

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – November 18, 2024, 6 P.M.
Tekoa City Hall

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. ROLL CALL:**
- MAYOR SCHULZ:** Present.
CM MANDI PRINCE: Present.
CM MARGIE JAEGER: Present.
CM PETE MARTIN: Present.
CM MIKE HALE: Present.
CM SHELLY AUSMUS: Present.
CM DAVE TYSZ: Present.
CM CHERI CURRIER: Present.
Also present was Atty. Eric Hanson.
- IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** CM Martin wanted to add “Goldenrod Perpetual Care Endowment Reimbursement” to the agenda.
- V. NOVEMBER 4, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Martin added **“The investigation made by AWC determined the council had not harassed the employees”* to the public comment re: the council investigation. CM Ausmus moved to accept the minutes as amended. CM Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- *Changes in italics requested and approved by the council 12-2-2024.*
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING:** Mayor Schulz opened the Preliminary Budget Hearing at 6:05 P.M. Clerk Evans-Teague entertained questions. An additional workshop was discussed. Mayor Schulz closed the hearing at 6:15 P.M.
- B. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
- C. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Turkey Trot at the Trestle is Nov. 28, 2024, at 9:30am.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. ETHICS POLICY:** Atty. Hanson explained that he has not been able to finish an ethics policy yet. CM Martin asked about timeframes, and Atty. Hanson said he thought he could have it ready before the next meeting. There was discussion. It will be on the next agenda.

- B. TINY HOMES:** Mayor asked if anyone had any more information. CM Ausmus asked if Atty. Hanson could pull out the pertinent information from the packet from the last meeting. Atty. Hanson suggested that the council designate a particular area. Mayor Schulz explained how some other states have guidelines re: tiny homes. There was discussion, including discussion about calling a public meeting.
- C. DOG TAGS:** CM Ausmus moved to enact a \$25 lifetime fee for altered dogs, current annual fees for unaltered dogs, \$10 senior dog fees (altered), and for those with an existing altered dog, one more \$10 fee would suffice for a lifetime tag. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. HARASSMENT POLICY:** Atty. Hanson sent a letter to the mayor and council and they can talk about it once they have read the letter. He suggested not discussing it in an open public meeting.
- E. SEWER/WATER RATES:** There was discussion about how much to increase the sewer rates and about water rates. CM Tysz moved to raise rates \$5 for sewer and \$1 for water (in January 2025). CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. PAY ESTIMATE, JUB ENGINEERS, WSDOT AIRPORT GRANT:** CM Ausmus moved to pay the pay estimate for JUB Engineers. CM Currier seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called an Executive Session to discuss the Hood lawsuit proposals and evaluation of a potential hire for 20 minutes until 7:00 P.M. The mayor closed the Executive Session at 7:00 P.M.
- C. CONFIRM DEPUTY CLERK HIRE:** The deputy clerk hire is Carleen Sams. CM Hale moved to approve Carleen Sams as deputy clerk at \$23.50/hr. CM Hale, Jaeger, Prince, Ausmus, Currier and Tysz voted yes. Not present: CM Martin.
- D. GOLDENROD PERPETUAL CARE ENDOWMENT REIMBURSEMENT:** This matter was presented during council reports and comments.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz reported on some different housing strategies, and there is a meeting tomorrow where he hopes to get some good information on this subject.
- B. STAFF REPORT:** Annette Clausen has left the city some funds for the cemetery, and two CDs mature this November.
- C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:** CM Martin reported the process for requesting funds through the Goldenrod Perpetual Care Endowment Committee has changed. He let the council know there is an endowment meeting on December 3, 2024, to familiarize everyone with this process. He explained the future of expansion for the cemetery. CM Martin would like to be the first to be notified if there are issues that need to be explained. The mayor explained his request to the committee to schedule a meeting. That meeting did not happen. The mayor explained the

process as it stands now. He explained how the changes in policy are affecting the city and the office. There was discussion. CM Martin explained he would like to be part of the process. CM Ausmus will update the council on Parks and Rec. next meeting. She suggested looking at the library budget for furnace replacement. She would also like to have more regular Public Works updates and Enforcement Officer reports. CM Tysz asked about the water, as it has been smelling more lately. He would like to know how many gallons/minute the old well produces when it is pumping. CM Martin also made a point that the staff is there to support the city council, as the council can't do it by themselves. CM Martin made the point that he thinks CM Tysz should be involved more in water and sewer issues at the city, as he is employed at other municipalities in this capacity.

- X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** CM Ausmus moved to approve EFT payroll and claims #17481-17503 in the amount of \$65,288.42 and EFT payroll and claims #17504-17547 in the amount of \$157,218.02. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- XI. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Brad Chandler commented that the city council meetings are all available on Facebook so all the minutes changes are unnecessary, as people can go online and see exactly what was said.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Tysz moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer