

**TO AMEND THE STANDING RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT REGULAR AND SPECIAL  
SESSIONS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION**

**RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**TO AMEND** the standing rules for public comment at Regular and Special Sessions of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Council").

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article IX, Section 9 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation"), "No... rule shall be implemented unless approved by at least seven (7) members of Tribal Council;"

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution, citizens of the Nation may make public comment with a majority consent of the Tribal Council Members present;

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution, "The Tribal Council shall enact legislation, rules and regulations not inconsistent with this Constitution for the general good of the Choctaw Nation and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation;"

**WHEREAS**, the Council enacted CR-01-20 to facilitate organized and peaceable public comment by tribal members. Further, the Council enacted CR-04-21 to amend the standing rules to "ensure compliance with these rules and to protect the orderly consideration of the Tribal Council's business," See CR-04-21; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Nation to further amend the standing rules for public comment and ensure compliance and organization with the same through further clarification and clear explanation of the procedures the Nation's Tribal Members must follow for public comment.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Council Resolution be cited as approval for the following standing rules for public comment at Regular and Special Sessions of Tribal Council to be amended to read as follows:

**Registering for Public Comment at Regular Session**

1. A person registering for public comment:
  - a. Must be a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
  - b. Must register via email or telephone (918-567-3523) with the recording secretary in order to make a public comment. The email address for submissions to register for public comment shall be: [counciladmin@choctawnation.com](mailto:counciladmin@choctawnation.com);
  - c. Must provide the recording secretary with the following information:
    - i. Name;
    - ii. Age;
    - iii. Occupation;

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- iv. Physical Address;
  - v. ~~A typewritten, verbatim short statement, but descriptive, summary of the subject matter everything they intend-wish to say and present to address the Council. This typewritten statement has to be submitted by close-of-business on the Wednesday prior to the regular session;~~ and
  - vi. Whether the citizen is addressing Council as an individual (“Individual Speaker”) or representing a group of six (6) or more (“Group Speaker”).
2. If the citizen is addressing the Council as a group representative of six (6) or more citizens, the Group Speaker is responsible for satisfying procedural guidelines I (c).
  3. Groups may either register together or the recording secretary, in consultation with the Speaker of Tribal Council, may group together individuals or groups who have similar interests on the same matter. The group is responsible for selecting a Group Speaker.
  4. The deadline to register for public comment each month is the first day of that month by close-of-business on said day. If the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, then the person registering must register by close-of-business on the business day prior to the weekend or holiday.
  5. Satisfying all of the registration requirements contained in these standing rules does not guarantee a citizen will be placed on the agenda for public comment at the Regular Session.
  6. **NOTE: REGISTERING AND BEING PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE PERMITTED BY COUNCIL. COUNCIL HAS FULL DISCRETION IN APPROVING OR DENYING PUBLIC COMMENTS. SEE THE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE X, § 4.**

**Rules for Public Comment**

7. The Sergeant-at-Arms will have authority to monitor the activity of the citizens while they address the Council. The Sergeant-at-Arms will have the responsibility of informing the citizens when it is their time to speak, as well as remind the citizens of the procedural guidelines set in place during their address.
8. There will be a maximum of five (5) public comments per regular session allowed unless Council determines otherwise.
9. The approved speakers will address the Council at the beginning of the regular session unless Council determines otherwise.
10. Time – Each individual speaker may speak for up to 3 (three) minutes. A group of six (6) or more must elect a representative to speak on behalf of the group and will have a time limit of five (5) minutes. A timer will be used, and the speaker should conclude their remarks when they are made aware of the time expiring.
11. Topics – All comments should address a matter related to the health and welfare of the Nation. The Council will not hear public comment that involves a complaint about an individual employee, a personnel action, or pending litigation. Such matters should be reduced to writing and sent to the appropriate authority.
12. Decorum – The Council expects that each speaker will be courteous. Speakers will address their comments to the entire Council and not to one individual Council member, nor to the Chief, Assistant Chief, legal counsel, nor to the audience. Speakers will not engage in personal attacks. Speakers giving public comments

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shall strictly adhere to everything contained in their typewritten verbatim statement submitted to the recording secretary by close-of-business on the Wednesday prior to the regular session.

13. Written Comments – If a speaker would like to present written comments to the Council, fourteen (14) copies must be provided.

**Violations of these Rules**

14. The Speaker of Tribal Council, or the Speaker Pro Tempore in the absence of the Speaker, may use discretion to ensure these rules are followed by each speaker or suspend any remaining time of those speakers who violate these rules. Any deviation from the speaker's typewritten verbatim statement submitted to the recording secretary may result in an automatic suspension of that individual's remaining time.
15. If the Speaker of the Tribal Council, or the Speaker Pro Tempore in the absence of the Speaker, may find that a citizen has violated these rules, the Speaker may direct the Sergeant-at-Arms or law enforcement officer as follows:
- a. to remove the offender;
  - b. to prevent an offender from re-entering the Council Chamber;
  - c. to bar an offender from entering the Council Chamber or session of the Council for any future meeting for a period up to six (6) months, unless the Tribal Council prescribes a different period; or
  - d. any combination of the foregoing.
16. Any person barred from entering a session of the Tribal Council under these rules who enters or attempts to enter the Council Chamber or session of the Council may be prosecuted in accordance with Criminal Code §§ 1835 and 1835.1 or § 301 et seq. of the Criminal Code.
17. No person may carry a firearm or other weapon in the Council Chamber or session of the Council in accordance with § 1277 of the Oklahoma Criminal Code, except on-duty law enforcement officers of the Choctaw Nation.

**Suspending these Rules**

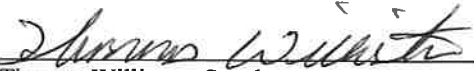
18. These standing rules may be suspended, modified or replaced for the length of a meeting by Speaker of Tribal Council with consent of Tribal Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that the amendments contained in this Council Resolution shall become effective immediately.


**CERTIFICATION**

*I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that \_\_\_\_\_ twelve \_\_\_\_\_ ( 12 ) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on February 10, 2024. I further certify that the foregoing Council Resolution CR- 14 -24 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_\_ twelve \_\_\_\_\_ ( 12 ) members, \_\_\_\_\_ zero \_\_\_\_\_ ( 0 ) negative votes, and \_\_\_\_\_ zero \_\_\_\_\_ ( 0 ) abstaining.*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Williston, Speaker  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Perry, Secretary  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date: 2-14-24

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**Purpose/Need of Council Resolution:** This Resolution shall amend the standing rules for public comment at regular and special sessions of the Tribal Council in order to clarify the rules and procedures the Nation's Tribal Members must follow for public comment and ensure compliance and organization at Tribal Council Meetings. This Resolution furthers the Nation's strategic goal of supporting service delivery to improve quality of life within the Nation's Reservation by requiring Tribal Members to adhere to the standing rules for public comment so that Tribal Council Meetings may be more organized and efficient while still allowing Tribal Members to provide public comment subject to the standing rules.

**Title of Council Resolution:** TO AMEND THE STANDING RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT REGULAR AND SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL

**Agency:** Legislative

**Budget:** N/A

**Match Required:** N/A

**Request by/Project Director:** Tribal Council