

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – April 8, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Councilmembers* in attendance were Mike Hale, Dave Tysz, Margie Jaeger, Pete Martin, B.J. Sperber, Mandi Prince and Lydia Fletcher. Also in attendance were Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague, Reid Smith, Darlene Pearson, Kathi Houston, Hugh and Suzanne Evans, Steven Thomas, Nancy Thorson, Brad Chandler, Steven Thomas, John Giudice, Jennifer Olson, John Jaeger, Steve Haxton, Tim Ike and Shelly Ausmus.

*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:** Added “RCW 46.61.570” and snow removal on downtown sidewalks.

- IV. MARCH 18, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Fletcher moved to accept the March 18, 2024, council meeting minutes. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

A. JENNIFER OLSON-HTC: Jennifer Olson updated the council and let them know Healthy Tekoa Coalition is bringing suicide prevention training at the end of May. She also stated the results of the county-wide survey will be discussed at the same event.

B. JOHN JAEGER: John Jaeger spoke about acquiring chair and table racks for the community center. He would like to see a liaison on site during the upcoming movie filming. John also inquired about tree removal on or near Alder St. Clerk Evans-Teague let the council know the State Parks Department was the entity who removed the tree(s) in question.

- VI. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

- VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

A. JOHN GUIDICE: REQUESTING VARIANCE AND PERMISSION TO REPLACE A WALL ON CITY PROPERTY: C. Tysz spoke re: John Giudice wanting to replace the rock wall by his house with eco-blocks. C. Tysz thinks this would enhance the area. The Mayor and C. Sperber also looked at the site. There was discussion. C. Sperber moved to allow John Giudice to put in the block wall. C. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. AIRPORT UPDATE: TIM IKE-JUB ENGINEERING/RESOLUTION 24-01

RE: GRANT ASSURANCES FOR THE AVIATION GRANT: Tim Ike updated the council on the Willard Field Project. He stated that it is now time to go back to the state for the construction phase grant application and bid phase. The process would be recycling the existing base and using it to repave the runway (full-depth reclamation). He explained the city is only obligated if the bids come in “on budget” and if the state approves the grant. There was discussion. Mike Hale explained the work he is doing with the Port of Whitman on this project to help with the matching portion of the grant. There was discussion. C. Hale moved to approve the application and grant assurances. C. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. C. Fletcher moved to approve Res. 24-01. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Tim Ike explained more of the process for the airport resurfacing project.

B. STEVEN THOMAS RE: DESIGNATING ARPA FUNDING FOR SEWER

& WATER REPAIR PROJECTS: Steven Thomas explained some of the problem areas in the city’s sewer and water systems. Eliza Evans-Teague explained the ARPA funding requirements and availability. There was discussion about priorities. Steven also updated the council on the condition of the street sweeper. There was discussion. Finally, Steven updated the council on the wastewater treatment lift station.

C. SHORT AND MID-RANGE PLANNING GOALS:

Eliza Evans-Teague introduced the goals and explained they are important for applying for grants. The mayor let the council know the status of inquiries with the railroad property. There was discussion. C. Martin moved to approve the city’s short- and mid-range planning goals with the slight changes recommended by the council. C. Sperber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. .09 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION APPROVAL: C.

Martin reported on the grant application for interpretive panels that have interchangeable panel capability. He proposed having four panels at the Gymkanna Grounds and four at Memorial Park. C. Martin explained how the panels could promote businesses. C. Hale moved to approve the application. C. Prince seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

E. STEVE HAXTON RE: TINY HOMES, ADUs, MINIMUM SQUARE

FOOTAGE REQUIREMENTS, ETC.: Steve Haxton explained some Washington State code for tiny homes (which are the same as a stick-built homes) and mentioned some ways counties and cities are regulating the implementation of tiny homes. There was discussion about citizen questions and current ordinances. Brad Chandler was asked to comment, and he let the city know what the basic issues surrounding tiny homes were. The mayor asked Steve Haxton to bring back some code examples for the council. Steve Haxton also let the council know he has started to

communicate with Denise Keegan about looking at the roof of her building. C. Tysz commented that the unfit dwelling committee will meet and send out a certified letter to see what Denise officially wants to do.

F. SPRING CLEAN-UP FOR TEKOA: Clerk Evans-Teague explained the dumpster availability during the county landfill's spring clean-up rate timeframe and C. Tysz volunteered to oversee the dumpster. C. Tysz moved for the city to offer a spring clean-up dumpster. C. Fletcher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

G. INNOVIA FOUNDATION-COMMUNITY HEART & SOUL GRANT: Kathi Houston introduced the council to the Innovia Foundation and what they have done in our region and locally. She explained that Innovia is giving ten 30K grants with a \$10K match over 2 years. The purpose of the grants is to find out what is important to rural communities and get them started in fulfilling their missions. Grant applications open Thursday. Mayor Schulz asked Kathi for ideas for Tekoa. She had some ideas for historical preservation, sidewalk restoration, etc. There was discussion.

H. PARKING AND TRAFFIC RCW 46.61.570: C. Tysz asked about the RCW. There was discussion about the different aspects of the ordinance. C. Tysz moved to adopt RCW 46.61.570. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. DOWNTOWN SNOW REMOVAL: C. Martin brought up downtown sidewalk plowing. He thought it would aid business ingress and address city liability. C. Fletcher had done information gathering with MRSC and let the council know that the cities she investigated in Whitman County had no precedent in plowing the sidewalks. C. Martin moved to plow the sidewalks in the business district. There was discussion. C. Jaeger seconded the motion. C. Hale commented that the city would be accepting liability, and we would be going against the advice of our attorney, whereas currently the city is protected by law. C. Martin, Prince, Sperber, Tysz and Jaeger voted in favor of plowing downtown sidewalks. C. Fletcher and Hale voted against plowing downtown sidewalk districts. There was extended discussion.

J. HARP EASEMENT SETTLEMENT: There was discussion about the Harp water easement. C. Sperber moved to take the water easement monies of \$10,000 out of the water fund. C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

X. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz noted that training will start at the next meeting. It will lead off the meeting. Mayor Schulz also spoke about the Wheatland

Apartment management and what they are trying to accomplish. There was drug paraphernalia found at the cemetery. There were some ideas about how to address this issue. He will bring up the Teddy Roosevelt Proclamation in the next couple of meetings. The mayor read a synopsis of the movie idea and what the movie company will be doing in town. There were a few questions. C. Jaeger commented on how the company will be using local store items for the movie props.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Clerk Evans-Teague asked the council if they wanted to stick with the June 17, 2024, date of training with Jurassic Parliament or if they wanted to have a special meeting earlier due to seasonal constraints for some of the council members. It was agreed that the clerk will send out some alternative dates for the council to comment back to the clerk about scheduling.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Jaeger would like to address the shipping containers on Crosby St. She commented that we have no ordinances that currently address containers. There was discussion. C. Hale suggested we put it on the agenda. C. Martin reported on the cemetery board meeting. The cemetery endowment is growing and it appears there will be a good supply of funds to meet needs for future projects. C. Martin recognized those who helped prepare the .09 grant application.

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Brad Chandler commented on the snow removal. He reminded the council who voted affirmatively they are now responsible personally and he believes their action is illegal. Steve Haxton noted that the alleyways aren't plowed and it is a struggle for the elderly who only have access through the alleys. C. Tysz noted the city equipment is too big to plow the alleys. Steve suggested smaller equipment or contracting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: C. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Sperber 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