Covid-19 Pandemic and/or determination and separate vote on question of emergency as may be necessary pursuant to Tahlequah City Charter Section 48 and 11 O.S. §14-103.**

7. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to acknowledge receipt of the **December 2020 financials**.

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

8. Discussion item only regarding to accept donations under the “Buy a Bench” program to place a **memory bench** honoring **Judge Donn F. Baker** for his service and dedication to the City of Tahlequah.

9. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to allow defendants with outstanding warrants for Failure to Appear, to be given a “**Fresh Start**” wherein Defendants that pay one half of their total outstanding or inactive warrant(s) between February 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021, will receive the other half waived.

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

10. **No action taken** to lift the moratorium and **hire a Building Inspector** in the Managerial Department.

11. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to accept the **self-demotion** of Sergeant **Jason Girdner** to a Detective within the Police Department, effective January 10, 2021.

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

12. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to **promote Justin Leatherwood** from the rank of Patrolman to the rank and pay of Sergeant, effective January 10, 2021 with appropriate pay.

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

➤ Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to re-open agenda item #11.

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

➤ Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to clarify the prior motion related to agenda item # 11 and accept the **self-demotion** of Sergeant **Jason Girdner** to a Detective within the Police Department with rank and pay of a Patrolman 7, effective January 10, 2021.

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

13. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded **to DENY the adoption of Ordinance No. 1312-2020**, an ordinance rezoning a property generally located between S. College Avenue and S. State Avenue and fronting W. Fourth Street, from two-family dwelling district (R-2) to General Commercial District (C-2). More particularly described as follows: Lot 1, Block 1, Summerfield Heights Subdivision, City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, State of Oklahoma

Vote: Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Highers Nays: Combs Motion carried.

14. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **enter** into an **agreement with Traffic Engineering Consultants, Inc. (TEC)** for traffic engineering services, traffic signal, wheelchair ramp and sidewalk design plans at the intersections of Downing Street and Cedar Avenue and Downing Street and Water Avenue, in the amount of \$45,000. Funding to be provided from the street and sidewalk fund.

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

Mayor called for a 5 minute break at 6:41 p.m.
Mayor Catron reconvened meeting at 6:45 p.m.

15. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to trade in current 2010 Bobcat S220 valued at \$7,000 and **acquire a new Case SV280B T-4 Skid Ster** under state contract FW192 in the amount of \$41,703.93, with a final purchase price after trade in of \$34,703.93.

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

16. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to **temporarily amend** the current Contract related to **Hotel/Motel Tax** with the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce.

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

- 17.
- Councilor Combs made a motion to approve updating the policy regarding sick leave related to employee promotion and transfers and/or Personnel Policy 602- Promotion as presented effective July 1 2021, died due to lack of seconded motion.
 - Councilor Ratliff made a motion to Table until after executive session, died due to lack of seconded motion.

Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **TABLE** updating the **policy regarding sick leave** related to employee promotion and transfers and/or **Personnel Policy 602- Promotion**.

Vote: Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Highers Nays: Combs Motion carried.

18. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:16 p.m.

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

❖ **Discussion and possible action to negotiate sick leave payment to Assistant, Fire Chief as provided by 25 O.S. § 25-307.**

19. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to reconvene Regular Session at 8:29 p.m.

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

20. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded **authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator** to negotiate payment of an amount not to exceed \$4,303.60 to Assistant, Fire Chief Mark Whittmore.

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

21. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:32 p.m.

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