

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 28, 2022

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Pete Martin, Mary LaSalle and Angie Rambo. B.J. Sperber attended on Zoom. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Carol Sturman, Donnell Ellsworth, Brad and Sheila Chandler and Lydia Fletcher.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
 - A. Brad Chandler asked if the city has a particular person who addresses free property from the state. Mayor Schulz let him know that we address such things as they come up and/or are needed. Mike Hale asked Brad to give him the website.
 - B. Shelly Ausmus let the audience know that the library is mostly finished and there will be an open house all December with the pantry being the object of any community generosity.
 - C. Mayor Schulz read a statement he formulated concerning his thoughts on budget questions, pay raises and COLAs. He expressed concerns about the behaviors of the council and that he would welcome discussion on this later in the meeting.
 - D. **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE:** postponed until 12-5-2022 due to weather.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:** see Sewer Line item below.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **CEMETERY ORDINANCE DISCUSSION:** Mary LaSalle has been ill; she will bring the proposal to the council on Dec. 5, 2022.
 - B. **DENISE KEEGAN BUILDING UPDATE:** Mayor Schulz asked Angie Rambo if she would try to get in touch with Denise Keegan, or we will have to go through the posting process. He has been unable to get in touch with her. Angie will try to communicate with her.
 - C. **FIREWORKS:** Mike Hale brought up some of the issues surrounding fireworks and pyrotechnics. Angie Rambo brought up some thoughts about limiting the times the larger fireworks can be ignited.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. SEWER LINE ISSUE/REIMBURSEMENT-SCZENSKI:** Mayor Schulz spoke about the Sczenski house on Henkle St. managed by Connie Kliever. He explained that there was an issue where a portion of pipe was not hooked up. The maintenance crew hooked it up and fixed the issue. However, the Klievers are seeking reimbursement for the cost of the Mr. Rooter visits that they incurred. The council discussed the issue. Dave Tysz moved to reimburse the full amount. Angie Rambo seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.
- B. LIBRARY HEATING SYSTEM:** Shelly Ausmus brought up the subject of changing the type of heat in the library with the rising cost of heating oil. There was discussion about the possibility of the library getting a grant to cover at least some of the cost of the replacement method for heating.
- C. FOOTBRIDGE:** Shelly Ausmus reported that the bridge signs to deter traffic over the footbridge have been removed. She would like to see the city undertake a more immediate solution and not let the issue linger. Mike Hale mentioned that he agreed with our engineer's opinion that a structural engineer should look at it. Dave Tysz agreed a structural engineer should be consulted and that we might try to see about deterring horse traffic. Eliza Evans-Teague will move forward with getting an estimate for a structural engineer and instruct the maintenance crew to put up much tougher barriers.
- D. PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION:** Shelly Ausmus moved to make a change in the winter months, November-March, that the city clean restrooms 6 days/week, instead of seven and adjust that for the budget. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called executive session at 8:30 P.M. until 9:17 P.M. There was discussion among the council about how other municipalities and entities, such as the council, reach their COLA and raise decisions. Angie Rambo moved to give employees the 7.7 % COLA (or lower, if Western States CPI goes down) with no raises, except for DonNell Ellsworth, who would receive a \$1.50/hr. raise. Mike Hale seconded the motion. Mike Hale, Mary LaSalle and Angie Rambo voted in favor of the motion, B.J. Sperber, Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus and Pete Martin voted against the motion. The motion failed.

Dave Tysz moved to give the full-time employees a 5% COLA for 2023. Pete Martin seconded the motion. Pete Martin, Dave Tysz and B.J. Sperber voted for the motion. Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Mary LaSalle and Angie Rambo voted against the motion. The motion failed.

Shelly Ausmus made a motion to honor the COLA at 7.7% (or lower with possible CPI index changes) with no raises. After significant discussion, Mayor Roy Schulz suggested tabling the motion and making it the first order of business at the next meeting.

Dave Tysz moved to table the motion. Shelly Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR’S REPORT: none.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: .09 Grant is still moving along. There is still a small amount of work to be done on the restrooms and some repair work on the library/museum building. The project is on track for the timeframe set forth by the county.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mary LaSalle asked about the hourly wage possibility for the clerk. Shelly Ausmus also asked about it. Shelly commented that the Turkey Trot went well and about 40 people attended. Pete Martin reported that Small Business Saturday was a great success.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. NOVEMBER 7, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: Mike Hale moved to approve the minutes from November 7, 2022. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Mike Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 9:50 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer