

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

For November 16, 2020

Remote meeting

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Troy Wilson called the remote meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Wilson, Alyssa Heagy, Mary LaSalle, Roy Schulz, Wendy Sienknecht, BJ Sperber and Dave Tysz. Clerk/Treasurer Kynda Browning and Jennifer Olson.
- II. PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION:** Matt Morkert said the contractor wanted additional money for several items on the project, so they met with Duane Groom, Kevin Turnbough and the contractor. He went over the change orders with the council. Roy Schulz made a motion to accept the change order for \$11,644.04. BJ Sperber seconded the motion; all council members voted yes. He also presented the final pay estimate for \$36,501.53. Roy Schulz made a motion to approve the pay estimate as presented. Dave Tysz seconded the motion; all council members voted yes.

There was discussion about the sewer plant and the timeline for it. We are looking at two years for the lift station at the sewer plant. Roy Schulz asked about Main Street. He was asking what it would take to do a block or two on our own. Matt Morkert will talk about numbers at the next meeting.

- III. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** There were none.

- IV. CORRESPONDENCE:** There was none.

- V. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. TINY HOUSES: It was decided last month that we will leave it the way it is for now.

B. CRIME COMMITTEE: Alyssa Heagy reported that she received 91 responses concerning crime.

C. LETTER TO RAILROAD: We are still waiting to hear back from Eric Hanson.

D. 2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET: Browning answered questions concerning the budget.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. HEIDI CORRELL DANCE STUDIO LEASE RELIEF FOR CORONA: Heidi Correll couldn't teach for several months because of the corona virus. Alyssa Heagy made a motion to offer relief for Heidi Correll for the months she could not teach. Wendy Sienknecht seconded the motion; all council members voted yes.

B. COST OF LIVING RAISE FOR EMPLOYEES: The mayor said that Whitman County gave their employees a 3% raise. He talked about the agreement that was made with the employees to give them a cost of living raise since they pay for the increase in medical every year. There was discussion. Dave Tysz made a motion to give a 2% raise. It died for a lack of a second. Wendy Sienknecht made a motion to give a 1.3% to the full-time employees. Alyssa Heagy seconded the motion; all council members voted yes.

C. BROWNING APPROVAL TO CARRY OVER VACATION HOURS UNTIL THE DEPUTY CLERK IS TRAINED: Alyssa Heagy made a motion to allow Browning to carry over her vacation hours. Roy Schulz seconded the motion; all council members voted yes.

D. INSTANT ALERT - WENDY SIENKNECHT: She compiled her information on the Instant Alert and gave it out to the council. Instant Alert is no longer doing small towns and schools. She called other companies for Instant Alert and gave the council prices for the different companies. She called Whitcom for Whitman and Spokane Counties. She talked to Bill Tensfeld about Whitcom and he said they would do it for us for free. Wendy Sienknecht and Kynda Browning will get together to set this up.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL: Mayor Wilson went into executive session at 8:14 P.M. for 10 minutes. They adjourned out of executive session at 8:19 P.M. The Mayor said we have a qualified applicant for the deputy clerk position. After discussion, Alyssa Heagy made a motion to approve paying \$18.00 an hour, 7 hours a day, for the deputy clerk. Roy Schulz seconded the motion; all council member voted yes.

Browning asked the council to consider hiring Heidi Turnbough temporarily to assist in the office since the new deputy clerk can't start until January 2, 2021. Alyssa Heagy made a motion to bring on Heidi Turnbough for 56 hours for the next four weeks at \$20.00 an hour. BJ Sperber seconded the motion; all council members voted yes, except Wendy Sienknecht voted no.

VII. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Wilson reminded the council the next meeting is Wednesday December 2, 2020.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Browning reported BJ Sperber and the maintenance crew will be meeting about the roads and sidewalks to make a decision on how to spend the levy money.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS:

~Dave Tysz talked about the sewer plant in Fairfield and said we should consider doing our sewer treatment like that.

~Mary LaSalle said the Chamber will be doing “shop local” over Thanksgiving. She doesn't know if they can do that with the corona virus shut down. There was discussion.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: There were no comments.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. October 19, 2020, MEETING MINUTES: Roy Schulz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion; all council members voted yes.

B. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: Roy Schulz made a motion to pay EFT payroll checks and check number 14917 through 14928 and 14945 and 14946 in the amount of \$23,187.96 and EFT check and check numbers 14929 through 14944 and 14947 through 14958 in the amount of \$43,006.38 as presented. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion; all council members voted yes.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Roy Schulz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 P.M. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion; all council members voted yes.

APPROVED:

Troy Wilson - Mayor

ATTEST:

Kynda Browning – Clerk/Treasurer