

# City of Tekoa

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday, July 11, 2022*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Mike Hale, Dave Tysz, B.J. Sperber, Shelly Ausmus, Mary LaSalle, Angie Rambo and Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague. Additional attendees were Dana Wilkinson, Jack Bowman, Vitaliy Chekulayev, Donavon Chase, Shane Monroe, Doug Palmer, Tim Ike and Thomas Kliewer.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Roy Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
  - A. **COMMUNITY GROUPS:** Heidi Turnbough reported for Parks and Recreation that the pool was under repair and expected to be back open on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. Swim lessons will be postponed one week. She also reported a dog waste receptacle was installed at Memorial Park, but it was not being utilized as had been hoped. Shelly Ausmus, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, corrected the town yard sale date to August 6, 2022, a Saturday.
  - B. **DANA WILKINSON:** Dana expressed her issues with a city maintenance person in an off-hours conversation and requested an apology.
  - C. **JACK BOWMAN:** Jack expressed how well the cemetery was being kept and how beautiful the rose garden was looking.
  - D. **DOUG PALMER:** Doug commented on the specifics of the burn pile. He witnesses it being abused quite often and would like to see better oversight, as it is a great benefit to the city.
  - E. **CENTURY WEST-VITALIY CHEKULAYEV:** Vitaliy updated the council that the Lift Station Design was approved by DOE. The construction timeline for that project is still a couple of months out, and that may affect the Main St. Sidewalk Project timing (which shares a contractor). BJ Sperber moved to accept the Century West Amendment authorizing payment per the Influent Lift Station Replacement Amendment #2. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **REVIEW LEASES FOR WIFIBER (CASCADE COMPUTING):** Donavon Chase represented WiFiber in presenting some thoughts about the new proposed WiFiber lease terms. He agreed to confer with the owner and bring an answer to the proposal to help set the new terms.

**B. BURN PILE:** As fire chief, Donavon Chase reported that the burn pile is becoming a real issue with non-emergency calls. It has become a nuisance for all of the fire department volunteers. The council will continue these discussions and set a time for a solution session. The Tekoa Fire Department, per Donavon Chase, will not OK burns any more this season. BJ Sperber moved to close the burn pile. Mike Hale seconded the motion. Angie Rambo, Mike Hale and BJ Sperber voted to close the burn pile. Mary LaSalle, Dave Tysz and Shelly Ausmus voted not to close the burn pile. Mayor Schulz cast the tie-breaking vote to not close the burn pile.

**C. FENCING AT CROSBY LOCATION/KEVIN TURNBOUGH:** Kevin Turnbough and the council discussed the city fence that is currently at the property at the corner of Main and Crosby Streets. Considering that he is allowing the city to store the remaining 13 fence panels, B.J. Sperber moved to charge \$20 per month for the five panels Kevin needs to rent. Shelly Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. WATER/SEWER ORDINANCE RE: REQUIRED USE OF SERVICES**

**AMENDMENTS:** Eliza Evans-Teague reported that the water and sewer systems are merged, so both services are required within city limits without writing new ordinances, per the city attorney.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. JUB ENGINEERING-TIM IKE:** Tim Ike reported that Williard Field is a state airport. He discussed the current availability of funding for state airports and what might be useful for the City of Tekoa to pursue. He reported that there are deadlines of the end of August for potential projects to be submitted and this fall for budgeting for possible grant applications in the spring. Eliza Evans-Teague will forward a copy of the current airport's possible project list to the council.

**B. SURPLUS PROPERTY PROPOSAL/SCHNEIDER:** The council discussed the market survey letter, limitations of the proposed surplus property and attorney recommendations. Angie Rambo moved to honor the original purchase price of \$100 for the property in question and original terms where the buyer pays all costs associated with the sale. Dave Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. KEEP PORTA-POTTY ON WARREN AND BROADWAY STREET FOR THE SUMMER?:** The council does not want to keep the porta potty there. Have it picked up.

**D. RESOLUTION 22-02 RE: EXCESS TAX LEVY FOR STREETS:** Shelly Ausmus moved to approve the resolution to send the street levy to election. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. COLLECTION AGENCY FOR BAD DEBTS:** Eliza Evans-Teague reported that the state approved three agencies to collect on behalf of municipalities in Washington and that we have some debts to the city that would fit that model. Eliza wanted the council

to know that the city was still pursuing outstanding debt and would like to go through collections and wanted to know if there were any objections. There were none.

- F. **ORDINANCE 874: BUDGET AMENDMENT:** Dave Tysz moved to pass Budget Amendment Ordinance 874. Mike Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- G. **ORDINANCE 875:** Mike Hale moved to pass Ordinance 875 to form Fund 365 for the TIB Main Street Sidewalk project. Shelly Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. **DEANNEXATION OF THE OLD DUMP ON COVE RD.:** Eliza Evans-Teague let the council know that the OFM contacted the city about three annexation issues. Two of them she was able to clear up and the third requires de-annexation. Because of the agricultural nature of the location, the old city dump on Cove Rd. can be de-annexed through ordinance vs. election. A public hearing will need to take place before an ordinance can be passed.
- I. **RESOLUTION 22-03: NUISANCE WEED ABATEMENT:** A resolution to enforce the ordinance re: yard/weed abatement was presented. Mike Hale moved to accept the resolution. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion. Mary LaSalle, Mike Hale, B.J. Sperber and Angie Rambo voted “Yes.” Shelly Ausmus and Dave Tysz voted “no.”
- J. **RESOLUTION 22-04: INVESTMENTS:** Tabled until Aug. 1, 2022.

## **VII. REPORTS:**

- A. **MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz reported there was some vandalism June 26, 2022 at the public restrooms downtown. They were repaired June 27, 2022, by city maintenance staff. Recordings of the restrooms were reviewed, and the vandal confessed to the Whitman County Sheriff. The vandal will work out restitution: paying part cash and cleaning the Ruhl park bathroom and the porta-potty at Gymkanna Grounds for three weeks.

The mayor and the council discussed the Dana Wilkinson complaint.

Fireworks will be discussed at the Aug. 1, 2022, council meeting.

- B. **CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** None.

### **C. COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Mike Hale:** reported on new website information and recommended going through Municipal Impact. The council discussed the possibilities around a new website. Mike Hale moved to go with Municipal Impact in establishing a new City of Tekoa website. Shelly Ausmus seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Shelly Ausmus:** wishes to discuss downtown resident parking permits in August.

**Angie Rambo:** wishes to discuss junk vehicle ordinances in August.

**Mary LaSalle: discussed firefighter turn-outs and had questions about last year's firefighters' auction. Eliza Evans-Teague will give available funds numbers to B.J. Sperber, the fire department liaison, to talk with the fire chief about turn-out purchases.**

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

**E. MAY 16, 2022, MEETING MINUTES: B.J. Sperber moved to accept the minutes from June 6, 2022. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**F. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT: B.J. Sperber moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check numbers 15982-16032 in the amount of \$77,060.00. Mike Hale seconded the motion. The council passed the motion unanimously.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT: B.J. Sperber moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Hale seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Roy Schulz closed the meeting at 10:35 P.M.**

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer