

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Councilpersons* present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Pete Martin, and B.J. Sperber. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees John Jaeger and Lydia Fletcher.
*In following paragraphs, Councilperson(s) will be abbreviated as: "C."
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Roy Schulz led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
 - A. John Jaeger gave his opinion on how he thinks the salaries should be published. He also made comment about his understanding about how city positions should be handled. John also suggested that no one should vote on an issue right away, but it should be deliberated on and fully understood. He also said he would like to see experienced people run for council positions in the fall. Mike Hale addressed some of John Jaeger's statements. Mayor Schulz also addressed John's statements.
 - B. **COMMUNITY UPDATES:** Shelly Ausmus gave an update for the Whitman County Library in general and Tekoa Library.
 - C. **MATT MORKERT (via phone call): Influent Lift Station.** The drilling contractor Century West was working with for a price to address the bedrock issue backed out. Century West is still working on a price for drilling the rock. There are not a lot of companies that do this work. Matt is trying to make sure we are getting a non-inflated price. The recently contacted contractor backed out due to the public works aspect of the bid. For the pavement preservation project, preliminary work has been done and now it is time to work on a few more details for the project. There was some discussion about the current state of the pavement and what type of help the featured streets are eligible for. C. Sperber asked about the standard of the proposed road and proposed using a "High-Float" application vs. a chip seal. Matt will look into that and thinks it should not be a problem to go that direction. Matt will be working to get all the details in order and will plan on attending the next council meeting.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Mike Bogenreif submitted a letter to let the council know what he has been doing this past month as Code Enforcement Officer. There was some discussion about junk, timelines and other various situations about town.
- V. **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
 - A. **DENISE KEEGAN BUILDING UPDATE:** The understanding Eliza Evans-Teague has from Denise Keegan is that the inspection will take place in early March.

- B. **ORDINANCE 881 RE: SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL:** C. Ausmus voiced that she doesn't like having a penalty attached to the ordinance. She understands the reasoning behind the ordinance but won't vote for it. C. Tysz stated that without a penalty, people will abuse the ordinance. Mayor Schulz commented on the intent of the ordinance. There was discussion about whether the fine was expedient for motivating compliant behavior. C. Sperber made a motion to pass the ordinance removing section "C" dealing with penalties. C. Martin seconded the motion. There was discussion about the ordinance. C. Tysz, Sperber and Ausmus voted in favor of the motion, C. Hale opposed the motion. The motion passed.
- C. **FOOTBRIDGE:** A bid for the decking is still pending.
- D. **FEE RESOLUTION SCHEDULE 99-23:** There was discussion about the different fee categories. C. Tysz made a motion to accept the fee resolution as written. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY:** There was discussion about the options for the Spring Clean-up. C. Ausmus will help with a flyer. Dates are set at April 7 until the last date we can have it that is eligible for the spring break clean-up rates at the landfill.
- F. **COMMUNITY CENTER:** C. Ausmus spoke about wanting to make the community center as user-friendly as possible and proposed that if people/groups are eligible for the lower fees, they should not be responsible for the damage deposit. C. Ausmus moved that these groups should not have to supply a damage deposit when they rent the community center. There was discussion. The motion was changed to a \$50 damage/cleaning deposit for eligible community groups. C. Martin seconded the motion. C. Hale, Tysz, Ausmus and Martin voted yes. C. Sperber voted no. The motion passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **CLARIFY COUNCIL DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023:** C. Tysz moved to change council meetings to 6 P.M. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The council looked at dates for the year and they will be posted on the website and in each month's newsletter.
- B. **ORDINANCE 880: AMENDMENT TO 2023 BUDGET-MOVING WATER AND SEWER UTILITY TAXES TO THE GENERAL FUND:** C. Hale moved to accept Ord. 880. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Purpose of Executive Session is to talk over staff performance until 9:20 P.M.
- D. **.09 GRANT/PICNIC TABLE UPDATE:** Eliza Evans-Teague reported that there is still a kiosk to be installed and some smaller items to be finished as the weather gets warmer. The table is due to be delivered on Thursday, 2/23/23. The electrical vehicle charging station was in the process of being installed today. There was discussion around the location of the parking spots.

E. **DISCUSS POSSIBLE ORDINANCES:** C. Martin proposed that he would like to see the open hours of the office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There was discussion about the hours kept at city hall. C. Martin moved to have the new city office hours be from 8 A.M.- 4 P.M. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. C. Sperber, Tysz, Martin and Ausmus voted yes. C. Hale abstained. The motion passed.

VII. REPORTS:

A. **MAYOR'S REPORT:** .09 Grant deadlines are coming up again. Mayor Schulz proposed a applying for a reader board. There was discussion re: location and funding. C. Ausmus suggested partnering with the school. A size comparable to Fairfield's reader board would be about right. Mayor Schulz directed Eliza Evans-Teague to work with Cheryl Loeffler (Fairfield's clerk/treasurer) to get the process going. Additionally, there is a second building in town that is in question about being an unfit dwelling. It is in process to be inspected.

B. **CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** None.

C. **COUNCIL REPORTS:** C. Hale and Mayor Schulz met with JUB about the airport grant process today. JUB will handle the grant writing process. C. Hale will meet with the Port of Whitman on March 2, 2023 to talk about economic development at the airport. C. Tysz brought up the Shoreline Management Plan and possible scenarios resulting from that, based on experience in close communities. C. Martin spoke with Rep. Schmick and let him know about the efforts to improve the EMS service in Tekoa. He also reported that the Tekoa Care Center administrator will attend the town hall meeting on March 7, 2023. Mayor Schulz has worked with the Whitman County Sheriff's Office to get a representative to the town hall meeting, as well. C. Martin reported that Rep. Schmick is working on getting some legislation changed for the special class of assisted living facility we have in Tekoa. C. Sperber reported that the Morgans' hanger is not for sale and inquired about the camera and speaker system that could be used for the council meetings. C. Ausmus asked about new building in town.

D. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. **FEBRUARY 6, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Sperber moved to accept the February 6, 2023, council meeting minutes. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** C. Sperber moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check numbers 16379-16412 in the amount of \$92,994.14. C. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

I X. **ADJOURNMENT:** C. Sperber moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 10:43 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer