

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – July 21, 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 DAN THOMAS: 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 asked to move item “L. Union Contract Vote” to after item VI C. “Century West Update,” and for a short Executive Session to follow that as an item “E.”
- V. JUNE 16, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Ausmus moved to accept the June 16, 2025, council meeting minutes. CM Hale seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Doug Palmer spoke about an incident last May re: a council member using a backhoe and that it was broken when it returned. He was surprised to learn recently the council member did not pay for the repairs. Linda Sundance petitioned the council to finish paving the N. Lake St. cul-de-sac. Levi Prince theorized about why the city employees are unionizing and made comments about the contract negotiations. Debbie Dean spoke about the bee population and how spraying mosquitoes affects bees and other beneficiaries. She would like to see the city stop spraying until it can be studied and other options considered. Olivia Brown is concerned about the union negotiations and representation, as well as affordability. Kathy Houston spoke about the large amount of misinformation on Facebook re: unionization and the rumors about sewer costs. She would like people to listen and be calm. Nancy Thorson spoke about what a union offers above and beyond monetary issues. Kathy Houston rebutted that employees were looking for Seattle wages. Larry Hagan spoke about the council members handbook (MRSC). He read a passage about council roles vs. mayoral roles, citing the law and would like council members to respect their roles.
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Jennifer Olson reported on the activities of HEALTHY Tekoa Coalition. She mentioned National Night Out is fast approaching (August 5, Gymkhana Park).

- C. CENTURY WEST UPDATE:** Dan Remmick spoke about the transition of Matt Morkert from Century West and wrapping up the WWTP planning phase. Jason Froelich is in charge of getting the plan finalized, and they plan on presenting the plan at the August 18, 2025, meeting. Jason Froelich went through the options available and discussed some of the requirements for each. There were discussion and questions.
- D. UNION CONTRACT VOTE:** CM Ausmus suggested postponing the contract vote until they can have a town meeting about the union and the sewer plant. Then, the council will have a special meeting to vote on whether to accept the contract. There was discussion. CM Currier left the meeting at 7:18 P.M. There was continued discussion. CM Currier returned to the meeting at 7:22 P.M. There was additional discussion. CM Thomas moved to vote on the union contract. There was no second. The motion died for lack of a second. Executive Session was called for 15 minutes from 7:30 PM until 7:45 PM to discuss a potential legal matter. The mayor adjourned Executive Session at 7:45 PM. CM Hale moved to table the contract vote. CM Ausmus seconded the motion. CM Thomas opposed. CM Martin, Currier, Ausmus, Tysz, Hale and Jaeger voted affirmatively. CM Ausmus moved to hire a negotiator to walk through the union negotiation process, pending council approval for the cost of the negotiator. CM Currier seconded the motion. There was extended discussion. CM Thomas opposed the motion. CM Martin, Currier, Ausmus, Tysz, Hale and Jaeger approved the motion. The motion passed.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. TINY HOMES FOLLOW-UP: ORDINANCE 906:** Atty. Hanson gave some explanation of the ordinance. There was discussion. The council will consider the ordinance and vote at the next meeting.
- B. HEIDI CORRELL (PIROUETTE) LEASE REQUEST:** CM Hale updated the council on discussions with Heidi Correll. She would like to rent the community center for \$10 per 4-hour block (non-profit rate); most likely for 2 blocks of time per week. There was discussion. CM Hale moved to allow Heidi Correll/Pirouette to use the community center at non-profit rates. CM Currier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. ANN GROOT VARIANCE REQUEST:** Ann Groot presented her request for a variance to have a 10' variance at the front of her property (east side). She is also requesting to be able to build an ADU above her garage. There was discussion. The council decided to wait until the ADU ordinance can be written. Atty. Hanson will draft an ADU ordinance.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. WILLARD FIELD UPDATE/PAYMENT REQUEST- JUB:** CM Hale explained the process and progress at the airport. The paving project starts tomorrow. CM Tysz moved to approve the JUB payment request. CM Hale seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. SPECIAL LEVY FOR STREETS; RESOLUTION 25-03:** There was discussion. CM Jaeger asked that the 6-year transportation plan be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting. There was discussion. CM Ausmus moved to submit the levy as presented. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. MONTEE BROWN: VARIANCE EXTENSION:** Montee Brown asked the council to extend the time for living in their fifth wheel while he and Esther are waiting for the delivery of the home they

have purchased. He also requested a variance to have a 15' variance on the front of the lot (east side). CM Hale moved to extend the variance timeframe for six more months. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. CM Hale moved to approve the 15' setback on the front of the property. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. BRAD CHANDLER:** Brad Chandler presented a list of facts he wanted the council to consider; mainly re: the union. There was discussion.
- E. MOVE SEWER DEBT SERVICE BALANCE TO SEWER RESERVES:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the SAO position that the separate sewer debt service account was no longer necessary and that the council can move those funds to the sewer reserve account. CM Tysz moved to transfer the money back into sewer reserves. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. WENDY/DOUG SIENKNECHT:** Doug and Wendy Sienknecht spoke about the influx of people who come in on the Palouse to Cascades Trail. They have had many people trespass on their property. They are asking the city or the Trestle Trail Committee to put up signs. CM Martin will take this to the Trestle Trail committee.
- G. TRANSFER HANGER "E" LEASE FROM MOORE TO FIGUEROA:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the request. CM Hale moved to approve transferring the lease into the new owner's business name; Earthcrafters Dirtworks, LLC, owned by Jesse Figueroa. CM Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- H. ORDINANCE 905-2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT:** CM Tysz moved to approve Ordinance 905. CM Hale seconded the motion. CM Jaeger, Hale, Thomas, Tysz, Currier and Martin voted in favor of passing the ordinance. CM Ausmus was not available for the vote.
- I. SURPLUS LIST: I-BEAMS FROM OLD WALKING BRIDGE:** CM Tysz moved to surplus the I-beams from the old walking bridge. CM Ausmus seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz asked about the interpretive panels and who is responsible for placing/replacing the interpretive panels in the frames. CM Martin noted some of them are leaking. There was discussion. Mayor Schulz reported on the walking tour for local business owners this past July 17.
- B. STAFF REPORT:** Evans-Teague let the council know that the annual report was submitted on time in May but is still under review with Springbrook. She has requested an update from Springbrook and will present the annual report for their review at the August meeting.
- C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:** CM Hale would like to put the sale of the old city hall and old city shop on the next agenda. He would also like to bring a proposal for a CARB loan for a new fuel pump for the airport. Mike also discussed the fuel situation and the ladies' fly-over that happened in June. There was discussion. CM Ausmus will report re: Parks & Rec. and the Tekoa Care Center next meeting. CM Tysz asked about L & I fines. The clerk let the city know L & I has done some inspections and found some violations. When the city has final determinations, the report will be given to the council.

- X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** CM Tysz moved to approve EFT payroll and checks #17898-17916 in the amount of \$43,563.72 and EFT payroll and checks #17917-17954 in the amount of \$101,009.88. CM Hale seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Tysz moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Hale seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 9:06 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza Evans-Teague- Clerk/Treasurer