

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – February 5, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Councilmembers* in attendance were Mike Hale, Dave Tysz, Margie Jaeger, Pete Martin, B.J. Sperber, Mandi Prince and Lydia Fletcher. Also in attendance were Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague, Reid Smith, Shelly Ausmus, Darlene Pearson, Kathi Houston, Brad Chandler, Wendy Sienknecht, Steven Thomas, and Nancy Thorson.

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

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. JANUARY 22, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Martin moved to accept the January 22, 2024, council meeting minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Shelly Ausmus spoke representing Jim Gordon about the EV Charging station. Wendy Sienknecht asked about wages and read a statement. There was discussion.
- A. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Shelly Ausmus gave a Whitman County Library update. Pete Martin reported on the Trestle Trail.
- VI. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
- VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
- A. KEEGAN BLDG.:** Mayor Schulz updated the council about conversations he is having with Denise Keegan. There was discussion. C. Sperber moved to start the Unfit Dwelling process over again. There was additional discussion. C. Jaeger seconded the motion. The mayor appointed Dave Tysz to lead that process. C. Hale abstained. Councilmembers Martin, Prince, Tysz, Fletcher, Jaeger, and Sperber voted yes. The motion passed.
- B. EV CHARGING STATION:** C. Martin brought the EV charging station and the current electrical usage before the council. There was discussion. C. Hale moved to table the discussion until the next meeting when details about the electric costs are known. C. Martin seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:** Mayor Schulz distributed the community committee assignments.
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called Executive Session at 7:05 P.M. for 10 minutes for personnel and possible liability issues. Executive session adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

X. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor will research our comprehensive plan needs and report at the next meeting for committee assignment.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Clerk Evans-Teague reported that the Influent Lift Station was nearing completion, and then she deferred to Steven Thomas. Steven Thomas reported that today was a test day and tomorrow all systems for the Influent Lift Station will be going live. There was discussion.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Hale reported that JUB was at the airport today. He would like to have two signs made directing people to the airport. C. Jaeger brought a concern about the blue containers on Crosby St. There was discussion. C. Jaeger asked about the RV dump property, and there was discussion about the services offered there. C. Tysz reported on a DOE notice re: monetary awards and that some of them are directed at Hangman Creek. He is going to try and get some of the Influent Lift Station rock costs covered. C. Fletcher announced that the county has a ballot drop box in Oakesdale. C. Martin contacted the Sanchezes about snow removal costs and reported that they provided an alternative resource for businesses. C. Martin also reported on EMS. There was discussion.

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Wendy Sienknecht gave some history about the Keegan Building. Shelly Ausmus spoke about the snow issues downtown. Reid Smith commented about the EV station.

XII. PAY BILLS: C. Sperber moved to approve EFT payroll checks 16989-16998 in the amount of \$90,696.66 and EFT payroll and check payments 16999-17031 in the amount of \$48,982.26. C. Tysz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: C. Sperber moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer