

**MINUTES**  
**TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 11, 2022 – 5:30 PM**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 111 S. CHEROKEE AVE.**

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**1. MEETING CONVENED**

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Meeting called to order by Mayor Catron at 5:30 pm.  
City Clerk Whitney Shaw called the **Roll call as follows:**

**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 Prosecutor BJ Baker, City Administrator Alan Chapman  
City Treasurer Marty Hainzinger, City Clerk Whitney Shaw, and IT Support Mario  
De La Hoya

**Public Notice of meeting provided** - A Public Notice of meeting was provided October 6, 2022 at 4:30p.m. at 111 S. Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK.

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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, nonvoting elected officials, and City staff 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: 895 2458 9419 Password: 4560651**. If you wish to receive a copy of any materials that are presented to the City Council, please submit your request to [cityclerk@cityoftahlequah.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftahlequah.com).

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**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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There were no public comments

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**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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Councilor Long made the motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows: remove Consent Agenda item **(f)** to approve the appointment of and contract with Attorney John Tyler Hammons as City Attorney and item **(q)** to approve the quotes related to the Fire Station #1 remodel and waive the purchasing policy competitive bidding requirements.

**Vote:** Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers, Ratliff                      Nays: None      Motion Carried

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**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

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Mayor Catron presented the following:

Recognition of Years of Service for June Employees:

**Deanna Schiller: 5 yrs. - Tahlequah City Police Department**

**William E. Harris Jr.: 10 yrs. - Tahlequah City Street Department**

- Report from Library - Cherokee Lowe
- Report from Chamber of Commerce - Nathan Reed
- Report from Tour Tahlequah - Gena McPhail
- Report from the Tahlequah Main Street Association - No Report

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**REGULAR SESSION**

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- 6.** Councilor Baker made the motion and Councilor Highers seconded to deny item **(f)** the appointment of and contract with Attorney John Tyler Hammons as City Attorney.

**Vote:** Ayes: Baker, Highers      Nays: Long, Ratliff, Mayor Catron                      Motion not carried

Councilor Ratliff then made the motion and Councilor Long seconded to approve, with the modification of adding "City Council" to Item 1 and Item 4, to the Attorney Contract in item **(f)** the appointment of and contract with Attorney John Tyler Hammons as City Attorney.

**Vote:** Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Mayor Catron      Nays: Highers, Baker                      Motion carried

Councilor Ratliff made the motion and Councilor Highers seconded item to accept, as written, item (q) To approve the quotes related to the Fire Station #1 remodel and waive the purchasing policy competitive bidding requirements.

**Vote:** Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Baker                      Abstain: Long                      Motion carried

- 7.** Parks & Recreation Superintendent Brian Speake gave a presentation regarding Summer 2022 Tahlequatics (Tahlequah City Pool).

- 8.** Chief of Police Nate King discussed request for bids for the remodel of the Police Department to accommodate the move of 911.

9. Planning & Development Director Taylor Tannehill gave a construction updates on both Cedar Avenue and East 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**At this time, Mayor Catron moved items 12 & 13 to be discussed and possible actions taken.**

- 12.** City Treasurer and Mayor Catron introduced the discussion and possible action to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds allocation plan and to earmark the previously budgeted amount to specific projects.

**Vote: NO ACTION TAKEN**

- 13.** Chief Nate King introduced Help-In-Crisis members Laura Kuester, Dirk Vanveen, and Jyme Vaughn to explain the discussion and possible action to approve, approve with modifications, or deny a request for funding from Help-In-Crisis for transitional housing. Jeff Thorne and Linda Goode, both with "Step Up" joined in discussion, as well as IT Director Randy Powell.

**Vote: NO ACTION TAKEN**

10. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to surplus the Ragu sauce to the IAFF Local 4099 for the purpose of a fund raiser for the Firefighters Tragedy Fund.

**Vote: Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Long, Baker    Nays: None                          Motion carried**

Mayor Catron call for a break at 7:51pm and the meeting reconvened at 8:07pm.

11. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to approve the Health Benefit renewal and offerings for plan year November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023.

**Vote: Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Long, Baker    Nays: None                          Motion carried**

14. Councilor Ratliff made the motion and Councilor Long seconded to approve **Ordinance No. 1343-2022**. An ordinance changing the zoning from Single Family Residential District (R-1) to Residential Multifamily District (R-3) for a multifamily development on approximately 5 acres of land located on the Southwest Corner of E. Downing and Nalley Road, more particularly described as follows:

The North half of the NE NE NE of Section 34, Township 17 North,  
Range 22 East, City of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, State of Oklahoma.

**Vote: Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Baker, Highers    Nays: None                          Motion carried**

15. Councilor Ratliff made the motion and Councilor Long seconded to a proposal and enter into an agreement with Core Construction, LLC in the amount of \$1,014,127.83 for the Traffic Signal Project located on the intersection of Downing Street and Water Avenue and Downing Street and Cedar Avenue, in accordance with State Contract for Job Order Contracting by OMES.

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

16. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Long seconded to approve **Resolution No. 10-03-2022**, A resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a project maintenance agreement for the installation of highway illumination at the US-62 & SH-82, Project Number NHPP-21N(062)PM, Job Piece No. 32105(04).

**Vote: Ayes: Highers, Long, Baker, Highers Nays: none Motion carried**

17. Councilor Long made the motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 8:30pm for the purpose of

- ❖ Discussion of the utilization of Storm Water funds to purchase real property from James Walters located West of S. Muskogee Avenue and North of Arby's more particularly described as follows:  
Lot 12, Hensley Addition, City of Tahlequah, and Cherokee County, Oklahoma according to the recorded plat thereof, as provided by 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (3).
- ❖ Discussion pertaining to the Memorandum of Understanding with IAFF Local 4099, as provided in 25 O.S. §307 (B) (2).
- ❖ Discussion pertaining to the Negotiations Proposal with FOP Lodge 201, as provided in 25 O.S. §307 (B) (2).

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

18. Councilor Long made the motion and Councilor Ratliff seconded to reconvene into Regular Session at 9:08pm.

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

19. Council Ratliff made the motion and Councilor Long seconded to approve the utilization of Storm Water funds to purchase real property from James Walters located West of S. Muskogee Avenue and North of Arby's more particularly described as follows:

Lot 12, Hensley Addition, City of Tahlequah, and Cherokee County, Oklahoma according to the recorded plat thereof, as provided by 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (3).

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

20. Councilor Highers made the motion and Councilor Long seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with IAFF Local 4099, as provided in 25 O.S. §307 (B) (2).

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

21. **No action** was taken on the Memorandum of Understanding with IAFF Local 4099, as provided in 25 O.S. §307 (B) (2).
22. No mid-month Special Meeting was set.
23. Councilor Ratliff made the motion and Councilor Long seconded to adjourn at 9:11pm

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