

# City of Tekoa

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday, August 8, 2022*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Council members present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Angie Rambo, Mary LaSalle and Pete Martin. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees: Matt Morkert, Richard Kelly, Jason Kelly, Haleigh Kelly, Tammy Mendoza, John Giudice, Lydia Spencer, John Jaeger, Chris Smith, Liz Smith, Brandon Schneider, Sarah Gulliksen, Dan St. John, Maureen St. John, Phil Overton and Laurie Overton.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:**
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
  - A. John Giudice had some ideas re: ordinances. He proposed that roof ordinances could stand to be looked at. John wants to make sure all ordinances are uniformly enforced for citizens and city alike. Mayor Schulz responded to his concerns.
  - B. Richard Kelly suggested having resources available in the original letter and be more sensitive to the contents of gardens (which can look like noxious weeds when they propagate).
  - C. **COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Pete Martin reported on the Hospital District. The Hospital District gave a grant to the pool for the swimming lesson program. They are also looking to support the ambulance, etc. Shelly Ausmus reported on the library moving their story time feature to the morning after Labor Day, and she expects to see expanded services coming soon.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - A. **RUTH CROMER WILL INFO.:** Eliza Evans-Teague presented legal paperwork listing the City of Tekoa, Goldenrod Cemetery Endowment Fund as a recipient of funds through Ruth Cromer's will. Shelly Ausmus moved in favor of accepting the gift from the late Ruth Cromer towards the Goldenrod Cemetery Endowment Fund (\$6,000.00). Dave Tysz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **REVIEW LEASE FOR WIFIBER (CASCADE COMPUTING):** Eliza Evans-Teague explained the city's lease proposal for WiFiber and what WiFiber's response had been. Shelly Ausmus moved to accept the new lease terms for WiFiber. Dave Tysz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. MATT MORKERT: STATUS OF AND SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Matt Morkert reported that the Lift Station Project should begin the second half of September, as well as the Main St. Sidewalk Project. Matt also reported that TIB would be likely to fund a chip-seal and/or preservation project at this time. He suggested Washington Street for this project. The council discussed the idea and what would be funded, or not. Mary LaSalle moved to have Century West prepare the grant proposals for TIB for the chip seal and preservation projects. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Matt also let the city know that the city's WWTP Facilities Plan is on the final approved list. Matt will do all he can to get us into a position to get more grant funding toward our new facilities plant.
- B. BENTHIN & ASSOC.-WALT DALE:** Postponed until the next meeting
- C. RICHARD KELLY-NEIGHBORING BUILDING COMPLAINT:** Richard Kelly is seeking to get Denise Keegan's building condemned due to the extensive damage and lack of upkeep on the building . The disrepair is now affecting his building every time it rains. Shelly Ausmus moved to contact the attorney who, in turn, will contact the county building inspector. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. CEMETERY ORDINANCE DISCUSSION:** Phil Overton expressed how emotional he felt about the requirements that are being enforced for the cemetery. Tammy Mendoza stated that she thinks that the cemetery is a sacred place, and the family/visitors should be able to place memorabilia on the stones. Pete Martin and Dave Tysz feel that the enforcement of the ordinance was too sudden and too severe. Chris Smith suggested that we have some kind of exception for the time around Memorial Day. Liz Smith also mentioned the decoration of the graves and how important the flowers are to them. Several people mentioned how much they want to see the flowers in the cemetery (for longer than a week). Cathy Haxton expressed from a maintenance standpoint there are many things that make maintenance more difficult. Shelly Ausmus expressed perhaps some kind of newsletter would be helpful. Shelly Ausmus moved to suspend the enforcement of the portion of the cemetery ordinance dealing with the adornment of graves. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mary LaSalle and Angie Rambo will spearhead looking into how other cemeteries address the maintenance/adornment balance.
- E. PARKING PERMITS FOR DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS:** Shelly moved to issue one parking permit per living unit without available off-street parking. This permit would be available through city hall on an application basis for a \$5.00 annual fee. Eliza Evans-Teague will have to conduct a survey of which units downtown have no parking available. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. JUNK VEHICLE NUISANCE ORDINANCE:** Angie Rambo brought up the various junk vehicles around town and reviewing our junk vehicle nuisance ordinance. There was discussion about the various aspects of the ordinance. Shelly suggested that the procedure before enforcing the ordinance should involve a 6- month educational process.
- G. FIREWORKS:** Postponed until next meeting.

- H. USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER FOR LIBRARY UPDATES:** Angie Rambo moved to transfer library space to the community center during the renovations this fall. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion.
- I. RESOLUTION 22-04: SURPLUS PROPERTY:** Pete Martin moved to pass Resolution 22-04. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- J. RESOLUTION 22-05: INVESTMENTS:** Pete Martin moved to put \$100,000.00 into a 3- year Treasury Bond. Shelly Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- K. RESOLUTION 22-06: NUISANCE WEED ABATEMENT:** Angie Rambo moved to pass Resolution 22-06. Mary LaSalle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- A. Chris and Liz Smith** thanked the city council for their good hearts and obvious care for Tekoa.
- B. John Jaeger** expressed that he wants the burn pile to remain open for the citizens to keep their properties tidy. The burn pile was discussed and Shelly Ausmus came with a list of suggestions re: the burn pile. Dave Tysz suggested having a small fee like the recycling fee, to finance the burn pile management. The council will revisit Shelly's proposal next month along with the outcome of the public meeting from August 4, 2022, which addressed the burn pile.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 10:12 P.M. Mayor Schultz set executive session until 10:30 P.M. Afterward, Shelly Ausmus moved to hire Jessica May at 14.49/hr. for rest area cleaning and seasonal/auxiliary work. Angie Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. REPORTS:**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

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

**C. COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Mary LaSalle:** asked that we mention ordinances for review in the newsletter and direct citizens to the website.

**D. JULY 11, 2022, MEETING MINUTES:** Dave Tysz moved to accept the minutes from July 11, 2022. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** Dave Tysz moved to pay EFT payroll checks and check numbers 16033-16087 in the amount of \$132,289.89. Pete Martin seconded the motion. The council passed the motion unanimously.

**X. ADJOURNMENT: Dave Tysz moved to adjourn the meeting. Pete Martin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Roy Schulz closed the meeting at 10:37 P.M.**

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer