

City of Tekoa

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 18, 2022

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Pete Martin, Mike Hale, Shelly Ausmus, Angie Rambo, Dave Tysz, and Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague. Additional attendees were Lydia Fletcher, Jennifer Olson and Dean Hatch.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Roy Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
 - A. **COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Jennifer Olson updated the council about the Healthy Tekoa Coalition. The survey results are in from last fall's survey. They will be presented prior to the elementary play on May 31 and June 1, 2022.
 - B. **DEAN HATCH:** Dean Hatch proposed that the council grant him a setback variance in the instance that the city-imposed change of address from Truax Street to Elizabeth Street made the setbacks from the street a little smaller than otherwise required. After asking questions and the council discussing the situation, Dave Tysz moved to grant the variance. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **SNOW REMOVAL FEES-CHAMBER/CITY SPLIT?:** Shelly Ausmus presented figures from the Tekoa Chamber of Commerce showing their monetary contributions to snow removal since 2018. After discussion, Mike Hale moved to approve paying for 50% of the downtown snow removal up to \$400 per year. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - B. **STREET BUDGET VS. BIDS FOR CHIP SEALING/PAVING:** Eliza presented the figures for the street paving and chip sealing for this season. She also gave the council comparative figures from last year and the budget considerations. The council discussed the projects and cost. Shelly Ausmus moved to approve an interfund transfer of \$30,000.00 from the Current Expense Fund to the Street Fund to fully fund those projects. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **SIGNS FOR THE TRAIL:** Pete Martin informed the council that PTCTC will provide signage directing people to the Palouse to Cascades State Park trail head free of charge if the city will approve posting the signs at its own expense. Mike Hale moved to accept the

signs and have them posted. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. HEIDI TURNBOUGH-HOURS AT THE OFFICE: Eliza Evans-Teague informed the council that Heidi Turnbough still had 10 hours of office organization approved that she could perform and be paid for if the council approved it for this budget cycle. Shelly Ausmus moved to approve the hours. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. NOTUM-PEOPLE WHO CAN CLOSE THE AIRPORT: Postponed until next meeting.

D. WAGES FOR 3RD MAINTENANCE POSITION REPLACEMENT: Eliza Evans-Teague informed the council that the seasonal maintenance position had been filled by John Paul Haxton at the approved \$15/hour. She also let them know the third maintenance position was filled by Brandon Schneider, starting April 25. This third position will not require modification of the budget for the year.

E. TEKOA COMMUNITY CENTER RATE CLARIFICATIONS: Eliza Evans-Teague asked the council to clarify community group rates and additional hours for private events. Shelly Ausmus moved to set community group rates at \$10 per each four-hour block. Private events can secure an additional block from 8-12 hours of use for an additional \$50 charge. In addition, if there are no reservations for the community center immediately following the event, cleaning may take place for up to 2 hours post-event at no additional charge.

VII. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: The mayor discussed possible employment options for Kevin Turnbough now that the third maintenance position has been filled again. Mayor Schulz also introduced some possible ideas for transportation to the trestle for Slippery Gulch and the trestle grand opening of the Palouse to Cascades State Park.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Eliza Evans-Teague reported that the US Bank checking account for investments is open; the linked Safekeeping account should be open any time. She also mentioned that the account will need some operating funds for monthly fees and money transfer fees. Pete Martin moved to fund the account at \$500 from the general fund. Shelly Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS:

Pete Martin: Reported that he is working on the trestle grand opening celebration for Sunday, June 5, at 10 A.M. He will send out invitations and publicity. The Beverly Bridge opening celebration was a success.

Shelly Ausmus: Reported that she will bring some flyers around for the May 13 Chamber of Commerce Events Day. She also mentioned that it would be good to have some nice metal picnic tables for the rest stop park area, as she used that area quite a lot in the summer.

Mike Hale: Reported that the Empire Theatre minutes are included in the council packet for review. He also had some property line questions about the proposed burn pile area.
Dave Tysz: Reported that he will look into whether the proposed burn pile area is railroad, city, or other-party owned property in the Whitman County records.
Angie Rambo: Inquired about the possibility of the manure spreader being put on the surplus list. Eliza Evans-Teague will bring an updated surplus list to the next council meeting.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. APRIL 4, 2022, MEETING MINUTES: Mike Hale moved to approve the minutes from April 4, 2022. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: Mike Hale moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check numbers 15827-15864 in the amount of \$ 59,262.64, and check numbers 15865-15889 in the amount of \$41,771.75. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The council passed the motion unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Mike Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Roy Schulz closed the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer