

# City of Tekoa

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday, January 24, 2022*

City Council interviews took place immediately prior to the council meeting.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tempore Roy Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Angie Rambo, Shelly Ausmus, B.J. Sperber (Zoom), and Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague. Additional attendees were Lydia Fletcher (Zoom), Pete Martin, Mary LaSalle, Jennifer Olson (Zoom), Matt Morkert, Paul Urias, Tamra Kragness, Mike Hale and Dave Tysz.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Pro-Tempore Roy Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **RESIGNATION OF MAYOR:** The email resignation of Mayor Troy Wilson was accepted.
- IV. **APPOINT NEW MAYOR:** Angie Rambo moved to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Roy Schulz as mayor. Shelly Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Roy Schulz was sworn in by Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague.
- V. **APPOINT NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:** B.J. Sperber moved to appoint Dave Tysz to Pos. 6, Mary LaSalle to Pos. 1, Pete Martin to Pos. 3 and Mike Hale to Pos. 4 as our new council members. Shelly seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. All new council members were sworn in by Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague.
- VI. **APPOINT MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE:** Pete Martin moved to appoint Dave Tysz as mayor pro-tempore. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **APPOINT NEW FINANCIAL OFFICER:** Shelly Ausmus moved to appoint Mike Hale as the new financial officer. Dave Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**A. PAUL URIAS/TAMRA KRAGNESS: PARKING:**

Paul Urias asked what it would take for a handicapped spot to be designated for the side of Henkle where he resides. The council will have to look into that. There was discussion about the present state of parking, vehicles and ordinances for the State of Washington and Tekoa that determine the council's actions re: parking issues and downtown residents' parking access. The new amendment to the City of Tekoa's downtown business district parking zone will be posted in signage downtown as soon as possible. (See passage of Ordinance 868, below.)

**B. MATT MORKERT:** Matt reported that Department of Ecology has approved the lift-station funding (50% loan/50% grant). He also reported that TIB (Transportation Improvement Board) has approved the funding for the Main Street sidewalk project. There was some discussion about possible parking configurations adjacent to the sidewalk project. Shelly Ausmus moved to approve the Main St. sidewalk design. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE:** none

**X. APPROVE SALARIES FOR CEMETERY COORDINATOR AND LIBRARY CLEANING:** Cathy Haxton was hired to be the new cemetery coordinator, eventually averaging 20 hours/month. Shelly Ausmus was hired to clean the library for one hour per week. Dave Tysz moved to approve Cathy Haxton's wage at \$18/hour. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Pete Martin moved to approve Shelly Ausmus' wage at \$18/hour. Dave Tysz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with Shelly Ausmus recusing herself from the vote.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. RAILROAD/ARENA:** Shelly Ausmus reported that she had established contact with Aaron Hunt and sent him a letter.

**B. WATER/SEWER CONNECTION FEES:** After discussion taking into account the rapidly rising costs of connection supplies and current bare-minimum costs to establish water and sewer connections, Mary LaSalle moved to establish water connection fees at \$3,000 and sewer connection fees at \$2,000. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. APPROVE/DENY INVESTMENT PRESENTATION:** After discussion re: current rates of return for the city's LGIP account funds, it was decided there was enough interest from the council to have an investment presentation in February.

**B. SET COUNCIL DATES FOR THE YEAR:** February 7 and 22, March 7 and 21, April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16, June 6, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 3 and 17, November 7 and 21 and December 5 and 19.

**C. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH WHITMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR 2022/2023:** Shelly Ausmus moved to accept the contract for Whitman County Sheriff's Community Policing contract for 2022 (\$49,902.50, 1% increase) and 2023 (\$50,900.50, 2% increase). Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. FOLLOW-UP TO PAUL KIMMEL PRESENTATION/POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE IDEA SUBMISSION WITH CHAMBER:** There was some discussion about possible projects to apply for Avista Foundation monies. Shelly Ausmus was interested in exploring those possibilities. Angie Rambo and Pete Martin will help her brainstorm.

**E. ORDINANCE 866-TRANSFERRING MONEY FROM WATER AND SEWER UTILITY TAX FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR DECEMBER 2021:** Mike Hale moved to move the water and sewer utility tax funds from December 2021 into the general fund. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. ORDINANCE 867-REPEALING PIT BULL SECTIONS OF DOG ORDINANCE:** Shelly Ausmus moved to repeal the pit bull sections of the dog ordinance. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. ORDINANCE 868-AMENDING DOWNTOWN PARKING ZONE:** Pete Martin moved to amend the downtown parking ordinance according to the guidelines set forth in the 11-1-2021 meeting. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**H. APPROVE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH WHITMAN COUNTY:** Dave Tysz moved that we accept the Interlocal Agreement between Whitman County and the City of Tekoa (amongst other cities in Whitman County), For Cooperative Shoreline Master Programs Update, as written. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. REPORTS:**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

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

**C. COUNCIL REPORTS:** Dave Tysz expressed concern for the Ambulance Association. Shelly Ausmus suggested we bring Mike Ausmus from the Ambulance Association in to talk about cooperative solutions at the February 7 meeting. She will extend an invitation to him to come at that time. A general concern about setting committee assignments came up with the decision to make those official at the next council meeting. Mary LaSalle suggested we invite different community groups to come and speak to the council on a quarterly basis.

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

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. DECEMBER 6, 2021, MEETING MINUTES:** Shelly Ausmus moved to accept the minutes from December 6, 2021. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** Shelly Ausmus moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check number 15640 - 15666, in the amount of \$60,361.30 and check number 15697-15698,15700-15701, 15703-15705, 15707-15711 and 15714-15715 in the amount of \$34,434.83. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The council passed the motion unanimously.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT: Shelly Ausmus moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz closed the meeting at 10:10 P.M.**

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor Pro-Tempore

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer