

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 6, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Councilpersons* present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Pete Martin, and Angie Rambo. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees John Jaeger and Lydia Fletcher.
*In following paragraphs, Councilperson will be abbreviated as: "C."
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Roy Schulz led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** John Jaeger had some questions about the six-year transportation plan. He apologized for being so angry when he found out that his street was not included in the 2023-2028 plan. He has given up hopes of his street being chip-sealed. John Jaeger laid out his assumptions and made some suggestions about how he would like to see the priority of the proposed road projects set and how he would like to see them published. John also made suggestions about how he would like to have salaries published in the newsletter as well as the official newspaper. There was discussion about the various determinants that go into the priorities of the six-year transportation plan.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Jerry Squibb asked to have the maintenance personnel thanked for their efforts on the water leak near his house over the weekend.
- V. **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
 - A. **DENISE KEEGAN BUILDING UPDATE:** There was no significant progress over the past two weeks. Steve Haxton continues to work on this, per the mayor's report on Steve's behalf.
 - B. **ORDINANCE 881 RE: SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL:** There was some discussion about the wording of the ordinance. C. Ausmus brought up questions about the enforcement of the ordinance. C. Martin voiced that he is not in favor of the ordinance. C. Tysz said he can see the point of having some fines involved in the enforcement of the ordinance after warnings are given. C. Ausmus brought up different options in other towns. There was additional discussion re: compliance and warnings and associated costs. C. Rambo brought up the enforcement issues. Mayor Schulz suggested a possible solution of having a local business clear the snow for a reasonable fee for the season, instead of the Chamber providing that service in the current fashion that is problematic for the city with the issue of appearance of gifting public funds in the downtown area. There was some consensus about the changes that the council finds acceptable. C. Hale will take it to Eric Hanson for final rewrite.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN:** C. Tysz led the discussion about the proposed six-year transportation plan. The discussion was that the council would like to see the Crosby and Roosevelt blocks along Ruhl park included on the list instead of Howard St between Warren and Henkle Streets. C. Ausmus moved to approve the plan with the suggested change. C. Martin seconded the plan. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. **POSSIBLE SPRING CITY CLEAN-UP:** There was discussion about having a clean-up again this year. Eliza Evans-Teague will gather relevant information about garbage rates, etc. C. Martin made a motion to have a clean-up this spring when the dump fees are lighter. C. Rambo seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. **COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL: RE: CLARIFICATIONS/POSSIBLE POLICY CHANGES:** C. Ausmus proposed that maybe the non-profits should not have to do the damage deposits. There was discussion about how to make it easier for the non-profits.
- D. **GRAVEL ALONG NEW SIDEWALK ON MAIN ST.:** C. Ausmus brought up the gravel that was left by the state on the Heaton land and had a few questions. In addition, it was brought up about the gravel needed along the new sidewalk and whether that can happen before Slippery Gulch. The gravel will be put in when the land is not going to be rutted due to saturation.
- E. **FOOTBRIDGE:** C. Ausmus inquired about the status of the footbridge. There is a bid request in for aluminum decking. C. Ausmus wants to continue with updates for this until the project is complete.
- F. **BACK PAY FOR EMPLOYEES:** C. Ausmus wanted it clarified that the additional .25/hr. raise for Brandon Schneider is for this year, understanding that salaries are going to be renegotiated in the fall. The council felt it would be best to be clear. In addition, C. Ausmus thought it would be good to have the letter of intent for Brandon Schneider finished at the next council meeting for clarity.
- G. **FEE RESOLUTION 99-23:** Eliza Evans-Teague clarified the proposed fee resolution schedule. The council would like to consider the proposed fee schedule.
- H. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called executive session at 9:24 PM until 9:45 P.M. Executive session was extended until 10:15 P.M.

VII. REPORTS:

- A. **MAYOR'S REPORT:** The mayor extended an invitation to a dinner with our representatives in Olympia. He is hoping a staffer may be able to attend our Town Hall meeting. There have not been any more issues with the Tekoa Care Center. Mayor Schulz expressed that Mike Bogenreif (the Code Enforcement Officer) has made himself available for code enforcement issues in a recent meeting. Mayor Schulz reported the cardboard recycle bin is a continual mess. Should we continue providing the service to the community? There was some support in the council for keeping the recycle dumpster. He will address the yard care season and junk cars in the next newsletter.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: The town hall meeting re: the EMS and Tekoa Care Center will be March 7, 2023, at the Tekoa HS multipurpose room. C. Tysz asked Eliza to have a rep. from the fire dept, sheriff's office and hospital district in attendance. When Eliza gets the computer back from the shop, the POS system at the airport can be updated to allow more time before the pumps time out and higher credit card limits. The De-annexation of the old dump area is becoming more complicated. Only a code city can use the agricultural exception, not Tekoa, which is a second-class city. Eliza is continuing to clarify what the city must do to retire the issue with OFM.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Hale reported the grass runway at the airport can be used, as long as it is mowed. He is hoping to get a meeting with JUB and Jennifer from the Port of Whitman to strategize the application for improvement grants. C. Tysz asked about the standpipe by the burn pile. C. Martin talked with the administrator at the Tekoa Care Center. The administrator said they would pay for fencing for the near neighbors. The Tekoa Care Center is willing to come to the town hall meeting. The Tekoa Care Center administrator asked that people call the care center if residents are causing problems downtown or elsewhere. C. Ausmus will bring a library report to the next meeting.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. JANUARY 23, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

B. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

A. JANUARY 23 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, DE-ANNEXATION PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES and SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN HEARING: C. Martin moved to accept the January 23, 2023, council meeting, de-annexation public hearing and six-year transportation plan public hearing minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. ADJOURNMENT: C. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 10:17 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer