

MINUTES
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 5, 2024 - 5:30 PM

1. MEETING CONVENED

Meeting called to order by Mayor Suzanne Myers at 5:30 pm.
City Clerk, Whitney Shaw, called the roll as follows:

Present:	Councilor Ward I	Danny Perry
	Councilor Ward II	Keith Baker
	Councilor Ward III	Stephen Highers
	Councilor Ward IV	Josh Allen

Others present: Mayor Suzanne Myers, City Attorney JT Hammons, City Administrator Taylor Tannehill, City Treasurer Marty Hainzinger, City Clerk Whitney Shaw, and IT Support Mario De La Hoya

Invocation: Councilman Josh Allen
Flag salute: Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers

2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS

Access Code: [832 6130 7761](#) **Password:** [4560651](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Catron, Cody Bowlin, and Clay Wilson.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a) Approve the minutes from the January 2, 2024 City Council meetings.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the December financial statement.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the January purchasing card statement.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the December investment schedule.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of January check register summary.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of January open purchase order report.
- g) **Removed to Regular Session by Councilman Josh Allen**
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce December 2023 report.

- i) Acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Hospital Authority's December 2023 and January 2024 Admin Reports.
- j) Acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Regional Development Authority December 2023 report.
- k) Acknowledge the receipt of Tour Tahlequah's December 2023 report.
- l) To approve the 1st amendment to a contract between the City of Tahlequah and the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce regarding payments in monthly installments rather than quarterly.
- m) Approve the creation of a new 15-year lease to Blish Properties, Inc. for Tahlequah Municipal Airport Hangar C1, as recommended by the Municipal Airport Board on July 8, 2021.
- n) Acknowledge receipt of the surplus auction dated January 9, 2024 resulting in a deposit of 20,150.00.
- o) • To hire Paige Harjo as Director of Planning and Development in the Managerial Department, in a budgeted position at \$65,000 annually, effective March 18, 2024.
- To hire Blair Foss as a Dispatcher in the Police Department, in a budgeted position at \$15.00 per hour, effective January 17, 2024.
- To Hire Hannah Cavin as a PT Administrative Assistant in the Managerial Department, an unbudgeted position, at \$13.00 per hour, effective February 6, 2024.
- To accept the resignation from Bo Smith, Patrolmen in the Police Department, effective January 17, 2024.
- p) To appoint Dana Eversole to the Board of Adjustment, filling the unexpired term of Suzanne Myers.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Allen, Baker, Perry Nays: None Motion carried

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND REPORTS

Casey Baker recognized for 30 years-TFD
 Reed Felts recognized for 15 years-TPD
 Shanna Dry, UMC recognized for Warming Center organizers and volunteers.

REGULAR SESSION

6. Discussion and possible action on items removed from the consent agenda as follows:

- g) Acknowledge receipt of Financial Summary through January 2024.

City Treasurer requested Consent item "g" be tabled. Item "g" tabled.

- 6a. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the Tahlequah Municipal Courts use of the **Fresh Start Program**.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Perry, Baker, Allen Nays: None Motion carried

- 6b. **No Action** taken on an **easement to NOPFA** over City owned property for the transportation of natural gas.

6c. Councilor Perry made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve **Ordinance No. 1373-2024.**

Vote: Ayes: Perry, Highers, Baker, Allen Nays: None Motion carried

6d. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve **Ordinance No. 1374-2024.**

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry Nays: None Motion carried

Council Highers made a motion and Council Allen seconded to pass **Ordinance 1374-2024** as an emergency.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Allen, Baker, Perry Nays: None Motion carried

6e. Council Highers made a motion and Councilor Allen seconded to approve a **MOU between the City of Tahlequah and the Tahlequah Regional Development Authority** to support commitments made by TRDA in the amount of \$176,000 within their economic development agreement with Optomi, LLC and amend budget accordingly.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Allen, Baker, Perry Nays: None Motion carried

6f. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to authorize the Mayor to enter into a **MOU with the Cherokee 911 Trust** to obligate the American Rescue Plan in the amount of \$155,000 contingent upon said Trust securing a reimbursable grant through the Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority to purchase a Computer Automated Dispatch system and amend budget accordingly. Said funds shall be reimbursed to the City from said Trust upon receipt of funds.

Vote: Ayes: Highers, Baker, Perry, Allen Nays: None Motion carried

6g. Councilor Baker made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to approve the purchase of **new light poles and fixtures** for the downtown area and Norris Park from **Voss Lighting** in the amount of \$485,994.00.

Vote: Ayes: Baker, Perry, Allen, Highers Nays: None Motion carried

6h. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to direct the Mayor to utilize the **2013 Bond Fund in lieu of the American Rescue Plan Fund** in the amount of \$500,000 in accordance with an MOU made between the City of Tahlequah and the Tahlequah Public Works Authority dated December 16, 2022, and amend budget accordingly.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry Nays: None Motion carried

6i. Item table until next Regular Monthly Meeting.

7. Council exited Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Perry, Baker Nays: None Motion carried

Council returned to Regular Session at 8:01 p.m.

8a. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to authorize the Mayor to execute a **Letter of Intent** concerning project leaf.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Highers, Baker Nays: None Motion carried

8b. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to designate the City Administrator as the Chief Negotiator for negotiations with **FOP Lodge 201**.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Highers, Baker, Perry Nays: None Motion carried

8c. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to designate the City Administrator as the Chief Negotiator for negotiations with **IAFF Local 4099**.

Vote: Ayes: Allen, Perry, Baker, Highers Nays: None Motion carried

8d. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.