

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 21, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., Councilmembers*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, Rebecca Grace Lambert, Darlene Pearson, Suzanne and Hugh Evans, Steve Haxton, John and Marge Jaeger, DonNell Ellsworth, Brad Chandler, Kathi Houston, Alan VanVoorhis, Dana Brimmer, Jacob Lund and Laurie Shrope.

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

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. AGENDA: add DEVELOPMENT AT THE BRIDGE:**
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called Executive Session until 6:20 P.M. for the purpose of discussing pending legal matters. The council came out of Executive Session at 6:25 PM. The mayor apologized that city hall clocks are not in sync.
- V. AUGUST 7, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Ausmus mentioned that she would like the minutes to reflect that during the last meeting she suggested we add all minutes, not just 10 years of minutes, as the office is able. C. Ausmus moved to accept the minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** John Jaeger asked about the placement of the EV charging station. He inquired how it wound up at the present location. John suggested that the placement of the charging station be in the newsletter and to let people know the low cost of the station. John Jaeger also asked about the daily schedule for the new hires. The schedule will rotate between four 10-hour days/week and five 8-hour days week, depending on the need and season.

Jacob Lund asked about the state of the Washington Street partial vacation. Eliza Evans-Teague explained the original proposition for the partial vacation of each side of the street and that there must be approval from 2/3 of the affected landowners for the vacation to go through. There was discussion and it was decided that there needed to be impartial valuation attained so the affected landowners could decide if they were in favor of the vacation, or not.

A. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES: None.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE:

VIII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. YARD ABATEMENT ORDINANCE: Postponed. C. Martin would like to invite people to have a meeting with him re: this topic. C. Rambo commented about the need to keep this kind of ordinance

to make sure properties don't become completely derelict. There was discussion, especially about the fire risks.

- B. THEODORE ROOSEVELT PROCLAMATION:** Postponed. Ausmus suggested getting back to Dan Brinkman re: his expectations. Mayor Schulz clarified the understood expectations. C. Ausmus volunteered to write a sample proclamation. Mayor Schulz accepted.
- C. SUSANNAH SCARONI SIGN:** C. Rambo reported that the museum, under Harry Brandt's direction, would donate the proposed sign (maybe 6'x8'). She described the idea for the sign and how it would be part of the rest stop area. Harry Brandt let C. Rambo know he could send a proof for the council to look at and approve. There were discussions and suggestions. C. Rambo will bring the proof and particulars back to the council.
- D. SEWER CAMERA & QUOTE:** Eliza Evans-Teague explained the needs for a new sewer camera and new hydrant meter. C. Tysz moved to purchase these items, as the city has the money and the limited COVID funds still in water and sewer funds need to be spent by year's end. C. Rambo seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. HARP WATER ACCESS:** Eliza Evans-Teague explained the issue the city has with not charging Bill and Diane Harp for water without paperwork showing any agreement that would allow for this. C. Tysz spoke re: the original agreement and not being able to find the easement paperwork. Atty. Hanson spoke to the procedures for going forward. There was discussion. C. Tysz recalled that the original agreement was supposed to end when Ray Harp passed away. C. Ausmus asked to have the letter to the Harps read. Eliza Evans-Teague read the letter. There was discussion. C. Tysz said the pond on the property is spring fed. There was discussion. John Jaeger asked about the water.
- F. RESOLUTION 23-06 RE: WEED ABATEMENT:** C. Tysz asked that we put addresses on the resolution. The council would like to see a picture of each residence. There was discussion. C. Martin moved to delay the resolution until they had pictures. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. There was discussion about overstepping the code enforcement officer's judgement. There was additional discussion. The attorney asked if the code enforcement officer could just issue a citation. The mayor responded that this was the process in our ordinance. The mayor called a vote. Those in favor of delaying the resolution- C. Hale, C. Martin, C. Prince, C. Tysz, C. Ausmus. Those opposed to delaying the resolution- C. Rambo. The motion passed.
- G. CAROLINA SILVA RE: KEITH ANDERSON BUILDING:** Carolina Silva was not present.
- H. GRADE SCHOOL USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER FOR EMERGENCIES:** The Tekoa School District's plan for emergency use was looked over. The mayor called for questions. C. Prince moved to accept the plan. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. C. Ausmus was temporarily absent during the vote.
- I. DEVELOPMENT AT THE BRIDGE:** C. Ausmus asked about whether the footbridge was still slated for new decking. Eliza Evans-Teague said it was but was not sure if the priority level of the work would have it in place before the school year began.

IX. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz reported on the Port of Whitman meeting, where they are now the new economic development agency for Whitman County. They outlined their goals. C. Martin asked if the Port of Whitman would enter into an agreement re: supporting state park partnerships. The mayor spoke to his question and offered to supply him with contact information for the Port of Whitman personnel.

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Eliza Evans-Teague suggested some needed committees as the council had brought up committee formation recently. She suggested a Transportation Committee to work on the six-year transportation plan due each year. A Comprehensive Plan Update Committee would also be useful, given the age of Tekoa's comprehensive plan. C. Hale said he would be interested in this committee, as well as C. Ausmus. Finally, Eliza suggested a .09 Economic Development Grant committee to sift out the most important projects. She spoke to the questions posed in a previous meeting regarding the electric vehicle charging station. Avista will have a submeter installed for accurate payment of the electricity used for the charging station. A separate meter would include a new panel, which the city would have to pay for. The average driver uses less than a dollar of electricity per charge. There is no history of electric vehicle charging stations catching fire, so the risk of nearby buildings catching fire is extremely minimal. Also, the chargers are UL inspected by L&I. The charger cannot be retrofitted for a card-reader. Card readers must be hooked up to internet service and this makes them unusable about 20% of the time due to system issues. The city would also have to pay for the internet \$400/year for each charging port; about \$800/year for the one in Tekoa. Eliza Evans-Teague asked the council if they agreed that the 6 P.M. council meeting time was working. They said that it is, therefore, she will bring an ordinance to the next meeting to permanently change the time.

B. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Hale reported his meeting with JUB Engineering re: the airport. They discussed a helipad and a new water line and how those can be accomplished. The tarmac on the south side is being affected by runoff water that pools on the runway. This would be addressed in the plan for the airport. He is working with the Port of Whitman and may be able to do some cost-sharing with them. C. Hale explained how matching funds may work. C. Martin reported on the State Parks meeting. There were some designs for parking and how to better define the trail and prevent vehicle traffic. Tent pads and picnic tables have been proposed and maintenance was discussed. The State Parks committed to getting the needed maintenance done. They may even have overflow parking on the east side of Washington St. C. Ausmus reported that Washington State Parks committed to finding the funding for the trailhead development. C. Ausmus added the input from the State Park Ranger, and there was additional discussion. She also let the council know the Sheriff's department was able to enforce issues at the state park. C. Ausmus asked about Duane Groom. Eliza Evans-Teague reported he is planning to retire at the end of the month and the mayor will bring his letter of resignation to the next meeting. C. Ausmus asked about the code book additions and adding hyperlinks to the code book as it goes on to the website. Eliza Evans-Teague remarked that it was physically possible, but not practical to put in hyperlinks for every ordinance, but perhaps for classes of ordinances, and this would be a time-intensive project. C. Ausmus also suggested an Emergency Plan Committee, suggesting that perhaps we should coordinate with surrounding communities to develop cooperative responses. C. Tysz mentioned that all towns must have a certain level emergency plan for water and sewer systems and that could be built upon. C. Martin and C. Hale attended the sewer plant tour this morning and informed the council about the complex processes involved in running the plant. C. Tysz weighed in on the lab testing process. They also reported the Lift Station rock is beginning to be dug out.

C. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Kathi Houston suggested we include search directions on the website for the code book. Grace Lambert asked about the graffiti issues near the trail. C.

Martin answered that the shed covered in graffiti belongs to Ted Blaszak and he is the one putting it there. Brad Chandler asked about the EV charging station and active fermentation for the solids from the WWTP. There was discussion. Mayor Schulz asked Brad about cloud storage for information. He clarified that once we put information on the cloud, it belongs to the company.

C. Prince exited the meeting.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: C. Ausmus moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer