

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday December 4, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., Councilmembers*present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Lydia Fletcher, Mike Hale, Mandi Prince, Marge Jaeger, Pete Martin and B.J. Sperber. Clerk-Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Darlene Pearson, Suzanne and Hugh Evans, Steven Thomas, Kyle Dombrowski, Kathi Houston, Shelly Ausmus, Brad and Shelia Chandler, Levi Prince, Cole Prince, Garrett Prince, Owen Prince, Karl Webber, Jonathan Fletcher, Steven Thomas and John Jaeger.

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE: Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SWEARING IN OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: Clerk Evans-Teague swore in Mayor Schulz, Mandi Prince, Margie Jaeger, Pete Martin, Mike Hale Dave Tysz and Lydia Fletcher for the short session between election and the beginning of their regular terms in January of 2024.

IV. AGENDA: Added Karl Webber and removed Kyle Dombrowski.

V. NOVEMBER 20, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: C. Fletcher moved to accept the November 20, 2023 minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Shelly Ausmus pointed out that about a month ago she had advocated for equality in the minutes as she believed that there were inconsistencies in whom is recorded and gave the example of C. Prince's statement. Clerk Evans-Teague noted that read statements are available on request. Brad Chandler asked about cemetery salaries and the budget. Kathi Houston was able to point out the item on the budget.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

VIII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. KEVIN TURNBOUGH PROPOSAL: Mayor Schulz explained Kevin Turnbough's previous proposal. The mayor had asked him for a counterproposal. Kevin proposed becoming a part-time employee, who does not receive any benefits during his leave. There were some questions about benefits and whether they would be in place while he was working. The mayor will come back with more details about benefits and hour structure confirmation. C. Jaeger would like more information in advance, if possible.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. LEVI PRINCE: Levi Prince had some questions about the minutes. He would like to see all city issues discussed at city hall and to have people accompanied at all meetings between the mayor and council members. He appreciated the vote on the previous issue re: Kevin's salary. He wanted to know why the mayor or council didn't take it upon themselves to give Kevin a raise

when Duane Groom left. There was discussion about leave requirements. He would like to know how and why the leave decisions were made.

- B. ORDINANCE 887: 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT INCLUDING FUNDS 366 TIB MAINTENANCE PROJECT FUND & FUND 367 TIB SEAL COAT PROJECT FUND:** Eliza Evans-Teague explained the budget with the added funds. C. Hale moved to approve Ordinance 887. C. Tysz seconded and it passed unanimously.
- C. ORDINANCE 888: 2024 FINAL BUDGET:** Eliza Evans-Teague explained the budget ordinance and answered questions. C. Tysz move to accept Ordinance 888. C. Hale seconded the motion. Councilmembers Tysz, Hale, Martin, Sperber, Jaeger and Fletcher voted in favor of Ordinance 888. C. Prince was temporarily absent. The motion passed.
- D. APPROVE TIB SEAL COAT PROJECT PAYMENT:** C. Tysz moved to pay Century West for the first invoice of the TIB Seal Coat Project. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion about how the engineers are overseen by the various funding agencies and how the auditor oversees them. There was discussion about how to choose engineers.
- E. STEVEN THOMAS:** Steven Thomas read a statement about his concerns about representing the public works department in addition to the sewer and water duties that require certifications, various prevailing wage rates, etc. He had thoughts about hiring people with certifications, capping overtime, and he let the council know he would come in to talk with the council any time they had questions or wanted input. There was discussion about meeting the needs of the snow season. There was continued discussion. Council members expressed their appreciation.
- F. COUNCIL SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY:** Dec. 18 will be a regular council meeting. There was discussion re: holiday schedules. C. Tysz move to meet Jan. 8, and 22, 2024 and only once in February on the 5th only. C. Sperber seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- G. KARL WEBBER:** Karl read a statement regarding the Keegan/Fuchs building. He gave some history on the building and complaint process. Karl is joining Richard Kelly's complaint. There was discussion. C. Sperber thought we should go through the process of bringing the building inspector in. Mayor Schulz has spoken with the attorney about this matter. The attorney said this was basically a civil matter. The mayor gave some history on previous condemnation issues. Because there is no common wall agreement, it makes it difficult to enforce the ordinance. C. Sperber thought we should get a second opinion. Karl Webber pointed out that the city knows about the state of this building. He is willing to come back when the attorney is present. The mayor will check on getting Eric Hansen there December 18, 2023. There was additional discussion about what wasn't known when the city started this process with Richard Kelly's complaint.
- H. JOHN JAEGER:** Spoke about the usage of the community center and the process of renting it. He thought maybe the council could take on the walkthroughs of the community center to facilitate the process and make the community center more accessible to the citizens. There was discussion. The mayor added he had had similar thoughts. C. Martin proposed there should be an

evaluation. The mayor explained some of the difficulties with the community center. There was discussion. C. Jaeger and C. Martin suggested a rack for the tables. C. Jaeger volunteered to oversee walkthroughs. Brad Chandler suggested we need a more durable coating on the floor. The mayor suggested Brad come in to chat about the floors. John Jaeger added that the words he said in the previous meeting minutes were not recorded specifically enough.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz spoke with Duane Groom and came to an agreement to use his services for the sewer certification (\$200/mo.) and he will be willing to be on call for water/sewer and plowing emergencies at his previous hourly wage. There was discussion. C. Sperber moved to accept the mayor's proposal to use Duane's sewer certification services. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Levi Prince brought up Yolanda Bone's words at the last meeting. The mayor stated his understandings from his discussion with Mr. Jones and Mrs. Bone. C. Hale suggested he go over the forms and policies for the community center.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: None.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Hale updated everyone about the airport and the meeting he had with the Port of Whitman today. C. Tysz brought up that when Kevin Turnbough retires the city will need a person with mosquito spraying certification. C. Jaeger asked about advertising statewide for the public works position. C. Tysz suggested we advertise a little longer. There was discussion. C. Martin reported on the cemetery board meeting and the amounts coming for projects and maintenance. He also spoke with Robert Kramer and reported that Kathi Houston is helping to coordinate getting any remaining cremains to their appropriate homes.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Shelly Ausmus commented on her previous overtime proposals. She also commented on having employees having regular reports. Shelly also commented on Troy Wilson's home and the condemnation of that home. Kathi Houston asked about the pigeons and the Keegan building and beginning the fine process. Kyle Dombrowski spoke about our maintenance position, the school's open position, and a position in Plummer. and that there aren't any available homes for any new people to live in, should we hire from outside the area. C. Sperber clarified what Kyle Dombrowski meant by the Plummer position. Shelly Ausmus commented that Colfax has another city position that could be comparable.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: C. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:04 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer