

# City of Tekoa

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday, December 19, 2022*

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Tysz called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale and Pete Martin. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Carol Sturman and Lydia Fletcher.

**\*In following paragraphs, Councilperson will be abbreviated as: "C."**

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Pro Tem Dave Tysz led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**A. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** None.

**B. CAROL STURMAN:** Carol Sturman read a letter to the council expressing her thoughts about considerations for future pay raises. Carol brought up the responsibilities of the office and shop employees. She asked the council to consider the complexity of the duties and regulations city employees must adhere to. Carol will give a copy of her statement to Eliza Evans-Teague to distribute to the absent council members.

- IV. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. DENISE KEEGAN BUILDING UPDATE:** C. Rambo is absent and so unable to comment.

**B. FIREWORKS:** C. Hale suggested that when C. Rambo is back, we consider the current code and update that. C. Tysz said he would like to see New Year's Eve and some special events, like Slippery Gulch, added to the ordinance. C. Tysz wants to see this on the January agenda. C. Martin suggested that our code enforcement officer be present to add to the discussion.

**C. CEMETERY ORDINANCE:** C. LaSalle is absent, so the council will revisit this in January.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR 2022: ORDINANCE 878:** Eliza Evans-Teague read and explained the ordinance. There was some discussion about budgets. C. Hale moved to

pass the budget amendment ordinance. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. JANUARY/FEBRUARY COUNCIL:** C. Ausmus moved to set January and February 2023 council dates as January 9 and 23, and Feb. 6 and 21. C. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. AIRPORT:** C. Hale introduced a spreadsheet re: the costs associated with the airport improvements. He clarified the estimated amounts the city would be responsible for in the coming six years. C. Hale also explained the level of priority DOT assigns as we go forward in the process and where we stand now due to not asking for any funding for quite a while. C. Hale also dovetailed into the economic development aspect of the improvements for the airport, i.e. fly-ins, increased fuel sales, courtesy cars, etc. C. Tysz asked some questions about what could be done to clean up areas for EMS. C. Hale added that if an aircraft could be found, a program to teach highschoolers how to rebuild aircraft could be implemented. C. Tysz asked about the military uses for the touch-downs that used to take place at the airport. There was some continued conversation about getting the EMS a place to touch down at the airport.

## **VII. REPORTS:**

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Pro Tem Tysz would like to see some things for next year. He would like to suggest a 4% COLA cap going forward in the planning for the year. C. Hale brought up some other features of other area local governments' salaries and benefits. C. Tysz would like to see the pay discussions start on January 9, 2022. He also believes the mayor is the supervisor of the employees and the mayor needs to be stronger in the supervision of the employees. C. Martin made it clear that he would like to see the mayor be the direct supervisor. C. Ausmus led a discussion re: supervisory roles and whether or not the clerk/treasurer has been made a supervisor. C. Tysz wants the discussion of the supervisory role to be brought up in January. Eric Hanson weighed in that police or former police officers have an advantage in code enforcement because they understand the legal ramifications. C. Hale asked Eric Hanson for recommendations on code enforcement. Eric Hanson reiterated that knowing the legalities is very helpful. C. Martin brought up that the supervisor/clerk question will take some time to discuss so that it can be sustainable. C. Tysz would also like a reader board somewhere. There was discussion about how to get a new reader board, possibly for .09 grant discussion.
- B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** Eliza Evans-Teague brought up that a couple of questions had come up about paying extra for snow-plowing when the city is a chamber member. There is a question of whether or not this would be gifting of public funds. There was discussion of whether or the city should plow the downtown sidewalks. Eliza Evans-Teague will check with the city attorney on both these points. This will come back in January for discussion.
- C. COUNCIL REPORTS:** C. Ausmus would like to know if the car-charging station is still on schedule for .09 grant schedules. Eliza Evans-Teague answered that it is. C. Ausmus reported the picnic table funding for the rest area park is falling short. C. Ausmus is asking for the city to fund the remainder of the cost in advance of the funds

being raised. C. Ausmus asked for this to be put on the agenda for January. C. Ausmus also brought up the presence of people at the rest area park whom she observes are inhibiting people from coming to the park and local businesses. C. Martin asked to have the total cost of each employee; salary and benefits.

**D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: MATT MORKERT-CENTURY WEST:** Matt Morkert introduced the pay estimate for the Influent Lift Station and discussed some possible and cost-effective solutions for the bedrock issue. Work on the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan is now rolling along. The City of Tekoa recently was approved for a Maintenance Project and Seal Coat Project through TIB. C. Martin had some questions re: the solutions for the Influent Lift Station. C. Tysz asked about whether there was some fog sealing grant funding available for various streets around the city. C. Martin moved to accept the Maintenance Project funding. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. C. Hale moved to accept the bid for the Seal Coat Project. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. C. Ausmus moved to accept the payment request for the Influent Lift Station. C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. C. Tysz asked about the footbridge and whether we could get a bid for some grating. Eliza Evans-Teague let the council know that we have a bid coming for this type of a treatment. There was discussion about liability, ownership, and right-of-way for the bridge. There was discussion about the bridge being on railroad property and the problems inherent therein. Further discussion ensued about sidewalk projects, and Matt let us know we have not yet heard about the sidewalk project along the highway. C. Tysz spoke to the favorable condition of the earth around the former roundhouse location.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A: NOVEMBER 28, 2022 & DECEMBER 5, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Ausmus brought up a couple of points re: the 11/28/2022 minutes. There was discussion about the specifics of her requests to change the minutes. C. Ausmus moved to add the proposed verbiage regarding the tabling of the motion re: salaries to the minutes. C. Martin seconded that. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** C. Hale moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check numbers 16306-16321 in the amount of \$17,818.13. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Hale moved to adjourn. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Tysz adjourned the meeting at 9:28 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

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David Tysz - Mayor Pro Tem

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer