

**City of Tekoa**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*Monday – February 3, 2025, 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 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 suggested moving all our guest speakers first in the new business order. CM Martin would like to add the Tekoa Golf Course after the Port of Whitman item. CM Ausmus would like to address cargo container follow-up during reports. The mayor would like to revisit the city dumpster vote from the previous meeting.
- V. JANUARY 22, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Ausmus would like to add a clarification that the council goes into Executive Session to discuss qualifications and does not vote or do a straw vote in executive session. CM Martin moved to accept January 22, 2025, minutes as amended. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** Clerk/Treasurer Evans-Teague read the correspondence from Kyle Dombroski re: dogs and the manner in which they are regulated. CM Ausmus clarified the code enforcement officer should enforce the ordinances and that council members should be notified if the nature of the correspondence is “attacking.” CM Currier explained the measures she has taken to contain her dogs and the nature of the remarks that she feels are bullying.
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None.
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** None.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. ETHICS POLICY:** Atty. Hanson presented the ordinance he modelled after City of Pullman’s ethics policy. The council will review it. There was discussion.
- B. HARASSMENT POLICY:** Atty. Hanson asked if the personnel policy has a harassment section already. There was discussion.

- C. **TINY HOMES:** Atty. Hanson looked at the zoning code to see if it would allow for tiny homes. He thinks it would be better to define tiny homes in the ordinance. CM Ausmus suggested bringing ideas for tiny homes to a public meeting. There was discussion. The mayor discussed a housing publication that addressed tiny homes issues.
- D. **CITY DUMPSTER:** Mayor Schulz noted the motion in the last meeting was done incorrectly. He believes there was a conflict of interest, so the motion needs to be corrected. CM Jaeger moved to open the dumpster for public use at the city the day before pickup. CM Martin seconded the motion. CM Thomas voted no. CMs Jaeger, Martin, Hale, Ausmus, Tysz and Currier voted yes. The motion passed.

### VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **PORT OF WHITMAN-KARA RIEBOLD:** Kara Riebold presented what the Port is currently doing all across the county.
- B. **PINE CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT:** Josilyn Watson explained how the Pine Creek Conservation District is active here in Tekoa and what they do with natural resources in aiding agriculture and communities. She explained some of the activities in which the district is currently engaged, both education and wildfire preparedness. There was extended discussion and interaction.
- C. **GOLF COURSE:** CM Martin informed the council re: the Golf Course Clubhouse upgrade. The current thought is to remodel instead of demolishing the clubhouse and starting over. So, the plan, design and remodel estimates need to be obtained. The goal is to have a plan by late spring or early summer. The meeting will be at either C&Ds or city hall council chambers on Feb. 10, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.
- D. **COMMUNITY CLEAN UP:** CM Ausmus is looking into this, but the spring clean-up dates have not been announced by Whitman County Landfill, yet.
- E. **CRISTY MOORE-10 YEAR LEASE REQUEST-BLDG. G:** Clerk/Treasurer Evans-Teague explained Cristy Moore would like to extend her hangar lease to a ten-year lease with a ten-year option. CM Hale recommended the council accept the terms. CM Ausmus moved to approve the 10-year lease with a ten-year option request for Hangar G with a start date of January 1, 2025. CM Tysz seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- F. **COMMUNITY SURVEY QUESTIONS:** Mayor Schulz mentioned the survey questions, including tiny homes, cargo containers, etc. CM Ausmus suggested that the public be invited to one or both meetings in March to comment on tiny homes. The council will have a chance to submit questions to include in the survey. CM Tysz mentioned the railroad property for the survey. Questions should be submitted to city hall by Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.
- G. **ADD DRUG TESTING TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY:** Steven Thomas explained that he would like to see random or prescribed drug testing added to our personnel manual. Atty. Hanson said to be careful about random drug testing. He suggested it should be narrowly interpreted. There was discussion about what kind of guidelines apply; federal, state, etc. Atty Hanson would need specific guidance to help craft a policy.
- H. **APPROVE CENTURY WEST PAYMENT FOR DOE WWTP PLANNING:** The clerk explained the engineering invoices for July-October 2024. CM Tysz moved to approve payment. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**I. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM AND FINANCE OFFICER:** CM Tysz nominated Mike Hale for finance officer. The council voted unanimously to approve CM Hale as the financial officer. CM Martin nominated CM Tysz for deputy mayor. The council voted unanimously to approve CM Tysz for deputy mayor.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz reported on the Mayor's Round Table. The mayors specifically discussed the OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act), EMT requirements, CDL requirements, and line-item budget requests for the sewer project. There was discussion about the future of infrastructure funding. CM Ausmus clarified if there was progress on the PRA rules. Mayor Schulz had not seen anything new regarding PRAs.

**B. STAFF REPORT:** Clerk/Treasurer Evans-Teague reported that audit corrections will be finished by Friday and that the SAO will then issue an opinion on the audit.

**C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:** CM Hale will go to the Chamber of Commerce meeting on Friday. CM Ausmus asked if there was another step to completing the cargo container ordinances. She also asked for the most recently passed ordinances to be put on the website. CM Ausmus asked some questions about cargo container regulations and their enforcement. CM Ausmus also asked about permits for containers. CM Ausmus asked about the old city hall-upper unit and said they would like a new copy of the Council Policies and Procedures for each member. The mayor reminded the new council members to take the new council member training. The clerk will let them know the upcoming dates.

**X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** None.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**XII. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Todd Jensen asked about the dumpster opening times. Nancy Thorson clarified the definition ADUs.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Ausmus moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:12 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer