

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 6, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. Councilpersons* present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Pete Martin, and B.J. Sperber. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Matt Morkert, Whitney Bloom, Brad Chandler, Jonathan Fletcher, Steve Haxton and Jennifer Olson
*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. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
 - A. **COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Jennifer Olson reported on the status of Healthy Tekoa Coalition. HTC Community Survey is back in, and they are reviving the carnival masquerade on March 18.
 - B. **MATT MORKERT: WWTP PLANNING PHASE LOAN/GRANT-INFLUENT LIFT STATION:** Matt reported the WWTP Facilities Plan Project is on hold until the Influent Lift Station is complete. Century West is going to look at a nearby location which may not have the rock issues. The driller should be able to come this week to determine if the alternate location is viable. There was discussion re: alternatives and why Century West is suggesting these possible alternatives for dealing with the bedrock and why the Influent Lift Station must be located where it is. If the solution winds up being rock excavation, that will add another 2-3 weeks to the project duration. Muddy weather may slow the project. Matt also reported on the chip-seal project for Washington and Ramsey Streets. The Century West representative went over the roads last week. There was discussion about the prep work requirements. Duane Groom, the maintenance supervisor, is concerned about getting all the prep work done before the chip-seal project begins. Matt suggested getting a price to get the preliminary work done and getting only the critical areas addressed. C. Ausmus brought up the water pipe work that is being proposed and doing a job that will last well. There was additional discussion about the scope of the project.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Mary LaSalle submitted a letter of resignation from the Tekoa City Council owing to health issues. C. Ausmus moved to regretfully accept C. LaSalle's resignation. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
 - A. **DENISE KEEGAN BUILDING UPDATE:** Steve Haxton, building inspector, reported that he will talk with Denise Keegan about when they can enter the premises. Mayor Schulz directed Steve to follow up with her and get a fixed date and keep things going along, preferably by month's end.

- B. FOOTBRIDGE:** The bid came back from the metal manufacturer. They are too high. We are going to go ahead with the plywood.
- C. SPRING CLEAN UP:** C. Ausmus brought up some details about the Spring Clean-Up and asked for opinions about how to proceed. She suggested not being open on Easter and how to approach the project. C. Ausmus will bring a sign-up for volunteer duty next council meeting. She will have final details at the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. WHITNEY BLOOM HOURLY RATE FOR COMMUNITY CENTER PROPOSAL:** Whitney handed out a proposal to the council for using the community center with a business proposal to rent the community center M-W-Th for a Pilates class. She proposed \$240/mo. (or prorated for actual hours used). She would provide cleaning and the supplies. C. Ausmus suggested the council look it over and come back with a decision next meeting. Whitney suggested that she may be ready to start around the end of March.
- B. U-TURNS ON CROSBY ST.:** C. Ausmus got some information from DOT and Brett Myers re: the issue of U-turns on Crosby Street. The city can have more signs up along Crosby Street. It is possible to get larger signs, also. Sheriff Myers suggested putting up orange flags around the signs to get people's attention and some intermittent policing to help change people's behavior. There was a discussion about safety and aesthetics. C. Ausmus moved to put up the missing sign and orange signs. There was discussion. C. Ausmus will do some additional research about sign and flag design. Brad Chandler suggested that we have the DOT spray "No U-turns" at intersections. There was additional discussion about signs.

VII. REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz reported that the EV charger will be on the edge of the sidewalk near the rest stop. Rep. Schmick's office called back about the upcoming sewer plant project and funding. In another conversation, there should be a representative from Rep. Schmick's and possibly Rep. Dye's offices at the town hall meeting tomorrow night. Rep. Schmick is also willing to come to Tekoa after the session is over to meet about the Tekoa Care Center issues. Commissioner Swannack may also be able to come to the meeting. Rev. Fletcher asked if the Sheriff would be in attendance.
- B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** Eliza Evans-Teague reported that Tekoa is on the schedule for the next two years with Whitman County Public Works for chip-seal projects, but not this summer. The city has closed out the Main St. Sidewalk Project and is in the final processes for closing out retainage on the generator ARPA projects. The final projects for this year's .09 project are in process, and Eliza is getting bids for the proposed .09 project for 2023 (a reader board). There was a discussion about whether C. Tysz would still like to see a bathroom in that same proposed area as the sign. C. Ausmus mentioned that the city may have a harder time receiving funding this year since we had funding this year. C. Hale suggested working on the plan and submitting it next year. C. Ausmus said she would help with sign research.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Tysz asked about the water budget. C. Sperber reported that he would like to donate his time and not receive any stipend. Eliza Evans-Teague will look into how councilpersons may be able to not take a stipend on an individual basis. There was some discussion about stipends. C. Martin commented about value in serving and not undervaluing those serving in the council and mayor positions. C. Martin also commented about how he would appreciate a head's-up about large expenditures. He would like to have Executive Session next time to resolve the job description questions. C. Ausmus would like to start discussing COLAs in April and asked C. Hale to bring his proposal on the medical insurance. C. Ausmus reported on some upcoming Chamber events. C. Ausmus also passed out some ideas for how to run meetings. She also suggested having a public works representative present once a month. In addition, she suggested listing the committee assignments next to the councilperson's name on meeting minutes. C. Hale reported about the meeting with the Port of Whitman re: the airport. One thing the Port Commissioner suggested was a courtesy car at the airport.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. FEBRUARY 21, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: C. Hale moved to accept the February 21, 2023, council meeting minutes. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: C. Hale moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check numbers 16413-16464 in the amount of \$248,183.37. C. Rambo seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: C. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Rambo 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