

**MINUTES  
TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 4, 2024 - 5:30 PM  
111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464**

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**1. MEETING CONVENED**

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Meeting **called to order** by Mayor Suzanne Myers at 5:30 pm.  
Deputy City Clerk, Amber Payton, called **the roll** as follows:

<b>Present:</b>	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, Deputy City Clerk Amber Payton, and IT Support Mario De La Hoya. **Absent:** City Clerk Whitney Shaw

**Invocation:** Josh Allen, Councilman Ward 4

**Flag salute:** Led by Mayor Suzanne Myers

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**2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS**

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**Access Code:** [827 0837 7167](#) **Password:** [4560651](#)

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**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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Ed Haworth, Allison Briggs, Cody Bowlin, Jack Carlisle, CC Thomas, Clay Wilson, Jim Regean, Chad Robinson, Craig Wing, Robert Culpepper

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**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a) Approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024, City Council meeting.
- b) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2024 financial statement.
- c) Acknowledge receipt of the January 2024 investment schedule.
- d) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2024 check register.
- e) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2024 purchasing card statement.
- f) Acknowledge receipt of the February 2024 Open PO report.
- g) Acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Regional Development Authority's February 2024 report.
- h) Acknowledge receipt of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce February 2024 report.
- i) Approve Municipal Airport hangar 34 land lease transfer from Harold Quantie to Harold and Karen Kimrey Revocable Trust.

- j) Approve Municipal Airport hangar C-1 land lease transfer from Blish Properties, LLC to Cherokee Nation. Contingent on ownership transfer of hangar.
- k) Acknowledge write-off of delinquent Solid Waste A/R accounts totaling \$2,492.65.
- l) Approve amendment to Resolution 01-03-2023(A), increasing the scale rate at the Solid Waste facility from \$62 to \$80 per ton.
- m) Approve the promotion of Josh Girdner from Patrolman to Lieutenant with a salary of \$65,776.16.
- n)
  - To hire Aaron Dorrough as Patrolman 1 in the Police Department, in a budgeted position, at \$45,726.06, effective March 18, 2024.
  - To hire Brett Robbins as Patrolman 1 in the Police Department, in a budgeted position, at \$45,726.06, effective April 1, 2024.
  - To transfer Jace Luna, Dispatcher in the Police Department to Patrolman 1, a budgeted position, at 45,726.06, effective June 1, 2024.
  - To approve an increase of pay of \$3,120.00 annually for Amber Payton to perform duties as Deputy City Clerk, effective February 18, 2024.
  - To accept the resignation of Christopher McClure, Fireman in the Fire Department, effective February 22, 2024.
  - To accept the resignations of Kara Foreman, Destin McKee, Noe Sosa, and Alayna McAlpine, Lifeguards in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective February 28, 2024.
  - To accept the resignation of Tate Whittmore, PT Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective February 28, 2024.

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

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND REPORTS**

Nikki Goss, 5yrs, Police Dept and Carl Dallis, 25yrs, Street Dept

**6. REGULAR SESSION**

- a. No Items were removed from the consent agenda.
- b. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the start of a process to establish a **Metropolitan Planning/Zoning Commission**.

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

- c. No action taken.
- d. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve entering into a **Memorandum of Understanding** between the **Tahlequah Regional Development Authority** and the City of Tahlequah for project management and grant administration for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce Prep Grants and amend the budget accordingly.

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

- e. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to **approve with the modification** of “approval of cameras only” and “wage study of City Administrators

choosing, not to exceed \$40,000” for the use and expenditure of the American Rescue Fund and amend the budget accordingly.

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

f. Councilor Allen made a motion and Council Baker seconded to approve **Ordinance No. 1375-2024.**

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

g. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve declaring **Ordinance 1375-2024** an emergency.

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

h. **First Reading Only-Ordinance No. 1376-2024.**

i. No action taken.

j. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve **Resolution No. 03-04-2024(A).**

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

k. Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Baker seconded to approve **Resolution No. 03-04-2024(B).**

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

l. No motion made or required. Discussion only.

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## **7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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a) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to exit meeting and enter into Executive session at **7:09 p.m.**

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

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## **8. RETURNED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 7:31 p.m.**

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a) Councilor Allen made a motion and Councilor Perry seconded to Authorize the City Administrator to purchase the property discussed in Executive Session for the amount discussed in Executive Session.

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

b) Meeting adjourned at **7:32 p.m.**