

TABLED

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: MAY 07 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 187 (2026)

An ordinance about hiring the One Feather Editor.

12 WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Tribal Government serves the entire
13 community of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

15 WHEREAS, the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli (Cherokee One Feather) is designated and recognized
16 as the official publication of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for instruction
17 and information of the Cherokee Community; and

19 WHEREAS, Cherokee Code Section 75-51 states, "It is imperative to have measures in place to
20 ensure the freedom of press and to ensure the tribal publications have the autonomy
21 and independence to report honestly and objectively"; and

23 WHEREAS, Cherokee Code Section 75-53 states, "The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Free
24 Press shall be independent from any influence and free of any particular political
25 interest"; and

27 WHEREAS, Cherokee Code Section 75-57(c) states, "The editor and staff of the One Feather
28 shall work free from political influence from any department of the government,
29 the Legislative, and Executive. The One Feather editor and staff will not be
30 intimidated with their jobs by printing and providing honest weekly publications to
31 the enrolled members of the Tribe and other interested persons."; and

33 WHEREAS, the Cherokee Code provides for decisions of termination of the Tsalagi Soquo
34 Ugidahli editor to be determined by agreement of the Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief),
35 Taline Ugvwiyu (Vice Chief), and two-thirds of the sitting Editorial Board; and

37 WHEREAS, there is no provision in the Cherokee Code for the Editorial Board to be a part of
38 the selection of the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli editor; and

40 WHEREAS, this creates a real or perceived political influence on the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli
41 due to the lack of Editorial Board representation in the editor hiring process.

43 NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in council
44 assembled at which a quorum is present, that Cherokee Code Chapter 75 shall be
45 amended as follows:
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1 **Sec. 75-75. – Editor and Staff.**

2 [No changes to subsections (a) to (d).]

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- 4 (e) The position of Cherokee Editor reports administratively to the Executive Committee. Any
5 termination or transfer action taken against the Editor of the Cherokee One Feather must have
6 the concurrence of the Principal Chief, Vice Chief, and a two-thirds majority of the seated
7 Editorial Board. The Principal Chief, Vice Chief, and a two-thirds majority of the Editorial
8 Board are required to select or hire the Cherokee One Feather Editor.

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10 BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED that all ordinances that are inconsistent with this ordinance are
11 rescinded, and that this ordinance shall become effective when ratified by the
12 Principal Chief.

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15 *Submitted by the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli Editorial Board.*