

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 15, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Councilpersons* present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Angie Rambo Mike Hale, Pete Martin, B.J. Sperber, and Mandi Prince. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Darlene Pearson, Kathi Houston, Brandon Schneider, Steve Haxton, Todd Jensen, John Jaeger, Marge Jaeger, Brad Chandler, Shelia Chandler, John Spendlove, Deb Spendlove, Joleen Hale, Eric Hansen, Hugh Evans, Suzanne Evans, Lydia Fletcher, Wendy Sienknecht and Rebecca Grace Lambert .

*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. AGENDA:** Unchanged.
- IV. MAY 1, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** John Jaeger commented that he wanted the minutes from the previous meeting to reflect that there was \$23,000 difference in the amounts of the first figures vs. where the amounts would end up in coming years for estimated salaried wage amounts required by L&I, and that part of employee wages come out of the water and sewer funds. C. Prince clarified that Troy Wilson presented an appraisal and said he also had an inspection report available. There was discussion about coming meetings. C. Sperber moved to postpone acceptance of the minutes until C. Ausmus could be present. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Mayor Schulz read his comments re: the tone and progression of recent minutes and processes of the meetings*. In essence, he suggested going back to action minutes and possibly putting the meetings online. There was discussion.

* *represents deletion requested and approved by Tekoa City Council.*

Brandon Schneider spoke about why he left the city's employ. He clarified the types of actions and comments made that led to his decision and tried to help the community and council understand the scope of the work done at the city and why that is deserving of respect. He suggested the city should evaluate who was on the council and the behavior they showed outside of council meetings.

- A. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** C. Sperber reported Tekoa Parks and Rec. would be interested in piggybacking on mowing with the city if an arrangement could be reached. Rural Resources may possibly be an option. There was discussion.
- B. WENDY SIENKNECHT:** Wendy commented on using the K-12 system and reader board and would like to see the system used more. She believes it is important to get people used to hearing the alerts. She would like to see water shut-offs, burn pile, events, election day, Tekoa School events., theatre productions, etc. sent out using this system. Wendy also spoke about town

meetings and hoped that they could be a regular occurrence, especially re: the Tekoa Care Center. She commented that the March town meeting has made a difference in foot traffic on Hwy. 27. Wendy commented about the reader board and how the community misses it. She believes the old system could be used. She would like to see it put back in the old place. Wendy commented on not placing the quilt in the community center. She would rather see people come to community meetings in city hall and see it there.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Schulz read a letter of resignation from Cathy Haxton, effective until the new cemetery coordinator is properly trained. C. Tysz moved to accept her resignation. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Eliza Evans-Teague read a thank-you card from Todd Jensen re: the burn pile and called attention to the email from Dan Brinkman re: a suggestion to recognize May 27th as the day that President Theodore Roosevelt visited Tekoa in 1903. She also read a letter from Jerry Squibb asking for leak forgiveness through the council because of the nature of the leak. C. Sperber moved to give full leak forgiveness. C. Hale seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. INSURANCE/COMPENSATION: C. Hale explained the proposal he had made to increase the insurance premium portion of employee compensation. C. Sperber commented. C. Hale moved to table the discussion until the budget discussions occur. There was discussion. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was continued discussion.

B. STREET BUDGET DECISIONS: Mayor Schulz reintroduced the street budget project bids and issues from the last meeting. He had clarified the issue of processes in paving. The costs between methods were negligible. There was also clarification about the cost of projects and where the budget sits now. Discussion followed about the merits of staying within the budget and not moving additional money from the general fund. C. Tysz moved to go forward with the Park St.-to-Skyline paving project. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. STEVE HAXTON RE: TROY WILSON HOUSE, ETC: Steve Haxton spoke about the Wilson house, using a statement. He apologized that the process could have gone better, but that did not change the condition of the home. The unfit dwelling committee agreed with the findings of the building inspector. He spoke about the difference in the rental situation and a private party indwelling their own home. He also believed the city council should not have removed the Do Not Occupy order, and that doing so undermined the authority of the building official and the Unfit Dwelling Committee. There are other buildings in the city that are also under restriction. The Wilson house still needs work to be safe. He will make a note on record that the council ordered him to remove the Do Not Occupy order. Discussion and questions about the process and assessment of homes followed.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The mayor called Executive Session to discuss the issue of agency enforcement at 7:47 P.M. until 8 P.M. Following executive session, the mayor directed the building inspector to sign off as needed on the Wilson house. The building inspector said Troy Wilson was always able and continues to be able to work on the property.

C. 2023 WSDOT AVIATION GRANT MATCHING FUNDS GUARANTEE:

RESOLUTION 23-04: C. Hale spoke about the WSDOT project, showing the accompanying spreadsheet, and the anticipated 5% match guarantee of \$3750 for the planning and bidding phase of the grant that will be applied for. C. Tysz brought up the need for an EMS pad. There was discussion. C. Sperber moved to approve the resolution. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. RESOLUTION 23-03: SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN: There was discussion. C. Hale moved to approve the resolution. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz reported that the legislature did not approve amendments to the OPM law. He also reported that Susannah Scaroni, a very successful para-athlete from Tekoa, has support in town to put some kind of sign at town entrances acknowledging her success. He asked Angie Rambo to head that project up and she accepted. There was discussion about the fine lines in city involvement. Eric Hanson will look into those guidelines. C. Rambo will come back to the council with some ideas.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Eliza Evans-Teague reported about going to a SAO meeting about fraud this past week. She reminded the council and audience that, as always, the records are open for public perusal.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Tysz reported the burning of the burn pile is pretty much done. C. Martin reported the Trestle committee hopes to have some of the donated bicycles ready for Slippery Gulch. C. Rambo clarified some election questions about terms, etc. Eliza Evans-Teague reminded everyone that the filing deadline is this Friday, May 19.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: John Jaeger commented that he would like to see how to register to vote in the newsletter. There was discussion. Wendy Sienknecht commented she would like to use the K12 system to announce the next town hall meeting. Mayor Schulz said he wasn't sure that this was an appropriate use and that it can go into the newsletter. There was discussion.

X. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: C. Sperber moved to approve EFT payroll and checks 16509-16527 in the amount of \$38,286.07 and EFT payroll and checks 16528-16559 in the amount of \$44,351.83. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: C. Sperber moved to adjourn. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:26 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer