

**City of Tekoa**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*Monday – December 16, 2024, 6 P.M.*  
**Tekoa City Hall**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

**MAYOR SCHULZ:** 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.

**IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** CM Ausmus would like to add F/U to "Cargo Containers" if Atty. Hanson comes.

**V. DECEMBER 2, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Jaeger moved to accept December 2, 2024, council meeting minutes. CM Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Brad Chandler spoke about the need to include both clerks in training. He also stated that governing personnel cannot be engaged in paid positions. CM Ausmus asked about exemptions for small communities re: employing elected officials. Brad Chandler confirmed that it was possible, but that exemption paperwork has to be filed with the state before the city could hire a councilperson as an employee.

Matt Morkert thanked the city for hiring Century West this year. He answered questions for the council re: the future funding of the new sewer plant.

Richie Brower from Seventh Day Adventist Schools and Churches in the region spoke. He would like the council to think about how the community can take advantage of their service. They are making a two-year commitment to Tekoa. Currently, the volunteers have given just over 1000 hours of service in Tekoa.

Dan Thomas asked questions about water and sewer rate increases for the year.

**B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** CM Ausmus reported the Parks and Rec. levy did not pass. The Parks and Rec. District is still applying the grants that will pay for equipment at Ruhl Park and Gymkanna Grounds. They are applying for additional grants to cover resurfacing the pool. The

Parks board has decided to use the savings for the pool resurfacing to keep the pool open for this year. They will not re-run the levy due to the costs involved. There was discussion.

**C. CORRESPONDENCE:** Clerk Evans-Teague read the letter of resignation from Carleen Sams.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. ETHICS POLICY:** Postponed until Atty. Hanson can be in attendance.

**B. HARASSMENT POLICY:** Postponed until Atty. Hanson can be in attendance.

**C. TINY HOMES:** Postponed until Atty. Hanson can be in attendance.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 901:** CM Hale moved to accept Budget Amendment Ordinance 901. CM Tysz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**B. BUDGET ORDINANCE 902:** Clerk Evans-Teague suggested a special meeting for Dec. 23, at 6 P.M. to finalize the budget, as some council members would like to see the budget stated in a simpler manner. There was discussion. A \$1000 training budget for the clerks and \$500 training and travel budget for the mayor for 2025 were discussed. There was additional discussion.

**C. JUB PAYMENT REQUEST-WSDOT WILLARD FIELD PROJECT:** The invoice was introduced for the December bill for JUB. This bill is for the administration of the grant. CM Ausmus moved to approve the JUB payment request. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called Executive Session at 6:52 PM for 8 minutes to discuss the qualifications of the new deputy clerk. The mayor ended the Executive Session at 8 P.M.

**E. CONFIRM NEW DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER-NIKKI HUGHES:** CM Martin moved to approve Nikki Hughes as the new deputy clerk/treasurer at \$23.50/hr. CM Hale seconded the motion. CM Ausmus abstained from voting as she disagreed with the pay scale for the new deputy clerk. CM Jaeger, Martin, Tysz, Currier and Hale voted to confirm Nikki Hughes as the new deputy clerk/treasurer.

**F. CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACT WATER/SEWER OPERATOR:** Kevin Turnbough has passed his certifications, and the proposal is for \$200/mo. each for water and sewer and going forward he will pay for his own certifications. Duane Groom will not be continuing past the end of the year as the sewer operator. CM Martin moved to accept Kevin Turnbough as the new sewer and water contract operator. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz is in contact with the school to schedule a town hall meeting about the upcoming sewer plant. The agenda can include Parks and Rec. and/or the possibility of increased police presence, if that is important to the community. Parks and Rec., due to the levy failure, will likely approach the city re: a reduced rate for water. The state can allow this. The mayor reported that the city has found a couple of motors for the broken street sweeper. He will put the open council position in the January newsletter and the council can plan on interviewing at the

second meeting in January. CM Ausmus asked about a fifth wheel near the church. The clerk let the city know the owners of the fifth wheel are in compliance with the city. CM Martin has found locations for six of the interpretive panels. The panels will likely go up in the spring and highlight the history of various areas of town. CM Currier asked about the Fuchs building. CM Tysz let her know about the reasonable condition of the building. CM Currier went by the house on Water St. where the dirt bank was dug out vertical, and there was discussion about the safety and sightliness of properties. CM Ausmus spoke about the many services and patrons of the library. There was discussion. CM Hale will report on the Chamber and possibly the airport at the next meeting.

**B. STAFF REPORT:** The clerk/treasurer reported the SAO audit is in process and will hopefully conclude by the end of the month.

**C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:** CM Martin mentioned that the hill by his house seemed a little slimy for buses with the recent snow.

**X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** CM Tysz moved to approve EFT payroll and warrants #17548-17565 in the amount of \$43,008.14 and EFT payroll and warrants #17566-17599 in the amount of \$196,119.47. CM Hale seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**XII. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Ausmus moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 7:29 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer