

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 5, 2022

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Tysz called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, BJ Sperber, Pete Martin, Mary LaSalle and Angie Rambo. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Carol Sturman, Duane Groom, Brad Chandler, Lydia Fletcher, Jennifer Olson, Kevin and Heidi Turnbough, Steve Haxton, Mike Ausmus and Tom Berger. Mayor Schulz.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Pro Tem Dave Tysz led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Roy Schulz came at ~7:05 P.M. and took control of the meeting.
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
 - A. **COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Jennifer Olson said she does not have any new items this month for Healthy Tekoa Coalition.
 - B. **Kevin Turnbough:** Kevin spoke re: employee COLAs. He thought this was a non-issue (according to the previous arrangement reached by the council in 2016). He feels that if money is the issue, he would rather quit and have the council use his salary to fund the full COLAs for the remainder of the staff than have the council go back on their previous commitment.
 - C. **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT UPDATE:** Laurel Schubring from SCJ Alliance Consulting Services presented the Shoreline Management Update presentation via power point and telephone. A copy of the presentation is available from Tekoa City Hall upon request.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:** none.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **DENISE KEEGAN BUILDING UPDATE:** Denise Keegan contacted Angie Rambo and Angie will follow up with her to have her call City Hall re: her building downtown.
 - B. **FIREWORKS:** Angie Rambo still wishes to see what some of the other municipalities are doing and would like to see announcements placed around town to ask people to be considerate on New Year's Eve. Eliza Evans-Teague said the office staff could post it around town. There was a question about the issue and Angie responded that some of the people in town were bothered by how long and loud the fireworks had gone on July 4th and came to her, so she brought it up to the council.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION: Mike Ausmus, accompanied by Steve Haxton, presented the current state of the Tekoa Ambulance Association. Sherma Tysz and Tom Berger were also in attendance to represent the ambulance. Mike Ausmus reported that recent trainees are not yet ready to go. The Tekoa Ambulance Association would like to have a town hall meeting and are asking the council to support this meeting in their effort to recruit some new volunteers. They are also looking at revamping things internally over time. Mike gave some examples of how a town meeting might go, including other groups or issues from the whole city. Steve Haxton reiterated how much we need to have an active and growing EMS to serve Tekoa. Dave Tysz suggested we put it in the newsletter monthly. BJ Sperber inquired about incentives and the ambulance association represented responded to how that has gone historically. Sherma Tysz also mentioned how the course work is now a college level course. Getting people through the initial certification period is the most difficult part. It is a national certification, now. Sherma brought up the costs, but costs are surmountable. It is really the numbers of volunteers that need to increase. Mayor Schulz brought up a suggestion for a local staffed EMS, for example in Oakesdale, since that is central, so we are not trying to get people out of Spokane. Mike Ausmus responded to Mayor Schulz' scenario. Pete Martin reported that the Dept. of Health is looking at what the current regulations are doing to EMS recruitment. He brought up the urgency and complicated nature of the the mayor's idea. Mayor Schultz said the city would stand behind the ambulance for a town meeting. Mike expressed he would like the town to provide the time, date and location for the meeting. Shelly Ausmus moved to promote the town meeting and Pete Martin seconded the motion. There was discussion about having it after State B basketball tournaments. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FINAL 2023 BUDGET HEARING- ORDINANCE 879: Mayor Schulz started the final budget hearing at 7:57 P.M. There was discussion re: the budget. Dave Tysz suggested that he would like to see COLAs capped at 4% in future years and 5% for this year. Mike Hale would like to pass COLAs as were agreed to by the council in 2016 and rewrite ordinances in January. Shelly Ausmus read her thoughts about the COLAs. There was some discussion about the nature of COLAs and Dave Tysz asked the clerk what she thought about the COLAs. Eliza Evans-Teague said that she believed the council should honor the commitment of 2016 so that the employees don't go backward through wage stagnation. Duane Groom expressed that if the council does not stand by their commitment to COLAs, they are disrespecting the employees. Kevin Turnbough expressed his displeasure. BJ Sperber moved to take the motion off the table from the previous meeting and vote on it. Mike Hale seconded it. (In the original motion, Shelly Ausmus motioned for 7.7 % COLA w/no raises.) Angie Rambo, Mike Hale, Mary LaSalle, Dave Tysz, BJ Sperber voted "yes". Pete Martin voted "no". Shelly Ausmus abstained. Mike Hale made a motion to accept the 2023 budget with COLA increases, Dave seconded it. Shelly abstained. The remainder of the council voted "yes." The motion passed.

C. BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR 2022: postponed until 12-19-2022 meeting.

VII. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: none.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: none.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: Mike Hale reported that the airport budget is growing. The planning process is covering approximately six years of improvements valued at approximately 1.6 million dollars. He is working closely with the Port of Whitman who will help us with the process. This coming year would include planning. Following that would be resurfacing, and eventually restrooms and other amenities. Mayor Schulz mentioned that Jennifer from the Port of Whitman would like to come up and talk to us about the airport and the railroad. Mike Hale explained the different levels of funding for various projects at the airport. Pete Martin reported that the EMS meeting went well and they are hoping to bring EMS together regionally. There was discussion about improvements that may happen. Dave Tysz reported that the EMS will keep the Tekoa ambulance building open to keep the accreditation. Pete Martin reported there is now a nurse screening before the EMS answers a call from the Tekoa Care Center. B.J. Sperber asked about some technology enhancements for meetings. Shelly Ausmus reported that the library is now open Mondays for digital training. She will report more in January.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Angie Rambo asked about her address and how to make it recognizable to Amazon, etc. Eliza Evans-Teague suggested she contact the county.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: Mike Hale moved to moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check numbers 16245-16305 in the amount of \$194,283.69. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Mike Hale moved to adjourn. 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