

MINUTES

TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

Date/Time of
City Council Meeting: Monday, April 4, 2022, 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 5:35 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 – Ed Haworth – Abundant Life Church

Flag salute – Lead by Troop 730

Public Notice: A Public Notice of meeting was provided November 15, 2021 at 2:36 p.m. to the Secretary of State of Oklahoma and additional notice was provided March 31, 2022 at 9:58 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 883 1755 2187 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

Dr. John Uzzo spoke regarding information and questions on Tahlequah Hospital Authority.

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 March 7, 2022 regular City Council meeting.
- b) Councilor Baker removed agenda item to be heard in regular session.**
- c) To acknowledge receipt of the February 2022 Financial Statement.
- d) To acknowledge receipt of the March 2022 P Card Statement.
- e) Councilor Ratliff removed agenda item to be heard in regular session.**
- f) Councilor Ratliff removed agenda item to be heard in regular session.**
- g) To authorize the Mayor to execute an affirmation for right to use agreement with Lake Region Cooperative, Inc. and any solely owned subsidiaries to utilize an existing street, drainage, and utility easement to install UG cables (underground cables) in the Tahlequah Business and Technology Park.
- h) To approve a utility and drainage easement from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company located at 996 S College Avenue.
- i) To accept the resignation from Kristin Berry, Cashier in the Managerial Department, effective March 29, 2022.
- j) To accept the resignation of Johnny Kelley, Driver in the Solid Waste Department, effective March 10, 2022.
- k) To accept the resignation of Rylee Blackman, PT Concessions in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective March 16, 2022.

- l) To accept the resignation of Michael Secratt, PT Laborer in the parks and Recreation Department, effective March 7, 2022.
- m) To accept the resignation of Blaine Adams, Volunteer Firefighter in the Fire Department, effective March 24, 2022.
- n) To hire Seth Spencer, Full Time Laborer in the Parks and Recreation department at \$27,671.00 annually, effective April 11, 2022.
- o) To hire Brett Gan, PT Laborer in the Parks and Recreation department at \$10.50 per hour, effective April 11, 2022.
- p) To hire Caden Waits, Trace Russell, and Alayna McAlpine as Lifeguards in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$12.00 per hour.
- q) To hire Andrew Craig, Patrolman III in the Police Department at \$43,137.79 annually, effective March 28, 2022.
- r) To hire Steffon Herd, Patrolman I in the Police Department at \$39,128.67 annually, effective March 28, 2022.
- s) To promote Randy Tanner from Lieutenant to Captain at \$60,174.66 annually, effective April 11, 2022
- t) To hire Justin Fort, Labor/Operator in the Street Department at \$28,989.00 annually, effective April 11, 2022.
- u) To acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Public Works Authority June 30, 2021 Fiscal Year audit.
- v) To accept FEMA Hazmat Grant

Vote: Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers, Ratliff

Nays: none Motion carried.

- Councilor Highers excused himself from the meeting at 6:06 p.m. and returned at 6:07 p.m.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

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

- **Kenny Barnes – Fire Department – 20 years**

Tahlequah **Employee of the Month, Richard Coffron, recognized** for April 2022.

- Special recognition of the Tahlequah Solid Waste and Street Departments. Director of Human Resources M'Lynn Pape

Report from Library – Verbal 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

REGULAR SESSION

11. **No action** was taken regarding advertising for the budgeted position of a part-time animal control officer.
12. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 6:28 p.m.**

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Long, Baker

Nays: none Motion carried

- ❖ **Discussion related to the possible purchase and/or appraisal of real property located at or around 308 Basin Ave., Tahlequah, OK 74464, as provided by 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(3).**
 - ❖ **Discussion pertaining to the appraisal of real property located at the intersection of Bluff Avenue and May Avenue, more particularly described as Lot 5 Block 92 of the Original Townsite, City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma, as provided in 25 O.S. §307 (B)(3).**
 - ❖ **Discussion pertaining to the 2022-2023 contract with FOP Lodge 201, as provided in 25 O.S. §307(B)(2).**
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13. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to Reconvene Regular Session at 7:08 p.m.

Vote: Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Baker, Highers

Nays: none Motion Carried

14. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **purchase real property located at or around 308 Basin Ave., Tahlequah, OK 74464** using storm-water funds pursuant to the Residential Real Estate Purchase Contract dated March 16, 2022 in the amount of \$65,000.00 as well approve all associated closing costs.

Vote: Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers, Ratliff

Nays: none Motion Carried

15. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to approve the sale of the Lot 5 Block 92 of the Original Townsite, City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County to Rodney Sumner for the amount of \$12,000.00, with the City retaining a perpetual easement, and authorize the Mayor to execute a Quit Claim Deed on behalf of the City of Tahlequah related to said transaction.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Long

Nays: Baker

Motion Carried

16. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the **2022-2023 contract with FOP Lodge 201 as previously agreed and signed off by FOP Lodge 201.**

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Long, Baker

Nays: none Motion Carried

17. There will be a mid-month special meetings April 18, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

18. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to **adjourn meeting at 7:12 p.m.**

Vote: Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Baker, Highers

Nays: none Motion Carried