

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 6, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., Councilmembers*present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, B.J. Sperber. Angie Rambo and Pete Martin. Clerk-Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague and city attorney Eric Hanson were in attendance, as well as additional attendees Kyle Dombrowski, Leonard Cruz, Kathi Houston, Hugh and Suzanne Evans, Sue Hinz, Karen Kiesling, Mary Collins, Darlene Pearson, Alex Delriccio, Kevin and Heidi Turnbough, Jennifer Olson and Lydia Fletcher.

*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: No changes.

IV. OCTOBER 16, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES and OCTOBER 25, 2023, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: C. Hale moved to approve the October 16, 2023 council meeting minutes. C. Sperber seconded the motion. Council members Hale, Sperber, Martin, Rambo, Tysz and Prince approved the motion. C. Ausmus opposed. The motion passed. C. Ausmus read a statement about her opinion on the recording of meeting minutes and that she feels they are biased. C. Hale moved to approve the October 25, 2023, special council meeting minutes. C. Sperber seconded the motion. Council members Hale, Sperber, Martin, Rambo, Tysz and Prince approved the motion. C. Ausmus abstained. The motion passed.

V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Kyle Dombrowski responded to C. Ausmus to clarify her position on minutes and what she believes was meant by her statement.

A. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES: Jennifer Olson reported on Healthy Tekoa Coalition. Surveys are finished and HTC received enough to meet their requirements. She will have information about the surveys in the late spring. Jennifer describes some results of the last survey. The next survey is in two years. Trunk or Treat went well.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. SALARY COMMITTEE: C. Hale presented the 2024 wage and benefit options designed by the committee. C. Martin moved to accept option 1. C. Hale seconded the motion. There was discussion and clarification. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz asked for official approval of Andy Constancio's wages and future wage increase conditions. C. Ausmus brought up the manner in which employees are hired. Atty. Hanson said the range method was acceptable. There was additional discussion and clarification. C. Sperber moved to approve Andy Constancio's initial wage at \$24.00/hr. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. PULLMAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:** Sue Hinz, Mary Collins, and Karen Kiesling explained to the city about their project celebrating the 100 years of women being able to vote. They presented a certificate to the city naming all the women who have served the City of Tekoa as mayor or councilmembers in that timeframe.
- B. CROSBY ST./COMMERCIAL ZONING:** C. Ausmus is working on that project with C. Tysz but will delay.
- C. JUB ENGINEERING RE: AIRPORT:** Alex Delricchio from JUB gave the overview of the WSDOT Airport Project. There will be several applications during the process, and they plan on surveying this week so project design can happen over the winter. There was discussion about the paving project. WSDOT will pay 95% of the project and the city must make a 5% match. C. Hale clarified the costs for this year and stated we are working with the Port of Whitman to work on matching funds. C. Martin moved to approve the services agreement. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. DUANE GROOM: COMPENSATION FOR CERTIFICATION USE:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the city needs to have someone with certifications for sewer until the in-house personnel are up-to-speed. Tysz said we also need a cross-connection specialist. He normally charges \$300/mo. for both services, including paperwork. C. Hale moved to accept C. Tysz until a city employee can take over. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. KEVIN TURNBOUGH: SUPERVISORY COMPENSATION PROPOSAL:** Kevin Turnbough explained how things have changed since Duane Groom retired. He would like to retain his insurance during his leave as compensation for his higher level of responsibility and supervision. Kevin gave additional information about the scope of the job that now falls on his shoulders. There was extended discussion. The council will think about it.
- F. GIUDICE EASEMENT PROPOSAL:** Eliza Evans-Teague explained the need to cross Giudice land to hook up two properties. The proposal is that the city would pay John Guidice for an easement across the two properties. Mr. Guidice would then have to pay the city for hooking up to his property that would now have service. C. Ausmus moved to approve the easement value at \$5000. C. Martin seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. MOVING FINAL BUDGET HEARING:** There was discussion about moving the final budget hearing from Dec. 4, 2023, to November 20, 2023. C. Ausmus moved to have the final budget hearing moved to Nov. 20, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. C. Prince seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. TAX LEVY HEARING: RESOLUTION 23-07:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the option of a 0% and 1% option for the property tax levy. C. Ausmus moved to take the 0% increase tax levy option. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- I. CREDIT CARD FOR STEVEN THOMAS:** Eliza Evans-Teague asked the council to approve a credit card for Steven Thomas in the same amount that had been reserved for Duane Groom

(\$5,000.00). C. Sperber moved to approve a credit card for Steven Thomas in that amount. C. Hale seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Schulz called Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:25 P.M. for 10 min. Executive session ended at 7:40 P.M.

X. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz reported attending some conferences in the previous few weeks and the value of those events.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: The new city sign is up and running. It now has internet connection.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Rambo asked about the EV charging station. C. Hale spoke about the Port of Whitman economic development meeting and some possibilities for additional funding he will pursue. C. Ausmus asked about the property next to Leonard Cruz'. Leonard Cruz remarked that he believes it belongs to the state park. Mayor Schulz will have the office follow up. Prince commented on the Community Center checklist being missed by the office and walk-throughs not happening. The mayor said he would look into it.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Kyle Dombrowski asked about the building on the property next door to his home. He reports it is not secured and is dangerous. The mayor will follow up on that.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: C. Sperber moved to adjourn. C. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer