

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 2, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 were in attendance, as well as additional attendees Darlene Pearson, Suzanne and Hugh Evans, Kyle Dombrowski, Leonard Cruz, Kathi Houston, Brad Chandler, Jennifer Olson and Kevin and Heidi Turnbough.
- *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:** C. Ausmus added Crosby St. zoning to the agenda.
- IV. SEPTEMBER 18, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Martin brought up a correction as he said Mayor Schulz had not mentioned employees in the previous meeting in comments re: mutual respect. Mayor Schulz said he thought he had. C. Ausmus and C. Rambo agreed that the mayor had not mentioned employees. Mayor Schulz agreed to strike that portion of the minutes. C. Ausmus moved to pass minutes with the correction. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION: PENDING/POSSIBLE LEGAL MATTERS:** Mayor called Executive Session at 6:05 P.M. for 10 minutes to discuss a possible legal issue. The council came out of Executive Session at 6:18 P.M.
- VI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Kyle Dombrowski announced that the official candidate debate will be Sunday Oct. 15, 2023, at 6pm at the Empire Theatre with Roger Harnack moderating. Kyle will get the word out. Jennifer Olson reported on Healthy Tekoa Coalition and the activities coming up for Homecoming Week and Trunk-or-Treat. She also reported that at least 60 HTC surveys have been completed and they need 100. She will send the survey link to Eliza Evans-Teague for anyone who needs it.
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE:** Eliza Evans-Teague read the letter from Ron and Cathy Flock re: a request for late fee forgiveness due to mail circumstances and a request for annexation. There was discussion. C. Ausmus made some suggestions. There was discussion and it was decided that as this has come up for a variety of people the council should not set new precedent. C. Ausmus addressed the annexation part of the letter and there was additional discussion about historical annexation requests. She suggested putting this on the agenda in January due to all the other things on the coming agendas through the end of the year. There was additional discussion.
- VIII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
- A. YARD ABATEMENT ORDINANCE:** C. Martin postponed the subject.
- B. SALARY DISCUSSION FOR BUDGET:** There was discussion. C. Sperber suggested the council could move now to give the deputy clerk a raise now, and vote on COLAs for employees, including the

deputy clerk, in a later meeting. C. Sperber moved to give the deputy clerk a \$1.50/hr. raise starting January 2024. C. Hale seconded the motion. There was discussion. The mayor suggested writing the budget at the high end so that whatever the council decides would be accommodated. There was discussion. Those in favor were C. Tysz, C. Hale, C. Sperber and C. Rambo. Against was C. Prince. Abstaining were C. Martin and C. Ausmus. The motion passed.

C. HARP BILLING & EASEMENT PROPOSAL: Mayor Schulz asked regarding the status and Eliza Evans-Teague let the council know that a letter was going out to Bill and Diane Harp re: the easement.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. WSDOT: CULVERT ISSUE: The mayor let the council know that out at the east end of the city limits by SR 274 a recent accident drew attention to a culvert has been eroding. Due to changes at the WSDOT, it has become apparent that the issue is now the city's issue. It is now going to be a major repair. The state will support where they can. The mayor asked the council to approve taking care of this storm water issue through water reserves. He estimates perhaps a \$10,000 cost. C. Martin moved to use money from reserves up to \$10,000 with no further review. There was discussion. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. TRUAX ST. EASEMENT PROPOSAL: Mayor Schulz and Eliza Evans-Teague explained what the city hopes to do in establishing a new sewer line to the west of Truax. This easement would need to go across Sienknecht land. Doug Sienknecht said he and his siblings will consider this and he addressed some of the issues that are involved, electric lines, trees, etc. Kevin and Heidi Turnbough entered the meeting at this time. Kevin explained that we need a small easement to pick up Jequetta Lucki and Caleb Engbretson's sewer lines. There was discussion about what we need to do right now, including an easement for the Sienknecht and Guidice easement issues. Discussion went back to the culvert with questions for Kevin Turnbough. He concurred that \$10K should be sufficient.

C. ZONING ON CROSBY ST.: C. Ausmus asked to put zoning on next agenda. Current zoning for Crosby St. Eliza Evans-Teague will email the current code to the council.

D. CONTAINERS: C. Ausmus would like to have a discussion about RVs, etc. and think about making an ordinance re: shipping containers. There was discussion that this is a little bit of a case-by-case basis. C. Ausmus clarified how long they can sit on a property and whether they can be made into a home. C. Ausmus called for persons to put together a proposal. C. Tysz volunteered to help bring a proposal to the council. C. Martin brought up residences on the streets. There was discussion. Mayor Schulz asked Eric Hanson to clarify what other communities do. He said containers specifically are not often mentioned in most towns' ordinances. The mayor gave some examples of how different towns have dealt with ordinances to deal with temporary buildings or containers. There was more discussion about coming ordinances.

X. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: The LED sign is in and will be hooked up to electricity and internet service soon.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Rambo said the Susannah Scaroni sign is still on its way. C. Martin reported he abstained from the salary vote because he wanted to see it passed by committee. C. Ausmus

also commented on the salary issue. C. Ausmus asked about the Keegan building. Mayor Schulz let the council know the date for improvements was November 1st and the condition about the water overflow harming neighboring buildings. C. Ausmus asked about the bridge progress. The mayor confirmed that it is still on the schedule but we don't know if it can be addressed before winter. C. Tysz commented on the railing and what it will take to get it functional again. C. Ausmus asked about the current open maintenance position and where it was posted. C. Ausmus spoke about Small Business Saturday and arrangements being made by the Chamber. C. Tysz will burn the pile as soon as he can and weather permits. C. Prince thanked the city for getting the word out about the school evacuation training.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: C. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz closed the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer