

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – March 18, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Councilmembers* in attendance were Mike Hale, Dave Tysz, Margie Jaeger, Pete Martin, B.J. Sperber, Mandi Prince and Lydia Fletcher. Also in attendance were Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague, Reid Smith, Shelly Ausmus, Darlene Pearson, Kathi Houston, Hugh and Suzanne Evans, Kim Schulz, John Jaeger, Jennifer Sperber, Nancy Thorson, Brad Chandler, Steven Thomas, Karl Webber, Mike Bogenreif, John Giudice, Doug and Wendy Sienknecht.

*In the following paragraphs, Councilmember(s) will be abbreviated as “C.”

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. AGENDA:** Added “Airport Sign Approval”.
- IV. MARCH 4, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Sperber moved to accept the March 4, 2024, council meeting minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
- A. KIM SCHULZ:** Kim Schulz announced the Dollars for Scholars “Groovy” fundraiser on Friday, March 22.
- B. BRAD CHANDLER:** Brad Chandler confirmed that a film company may want to film in Tekoa. He was asked to voice concerns from some citizens about potential overreach from the city re: personal assets and involvement. There was discussion.
- C. SHELLY AUSMUS:** Shelly Ausmus had some questions about the community center and Empire Theatre when Dave Reichert was having a town hall meeting. The mayor confirmed that he had paid for the community center as a private citizen. Shelly had questions about the cleaning deposit for the community center. There was discussion.
- D. JOHN JAEGER:** John Jaeger suggested carts for the chairs and tables at the community center and asked if the council would approve those. He recommended having a liaison for managing anything the city might need with any potential movie company.
- E. STEVEN THOMAS:** Steven updated the council about the brush pile water source. He would like some guidance and permission from the council to do the work and

pay for it, as there are connection fees and monthly fees for the water. There was discussion. C. Sperber moved to approve the line and connection fees and C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. C. Sperber moved to accept the monthly fee to the city. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. MIKE BOGENREIF: Mike Bogenreif updated the council on some current parking issues he is dealing with in town as the Enforcement Officer. Current city ordinance doesn't address vehicles parked in yellow zones, driveways, etc. Dogs are starting to be an issue, again, and lawns will be looked at in coming weeks. The council will look at the RCWs re: parking from the state and come back to it at the next meeting.

G. JENNIFER SPERBER RE: REQUEST TO WAVE/REDUCE COMMUNITY CENTER FEES FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRODUCTION:

Jennifer Sperber read a letter from some 5/6th graders re: reducing/waiving the community center community group/nonprofit fee for the elementary school. There was discussion. C. Tysz moved to change the fee schedule for school use to \$10/day. C. Martin seconded the motion. There was discussion. C. Fletcher opposed the motion. C. Jaeger, Martin, Sperber, Tysz, Prince and Hale voted yes. Clerk Evans-Teague asked the council to clarify cleaning/damage deposits for community groups deposit and whether community groups need to pay the deposit. There was discussion. C. Tysz moved to clarify that there is a \$100 combined cleaning/damage for community/non-profit/school groups. There was discussion. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. C. Jaeger, Prince and Martin opposed the motion., C. Tysz, Hale and Fletcher voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Schulz voted yes to break the tie vote. The motion passed.

H. JOHN GIUDICE: Whitman County Assessor's office is asking John Giudice to obtain a letter from the city to approve the moving of boundary lines where the neighbors have agreed. The clerk was directed to furnish the requested letter. In addition, John Giudice requested a letter for the same purpose for his neighbor, Caleb Engbretson, so that he can consolidate his properties into one parcel. The clerk will also furnish that letter. The city does not regulate property boundaries. John then asked if the city would allow them to put in an ecology block wall on Dezire St., as the current and proposed wall are on the city ROW. There was discussion. The council and mayor would like to lay eyes on the property and return to the subject. John Giudice asked the city to approve a variance on the garage set-back on his alley to 3' and a second variance of 6' to the Dezire St. side of the garage. This will also be on the agenda for the next meeting to give the council and mayor a chance to go look at the site.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE: The mayor read Shawn Bryan's resignation letter. There was discussion.

VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- A. **DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK PLOWING:** C. Martin let the council know that he is working on a bid for possible snowplow work, but hasn't yet received it. He will revisit the matter at the next meeting.
- B. **KEEGAN BLDG.: UNFIT DWELLING COMMITTEE:** C. Tysz said he has some letters in and once they are all in, he will meet with the board to see if there is cause to go forward. John Jaeger asked about approving the board the mayor appointed. There was discussion. The new board is Brad Chandler, Doug Sienknecht and Rob Marsh with C. Dave Tysz as the chair. C. Martin moved to accept the board. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **JUB ENGINEERING PAYMENT APPROVAL:** Clerk Evans-Teague introduced Payment #4 for JUB Engineering for the work at Williard Field. C. Hale moved to pay Payment #4 for JUB Engineering. C. Sperber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. **CENTURY WEST PAYMENT APPROVAL:** Clerk Evans-Teague introduced payment #7 for DW Excavation for the Influent Lift Station. There was discussion. C. Sperber moved to approve the payment request. C. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously
- C. **COUNCIL MEETING TIMES:** Mayor Schulz suggested that because of upcoming training sessions the council consider staying with a 6 P.M. start time at least until trainings are over.
- D. **STEVE HAXTON RE: TINY HOMES, ADUs, MINIMUM SQUARE FOOTAGE REQUIREMENTS:** Steve Haxton was not in attendance. The mayor introduced that Steve Haxton has inquired about tiny homes and some zoning clarifications. The matter was postponed until Steve can attend.
- E. **.09 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT IDEAS:** C. Martin gave information about possible projects, such as an elevator mural. There was some discussion. Shelly Ausmus explained a possible story board idea for interchangeable story boards at Memorial Park. There was discussion about Blue Ribbon funds and their purpose for economic development. One other idea is updating the Tekoa Golf Course clubhouse (windows, etc.). There was discussion.
- F. **AIRPORT SIGN APPROVAL:** C. Hale got an estimate for signs to direct people to the airport. He asked the council to fund the signs (~\$111). C. Sperber moved to approve the expenditure. C. Prince seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

X. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Schulz asked about the Susannah Scaroni sign for the side of the museum facing the rest area. Shelly Ausmus brought the council up-to-speed on the status of the sign. Mayor Schulz asked about training completion for council members. Elected Official Essentials training is almost completed for the group.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: None.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Hale will report on the airport at the next meeting. C. Martin stated he thinks we need more signs to get people where they want to go. C. Tysz will renew the permit with the Dept. of Ecology for burning. C. Sperber mentioned that the Parks received a substantial amount of grant money.

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Shelly Ausmus asked about the Palouse River Counseling fee on the check register. Clerk Evans-Teague explained the tax expense. Karl Webber said he wants the city to be very careful to follow the process for the Unfit Dwelling Ordinance to keep the city safe.

XII. PAY THE BILLS: C. Tysz moved to pay payroll EFTs and checks in the amount of \$53,796.81 and payroll EFTs and checks in the amount of \$43,963.86. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: C. Sperber moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer