

Mayor:
Roy Schulz

Council:
Shelly Ausmus
Cheri Currier
Michael Hale
Margie Jaeger
Pete Martin
Amanda Prince
Dave Tysz

Clerk/Treasurer:
Eliza Evans-Teague

Deputy Clerk:
Carleen Sams

**Maintenance/
Animal Control:**
Jessica May Johnson
Steven Thomas
Kevin Turnbough

**Code Enforcement
Officer:**
Mike Bogenreif
509-828-2144
tekoacodeenforcem
ent@outlook.com

Building Inspector:
Steve Haxton
509-981-2157

Office Hours:
8:00 A.M. to
4:00 P.M.

Council Meetings:
First and Third
Monday
6:00 P.M.
Tekoa City Hall
Council Chambers

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509-284-3861

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December 2024 Newsletter

December 2 – City Council Meeting

6:00 P.M. – City Hall

December 5 – Tekoa EMS & EMT Training

6:30 P.M. – Ambulance Barn

December 5 – Whitman Co. Hosp. Dist.

6:30 P.M. – City Hall

December 6 – Chamber of Commerce

7:30 A.M. – Éclair's

December 10 – Healthy Tekoa Coalition

9:00 A.M. – Tekoa SD Boardroom

December 12 – Empire Theatre Board

5:30 P.M. – Empire Theatre

December 16 – City Council Meeting

6:00 P.M. – City Hall

December 17 – Tekoa Parks & Rec Meeting

6:00 P.M. – City Hall

December 18 – Tekoa School Board Mtg.

6:30 P.M. – Tekoa SD Boardroom

December 19 – Commodities Distribution

8-11 A.M. – Tekoa City Hall

The City of Tekoa will have our council meeting in the Tekoa City Hall Council Chambers on Monday, December 2 and 16, at 6:00 P.M. You may join in person.

Message from your Mayor—

Happy Holidays, everyone. I trust you are well and had a great Thanksgiving. Christmas and the New Year are right around the corner, with all the craziness that goes with them. Please take time to connect with family and friends and remember those dear to us and those no longer with us. These conversations can brighten someone's day and give them a bit of support when they could really use it.

As winter approaches, I must remind residents to clear the streets of trailers, motorhomes, and inoperable vehicles from city streets. The city will do its best to clear the streets in a timely manner, and the easier it is for the crew to get around, the quicker the whole process goes. As time allows, the crew will try to clear the parking strips outside businesses and houses. Moving cars from one side of the street to the other enables the plows to clean off the snow from your parking spots. It is also the homeowner's and business owner's responsibility to remove snow in a timely manner.

The city has hired a new Deputy Clerk. Her name is Carleen Sams, and her official start date is December 3, so please swing by Tekoa City Hall and welcome her. Carleen comes with a wealth of experience, and we are fortunate to have her working in the office.

Now comes the hard part. The Council is exploring the possibility of raising sewer and water rates. As everyone knows, the cost of everything has increased, and we are in the planning phase of the new sewer plant. For at least 20 years, the Department of Ecology has been monitoring our treatment plant with the intent of mandating an upgrade. The city has bought some time by eliminating the amount of unnecessary water going through the plant. The Public Works crew has done incredible work keeping our 80-year-old plant in compliance over the years. It's complicated, but raising rates works to reduce our debt load by qualifying us for more grants. We are exploring every option to keep the burden on the residents of Tekoa as low as we can. The city plans on having a town forum in the near future to bring the residents up to speed on what we know. Thanks for listening, and we

will talk later.

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says, 'I'll try again tomorrow.'" Mary Anne Radmacher

~Roy

Tekoa Food Pantry

Tekoa Food Pantry will distribute commodities on December 19, from 8-11 A.M.

Tree of Sharing

Please come pick any remaining tags off the Tree-of-Sharing at Banner Bank and have them returned to the bank wrapped with tags by December 16, 5 P.M.

Tekoa Chamber of Commerce

Winter is upon us and the Tekoa Chamber of Commerce is busy with holiday activities. Thank you to all the patrons and volunteers who made Small Business Saturday a great event. Businesses are offering special promotions and activities throughout the season, so don't forget them while doing your holiday shopping or looking to spend time with family and friends! January brings renewal and is a good time to think about yearly volunteer opportunities. The Chamber will be holding officer elections, and we welcome new members.

Healthy Tekoa

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. It's the festive time of year when folks party with alcohol or marijuana. Please have a safe time by discussing your transportation plans before heading out, and having the designated driver keep the keys. Remember, friends don't let friends drive impaired. Stay safe Tekoa!

Just like kids, pets get into everything! Always keep medicines, cosmetics, & cleaners out of your pet's reach...That means off the counter or furniture & placing your backpack/purse up high. *ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center* 888-426-4435. And, for your 2-legged family, WA Poison Center **800-222-1222**.

You can get connected with HEALTHY Tekoa on the second Tuesday of every month at 9 A.M. Contact Jennifer at jolson@tekoasd.org for details. Join us and be part of positive change in our community.

TEKOA LIBRARY.

Library Events for December are:

- **Crafter's Circle December 3, 10-SPECIAL, 17 at 4 P.M.**
- **Storytime is December 5, 12, and 19 at 11:45**
- **Youth Cocoa and Countdown Event December 11, at 12:15-1:30.**
- **Mystery Book Sale- Drop by December 3-19 to purchase wrapped books for you or someone else this season.**
- **Book Bingo for Tween/Teens. Drop by the library for more details.**

EMPIRE THEATRE

WHEW, December is busy!! On December 6, we have The Nutcracker presented by Pirouette Dance at 6:30 P.M. Next, the Crosby Street Players present ***Christmas Carl*** on December 7, at 2 P.M., and 7 P.M., then again on December 9, at 7 P.M. On Dec. 21st at 6 P.M., we will show ***The Polar Express***; wear your jammies! Like last year, we will have Golden tickets and bells. Finally, on New Year's Eve, from 7- 9 P.M., we will be having 50/50 Bingo. See you there!