

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – January 8, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. Council members* in attendance were Mike Hale, Dave Tysz, Margie Jaeger, Mandi Prince, Pete Martin, Lydia Fletcher and B.J. Sperber. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was in attendance, as well as Brad Chandler, Darlene Pearson, Reid Smith, Steven Thomas, Jessica May, Jonathan Fletcher, Nancy Thorson and John Jaeger.

*In the following paragraphs, Councilmember(s) will be abbreviated as: “C.”

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the pledge of allegiance.
- III. SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:** Eliza Evans-Teague swore in the mayor and all council members for their elected terms.
- IV. AGENDA:** The mayor added “Payment Request for Influent Lift Station” to the agenda.
- V. DECEMBER 18, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Tysz moved to accept the December 18, 2023, council meeting minutes. C. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** John Jaeger commented that he would like to see the council have the hours for the public works employees go back to an 8-hour week instead of four ten-hour days. Jennifer Olson updated the council about Healthy Tekoa Coalition. HTC Community Gym will commence soon.
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE:** see Keegan Bldg.
- VIII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
- A. KEVIN TURNBOUGH PROPOSAL:** C. Tysz moved to accept Kevin’s proposal to stay at his present wage rate up to 1000 hours/year with no benefits (a seasonal employee). C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. KEEGAN BLDG.:** Karl Webber sent a letter to the council re: the Keegan building. C. Jaeger commented that she would like to see this issue resolved and not continue indefinitely. There was discussion. The issue was tabled until the city attorney could be here and inform the council about legal boundaries. Nancy Thorson said she is working on an unfit building committee in Colfax and gave some information. Eliza Evans-Teague will send the council new copies of the unfit building ordinance. There was discussion about process and timing. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. HARP EASEMENT:** Clerk Evans-Teague reported the survey is now done. C. Jaeger commented that she had spoken with Bill Harp and he suggested he would settle for

\$1500/year. There was discussion. The mayor will take it to AWC and bring the information back to the council.

- B. SET COUNCIL DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024:** C. Martin move to meet the 9th and 23rd of September. C. Sperber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. FEE RESOLUTION 99-24:** Clerk Evans-Teague let the council know that the copy fees should be added to the resolution. There was discussion about the general code violation fees. C. Hale moved to approve Resolution 99-24 and C. Fletcher seconded the motion. C. Hale, Fletcher, Sperber, Jaeger, Prince, and Tysz voted in the affirmative. C. Martin abstained. The motion passed.
- D. WAGES-PUBLIC WORKS POSITION(S):** C. Tysz agrees that public works employees should go back to the 8-hour days, 5 days a week. C. Sperber suggested we do 10-hour day/4-day weeks in the summer months and 8 hr. days in the winter. There was discussion. C. Tysz moved to go back to the 5–8-hour days with mayoral discretion. Steven Thomas commented on the public works scheduling and procedures going forward. C. Tysz would still like to see an 8-hour day as normal with mayoral discretion. There was discussion. C. Martin seconded the motion. C. Martin, Prince, Jaeger and Tysz voted yes. Fletcher, Hale and Sperber voted no. The motion passed. Mayor Schulz informed the council about the hiring committees' choice of Shawn Bryan and Jessica May for the public works openings. He would like to start them at \$24/hr. during their trial period and go to \$26/hour when they become permanent employees. There was discussion about raising Steven Thomas' wage to compensate him as a supervisor. C. Tysz recommended raising Steven Thomas' wage to \$29/hr. and then additional increases would be dependent on certifications. C. Hale moved to raise Steven Thomas' pay to \$29 and start Jessica May and Shawn Bryan at \$24/hr. until they get their certifications, the first within 13 months of hire, as a condition of employment. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. PAYMENT REQUEST FOR INFLUENT LIFT STATION:** Eliza Evans-Teague presented the updates from Century West re: the Influent Lift Station. C. Sperber moved to pay the payment request. C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- F. WATER & SEWER CERTIFICATIONS:** C. Martin brought up needed certifications for sewer and water. He would like to see Dave Tysz function under those certifications for the city. Clerk Evans-Teague clarified that Duane Groom was already approved by the council. There was discussion. C. Sperber moved Duane Groom function as our licensed provider and Dave Tysz as our secondary operator in case of emergency. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:25 P.M. Mayor Schulz called executive session for 15 minutes re: a pending legal matter. The council returned at 7:40 P.M.
- XI. REPORTS:**
- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz is researching agenda qualification. He will bring that back to the council as he learns more. In addition, the mayor will get everyone assigned to a committee with regular reports. There was discussion. C. Tysz suggested having the maintenance supervisor attend and report, too.
- B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** None.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Fletcher suggested that the code book needs to be updated. C. Hale reported that Wednesday is a Port of Whitman Economic Development meeting and there will be a meeting about the airport grant on Friday to clarify our maintenance and improvement goals. He will bring that to the council's next meeting. C. Martin reported that the trailhead is pretty much cleaned up. The next phase is to finish the trailhead plan and move ahead. C. Martin is working with the Chamber on a sign reflecting downtown businesses. C. Jaeger asked about sidewalk maintenance downtown. It was clarified that the owner is responsible for snow removal. There was discussion.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Brad Chandler stated and explained the four options he sees for the Harp easement.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: C. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Sperber seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer