

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 18, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M., Councilmembers*present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Pete Martin, B.J. Sperber, Angie Rambo and Mandi Prince. Clerk-Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague and city attorney Eric Hanson, as well as additional attendees Darlene Pearson, Suzanne and Hugh Evans, Bill and Diane Harp, Kyle Dombrowski, Leonard Cruz, Richard Kelly, Kathi Houston, Adam and Taylor Matthews and Levi Prince.

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

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. AGENDA:** No changes.

- IV. SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Hale moved to accept the September 5, 2023, council meeting minutes. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION: PENDING/POSSIBLE LEGAL MATTERS:** Mayor Schulz called for an executive session re: easement purposes, back at 6:20 P.M. The council came out of executive session at 6:21 P.M.

- VI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Kyle Dombrowski asked about the PNW building next door to his house. After the last windstorm, he and another neighbor noticed the back door open and went over to close it. It looks like the floor and roof are caving in and he asked about the risk this creates as an attractive nuisance. The door will not stay shut because of the decay. He is reporting this to the city so we can go forward with this matter. Mayor Schulz said he would communicate with PNW.

Bill Harp gave an example of a well at Airway Heights where citizens were not paying for water. He let the city know they were planning on selling the property and that an easement will be needed. Mayor Schulz asked about a possible leak to the pond. Bill said that years ago a leaking pipe was eliminated, and that leak has been resolved. The city will continue to work on the easement issue.

- VII. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

- VIII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- A. YARD ABATEMENT ORDINANCE:** C. Martin reported that part of his recommendation will be to keep taking photographs of properties in question. C. Martin proposed that he thinks that if city council members violate an ordinance, they should be notified verbally beforehand, as a sign of respect, instead of simply receiving the usual letter from the city. C. Rambo asked if he had spoken with other towns. C. Martin reported that Colfax has a less formal process. C. Rambo said she could get information from other towns, like St. Maries, and mentioned St. John may have something, too. There was discussion. C. Ausmus clarified the notification process with the code enforcement officer. C. Ausmus spoke about other opinions some citizens have about the enforcement of the yard abatement ordinance. C. Martin asked about Mike Bogenreif's phone number in the letters. Eliza Evans-Teague will investigate this for him. C. Martin stated that he will be pursuing the matter of showing respect to council members and the mayor said respect should be mutual toward the employees.

B. SALARY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION: C. Hale explained how the salary committee formed their recommendations and explained the spreadsheet and where employees are now with benefits and salary. He also explained how the committee's recommendations would affect the employees' and the city's bottom lines, which would be about a 1.6% total budget increase. C. Ausmus noted that the salary range for the 3rd maintenance position could affect the budget numbers, as well as the proposed overtime hourly wage for the clerk/treasurer. C. Ausmus said she would like the positions to be full time and had questions about seasonal time off for a senior employee. There was discussion. C. Martin asked C. Tysz about his thoughts. There was discussion. C. Sperber asked about whether all changes had to be made at the same time or if some changes could be made later. There is no absolute way to approach the salary changes. There was some discussion about job descriptions. C. Sperber said he would like to see the job description for the deputy clerk. Additional discussion occurred about possible overtime usage between the clerk and the deputy clerk. C. Hale asked the council to consider the figures and ask questions and come back to the budget discussions. C. Rambo asked about the timeframe for the three employees and when/whether it would go back to two. There was discussion about five eight-hour days or four 10-hour days and the advantages and disadvantages. C. Tysz mentioned that a notable number of counties are picking up the four 10-hour day schedules. C. Ausmus noted that discussion was to be continued in the budget discussions.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ADVERTISING FOR THE 3RD MAINTENANCE POSITION: Mayor Schulz said advertising will go out next Monday and range is \$22-30 with the common benefits.

X. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: The Influent Lift Station Project is coming along. Three of the five towers are in. There are some sewer issues on Truax St. The city is researching easements and what is the best route to go forward and will bring more information back to the council next meeting.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: AWC Risk grant reimbursement for sidewalks came in for \$2500. C. Sperber asked about the reader-board sign and Eliza Evans-Teague said the sign is arriving tomorrow or the next day. She is hoping the installation and learning curve for the sign can be accomplished by the end of October. Mayor Schulz brought up giving more attention to sidewalks in the future. C. Ausmus asked about the sidewalks along the highway. Eliza Evans-Teague reported that the city had not received the grant for the sidewalks along Hwy. 27, but that the city was still pursuing that.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Ausmus reported that residents are asking about the walking bridge and sign and the .09 grant status. Eliza Evans-Teague let the council know that the 2022 .09 grant is completely submitted and we are waiting on the reimbursement. The 2023 expenditures will be mostly finished when the sign arrives, but there will still be wages and concrete materials, etc. for installation to pay for. C. Rambo spoke about the Susannah Scaroni sign and showed an example of the sign materials. There was discussion. C. Rambo asked about a send-off for Duane. Eliza Evans-Teague reported Duane does not want a party. C. Sperber asked about the pool and filling it less next spring. Eliza Evans-Teague mentioned a new meter and the possibility that it could be used for filling the pool. C. Martin thanked the salary committee again. He also brought up the new building on Crosby St. and asked about the pedestrian cautions and making sure people stay safe. Mirrors may be the solution. C. Ausmus brought up the gravelling along the block of Main St. by Crosby and asked about angled parking. Mayor Schulz will follow up with this. C. Ausmus asked about zoning on Crosby St. She was wondering about residential units in this downtown area. Mayor Schulz asked Eric Hanson about common zoning code for cities. C. Ausmus wanted to look forward to possible development and be careful about allowing businesses to have residential uses. There was discussion. We

will put this on our agenda for the next meeting and Eliza will get the code out to the council. C. Ausmus asked questions about how the city decides on usage of buildings, businesses, etc. C. Hale said the comprehensive plan needs to be redone by June of 2027. C. Tysz thought a rain should precede burning.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Kyle Dombrowski stated that Henkle St. power lines go through a dozen trees. He is wondering if the city has a plan. C. Tysz let him know Avista is working on this even now. He also want to know if any of the council had sat down with employees, in particular the maintenance crew, about salary discussions? Richard Kelly spoke to shipping containers on Crosby St. He said that the containers should not still be there. Eliza Evans-Teague said that she could not find an ordinance limiting temporary containers. Richard brought up some building issues and a potential business client. There was discussion. C. Ausmus asked about his plans for the old bowling alley.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: C. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 7:49 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer

I.