

# City of Tekoa

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday, February 7, 2022*

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tempore Dave Tysz called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Pete Martin, Mike Hale, Shelly Ausmus, B.J. Sperber, Mary LaSalle (Zoom), and Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague. Additional attendees were Lydia Fletcher, Matt Morkert, Greg Keller, Janis Fisher, Lynette Faunce and Mike Ausmus.

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

**III. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**A. MATT MORKERT:** Matt Morkert will start in June/July to get bids for the new lift station. He has a concern about bid prices due to time elapsed from original project approval (2019) until now (inflation, material availability). DOE has some possible different funding sources that could make up the difference. It will also take about 4-5 years to see the facilities plan come to fruition. Shelly Ausmus moved to approve going to bid on the lift station project based on approval by DOE. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. MIKE AUSMUS:** Mike Ausmus updated the city on ambulance barn business. The main issue with recruiting new EMTs is the testing and classes, which are now aimed at professionals and on a college level vs. the local, basic EMS services we provide. There was discussion regarding the nature of the calls the ambulance is responding to now and the much higher number of calls than there used to be. There was some discussion about the possibility of combining fire department and EMS services and the complications therein. Mike Ausmus spoke about the EMS efforts to get current members up and running, recruits trained and efforts to cooperate with other agencies locally, as well as be able to set more stringent guidelines for working with our local facilities.

**C. GREG KELLER:** Greg Keller addressed the council regarding complaints about his dog. He paid the most recent fine regarding his dog at District Court. Greg Keller requested that we make an exception for his dog as it goes through training. Council stood by the determination that Greg Keller's dog is a dangerous dog and that it can no longer reside within city limits, per our ordinances and previous broken agreements.

Greg Keller also outlined a boundary issue with his neighbor. The council determined that Greg Keller will have to have a survey to determine actual boundaries and work with Whitman County on this issue.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**A. LETTERS/EMAILS RE: IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE BURN PILE:**

**There were three pieces of correspondence in support of the burn pile as well as practical suggestions. There was discussion re: the merits of the burn pile vs. other methods of yard disposal.**

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. RAILROAD/ARENA: None.**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: Tabled until February 22.**

**B. APPROVE NEW FEE SCHEDULE: Shelly Ausmus moved to pass the new fee schedule. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**XII. REPORTS:**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Dave Tysz will check on the state of the wells in town and report back to the council.**

**B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:**

**i. Investment presentation scheduled for February 22 council meeting.**

**ii. Burn pile camera subscription is ending. Does the council want to renew the camera subscription? Shelly Ausmus moved to eliminate the camera pointing to the burn pile. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C. COUNCIL REPORTS: Pete Martin mentioned incessant barking of dogs. Shelly Ausmus commented about the Tekoa Chamber of Commerce and possible collaboration ideas to utilize possible Avista foundation funding.**

**D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.**

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. JANUARY 24, 2022, MEETING MINUTES: Pete Martin moved to accept the minutes from January 24, 2022. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: Pete Martin moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check number 15692 – 15696, 15699, 15702,15706, 15712-15713, 15716,15718-15719, in the amount of \$78284.81 and check number 15720-15755 in the amount of \$34,434.83. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The council passed the motion unanimously.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT: Pete Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tempore Tysz closed the meeting at 9:32 P.M.**

**APPROVED:**

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Dave Tysz - Mayor Pro-Tempore

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer