

# MINUTES

## TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

Date/Time of  
City Council Meeting: Monday, April 5, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.  
Place of Meeting: The meeting was held at 111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK  
74464 and by Videoconference and/or Teleconference. *See*  
25 O.S. §307.1(C).

Members of the public, elected official, or City employee 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.

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### 1. MEETING CONVENED

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Meeting **called to order** by Mayor Catron at 5:31 p.m.  
City Clerk DeAnna Hammons Called the **Roll call as follows:**

**Councilors Present:**

Councilor Ward I	Bree Long
Councilor Ward II	Dower Combs
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 – Chris Stinnett – Church of Christ**

**Flag salute.**

**Public Notice:** A Public Notice of meeting was provided December 8, 2020 at 3:32 p.m. to the Secretary of State of Oklahoma and additional notice was provided March 5, 2021 at 4:20 p.m.

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### 2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS:

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**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](http://www.zoom.us)) **Access Code 892 3810 3202 Password 998171.** 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](mailto: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.

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### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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No public comments were made.

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### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) To approve the **minutes** of the March 1, 2021 and March 22, 2021 City Council meetings.
- b) To approve the monthly **check register** for March 2021.
- c) Councilor Combs removed to be heard in regular session.
- d) To reappoint the following members to the City Planning Commission: Robert Batson term ending May 2022, Michael Torkelson with a term ending May 2023, and Ryan Cannonie with a term ending May 2024.
- e) To accept the resignation of Timothy Neugin, Collector, in the Solid Waste Department, effective March 18, 2021.
- f) To accept the resignation of Kyle Reed, Patrolman, in the Police Department, effective March 23, 2021.
- g) Councilor Long removed to be heard in regular session.
- h) To lift the moratorium and hire Nathaniel Brown and Nelson Battiest, Collectors T112 in the Solid Waste Department.
- i) To lift the moratorium and hire the following as Sr. Lifeguards in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$10.50 per hour: Jacie Yell and Kate Deason.

- j) To lift the moratorium and hire the following as Lifeguards in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$9.50 per hour: Jack McKee, Dorothy Swearingen, Daisy Bevilacqua, Taber Gilbert and Lilly Reed.
- k) To lift the moratorium and hire Rylee Blackman as Seasonal Part Time Laborer (Concession) at \$9.50 per hour.

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

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5.      **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

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

- **John Sutton – Recreation – 20 years**

Report from Library – No report given

Report from Chamber of Commerce – Verbal

Report from Tour Tahlequah a Department of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce – Written and Verbal

Report from the Tahlequah Main Street Association – Verbal

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**REGULAR SESSION**

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- 6.      There were 2 items removed from the **consent** agenda.
  - Councilor Combs removed consent agenda item c) to be heard in regular session.
- c. To appoint **Joshua Bliss** as a member of the **City Planning Commission** with term ending May 2025.
  - Councilor Long made a motion to appoint Joshua Bliss as a member of the City Planning Commission with term ending May 2025 but said motion died due to lack of a second. There was no other action was attempted or taken in regard to consent agenda item c).
  - Councilor Long removed consent agenda item g) to be heard in regular session.
- g. To accept the **resignation of Keith Guyett** (retirement, 27 years of service), Labor/Operator in the Street Department, effective May 31, 2021.
  - Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to accept the resignation of Keith Guyett (retirement, 27 years of service), Labor/Operator in the Street Department.

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

- 7.      Discussion item only related to **concerns related to Covid-19.**

8. Discussion and **update** item only regarding the **Fresh Start Program**.
9. Discussion and **update** only related to the **surplus government auction of salvaged items**.
10. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded action to **name a segment of the walking trail from Choctaw Street to 1<sup>st</sup> Street the Rutherford Segment**.

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

11. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to acknowledge the receipt of the **Northeastern Health System June 2020 annual audit conditioned on final acknowledgment of the Tahlequah Hospital Authority Board of Trustees on April 12, 2021**.

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

12. No action was taken related to **Deanna Hays** and her **concerns regarding an animal control** issue within the City of Tahlequah.

13. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **close out CDBG 17 Grant**.

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

14. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Combs seconded to approve a **Streets and Sidewalk budget amendment in the amount of \$250,000**.

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

15. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **accept the donation of \$150,000.00 and amend budget for the construction of the dog park**.

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

16. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to approve **Ordinance No. 1320-2021**, an ordinance amending ordinances relating to and/or establishing fees and/or fines for Alcoholic Beverage, Animals, Court, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, Planning, Zoning, and Development, Public Safety, Street and Public Works, Stormwater Management, Transportation, and other miscellaneous fees and/or fines and establishing a City Schedule of Regular Fees that can be modified by Resolution of the City Council.

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

17. Discussion only related to **appointment of Municipal Court Judge.**
18. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session** at 7:13 p.m.

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

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❖ **Discussion regarding confidential communications related to *City of Tahlequah v. Springwater Properties, LLC, et al., Cherokee County District Court, State of Oklahoma, Case Nos. CV-2018-43 and CJ-2020-56, as provided by 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (3), (4), and/or (7).***

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19. Councilor Combs made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to reconvene Regular Session at 7:52p.m.

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

20. Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Ratliff to authorize payment to Grace and Sons Appraisal Services in accordance with their fee schedule dated January 1, 2021 for professional services related to *City of Tahlequah v. Springwater Properties, LLC, et al., Cherokee County District Court, State of Oklahoma, Case Nos. CV-2018-43 and CJ-2020-56* on behalf of the City.

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

21. There will be a special mid-month meeting held **April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

22. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:54 p.m.

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