

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 17, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., Councilpersons*present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Pete Martin Angie Rambo and Mandi Prince. Clerk-Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Lydia Fletcher, Brad Chandler, Lynette Faunce, Darlene Pearson, Suzanne and Hugh Evans and Laurie Shrope.

*In the following paragraphs, Councilperson(s) will be abbreviated as: "C."

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Schultz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. AGENDA:** C. Martin asked to include committee assignment and formation on the agenda.

- IV. JUNE 26, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Ausmus brought up taking out the word "upsetting" in the mayor's report re: the dog incident. C. Ausmus also requested that all minutes that have not been approved say "unofficial". C. Prince suggested getting the minutes as soon as they have been typed out. C. Prince pointed out that there was an outstanding correction that needed to be made to the May 15, 2023 Minutes under "Comments from the Audience." C. Martin moved to accept the minutes. C. Prince seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Brad Chandler suggested we record the council meetings, so we don't need to change the minutes.

- A. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** C. Martin reported that the representatives from Washington State Parks wants to meet with the Trestle Trail committee on August 21, 2023, at 3 P.M. to go over the trailhead plan. There was discussion about what that may entail and further questions.

- VI. CORRESPONDENCE:** Eliza Evans-Teague read a letter from Angel Crain requesting forgiveness of her late fees owing to a very small balance, now that the policy has changed. C. Ausmus moved to forgive the late fee. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- A. APPROVE WAGES FOR NEW EMPLOYEE IN MAINTENANCE POSITION:** There was discussion about the specifics of the position, the different types of certifications required, and the timelines involved. C. Hale moved to accept the proposed wage for the new employee. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. APPROVE MODIFIED MAINTENANCE POSITIONS:** There was discussion about the nature of hiring temporary workers to fill workers' vacant hours from leaves of absence or separation from service. There were questions about positions, full-time and part-time. C. Martin moved to approve the temporary position through the remainder of the time available through absence or vacancy. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. APPROVE PAVING ESTIMATE:** There was discussion about the area that is under question for paving. Lynette Faunce spoke about the formation of the original city road by the Roellichs. Lynette expressed her concerns about improved maintenance and paving the rest of the road when city finances allow. Mayor Schulz explained some answers to Lynette's questions. She explained that the Sperbers and Roellichs spent a certain amount of their own time and money gravelling the remainder of the main road to their homes. She expressed some concerns for neighbors who are not yet scheduled for upgraded roads and inquired about if/when they will receive attention. There was discussion. C. Hale moved to move \$30,000 from the Current Expense Fund to the Street Fund to expand the paving down from Lindsey St. to the Farmington Road. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.
- D. YARD ABATEMENT ORDINANCE:** C. Martin is still working on some proposed modifications to this ordinance and will postpone it until next meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. DORSEY PARKING LOT:** There was discussion about whether the city has ordinances that affect the placement of storage containers on the property. Mayor Schulz will try to contact the owner.
- B. RESOLUTION 23-02: STREET LEVY RESOLUTION:** Mayor Schulz introduced the street levy ordinance. C. Tysz moved to approve RES. 23-02. C. Martin seconded the motion. There was discussion about historical approaches. There was also discussion about how to ask the community if they would be in favor of a higher or a separate levy. The motion passed unanimously. Eliza Evans-Teague said it could also go out with next spring's population survey..
- C. THEODORE ROOSEVELT PROCLAMATION:** Mayor Schulz will bring it to the next meeting.
- D. TEKOA COMMUNITY CENTER:** C. Prince said she had some complaints about the Tekoa Community Center re: cleaning deposits and how they are being returned, or not. There was discussion. Eliza Evans-Teague let people know that there seems to have been some use between events and she brought up an option of re-keying. C. Ausmus suggested that we do a walk-through when the key is picked up. C. Rambo said we need to stress to the other groups with access to the Tekoa Community Center to be vigilant.
- E. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT & FORMATION:** C. Martin talked about establishing committees, starting with a salary committee. There was discussion about having the figures together in early October to be able to accommodate them into the budget. C. Hale suggested the committee include the mayor. There was a discussion. C. Hale, C. Tysz and C. Ausmus volunteered to be on the salary committee.

IX. REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz reported that he thought Independence Day went well re: fireworks, but there were some complaints in the days following. He asked for input from the council. There was discussion. Mayor Schulz suggested asking people about this in the spring survey.
- B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** Eliza Evans-Teague reported that the interpretive panel is being installed at the rest area. The 2022 .09 grant is all but wrapped up.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Ausmus reported she was having difficulties setting up her Tekoa City Council Gmail account. C. Ausmus moved to make it a policy to put minutes from 2015 to present back on the website. There was discussion. C. Ausmus changed her motion to 5 years into the past. There was discussion. Brad Chandler suggested finding out how much we pay for each terabyte of information storage. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. C. Tysz reported on the burn pile. C. Hale reported we are still waiting for the airport grant notification. The mayor also commented that the Keegan building is being worked on. C. Rambo reported how nice the window display there looks. The mayor was asked about the railroad property. He responded that we haven't heard anything back, yet.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Brad Chandler asked for clarification on back-flow/cross-flow certification. C. Tysz answered his questions.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: C. Ausmus moved to approve EFT payroll and checks 16607-16625 in the amount of \$48,119.82 and EFT payroll and checks 16626-16653 in the amount of \$84,245.03. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: C. Ausmus moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:12 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer

