

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – April 7, 2025, 6 P.M.
Tekoa City Hall

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. ROLL CALL:**
- MAYOR SCHULZ:** Present.
CM DAN THOMAS: Present.
CM MARGIE JAEGER: Present.
CM PETE MARTIN: Present.
CM MIKE HALE: Present.
CM SHELLY AUSMUS: Present.
CM DAVE TYSZ: Present.
CM CHERI CURRIER: Present.
- IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** CM Ausmus wants to add “POLICY MANUAL” to the agenda, and CM Hale would like to add the golf course under comments or the agenda. It was decided he will speak during comments.
- V. MARCH 3, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Ausmus clarified that there should be an invitation in the April newsletter to the *second* council meeting in April. CM Hale moved to accept the amended minutes. CM Ausmus seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** John Jaeger commented that he thought Union participation might be on the agenda. He also noted that the alley by the grocery store has some potholes that he would like to see the city fix. Steve Haxton, speaking as a resident, pointed out that the attacks on the mayor are taxing and get old. He watched the March 3, 2025, meeting and commented on the proceedings. Todd Jensen commented that he would like the council to act “as a team.”
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** None.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. ETHICS POLICY:** CM Martin said the new ethics policy has been reviewed well by the attorney. The policy has passed and is finished.

- B. HARASSMENT POLICY:** CM Martin is still adding points to the policy and will present it at the next meeting.
- C. TINY HOMES:** CM Ausmus clarified that people can come to the mid-April meeting to speak re: their thoughts on tiny homes. She reminded everyone the council has already approved one per lot. She would like to review the policy again and listen to the public viewpoints before crafting the final ordinance. The mayor suggested having a base policy ready for public commentary. CM Ausmus asked the attorney to clarify ADUs vs. tiny homes.
- D. ADD DRUG TESTING TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY:** There was discussion re: reasonable suspicion vs. random drug testing. The attorney let the council know how the state of Washington handles drug testing. CM Hale moved to adopt the drug testing policy (in the employee handbook). CM Martin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- E. SPRING CLEAN-UP DATES:** CM Ausmus stated the clean-up dates for the county-wide spring clean-up. City of Tekoa will have a dumpster available April 11-14. There was discussion. CM Currier will oversee the dumpster over the weekend. There was discussion. Additional information about appliance pick-up is forthcoming. There was additional discussion. The spring clean-up dumpster will be open from 7 A.M. until 4 P.M. on that Friday and over the weekend, approximately 8 A.M.-6 P.M.
- F. COMMUNITY SURVEY:** The mayor asked for more survey submissions and received several from the council.
- G. FINANCIAL REPORT:** CM Hale explained how much the city owes on water and sewer loans, including administration and interest costs. He also included the insurance rates the city pays on city buildings. He will bring some ideas for saving insurance costs at the next meeting.
- H. POLICY MANUAL:** CM Ausmus commented about where the policy and procedures manual mentions the agenda/agenda packet. She would like to have only the agenda online vs. the entire packet. There was discussion. CM Ausmus moved to publish only the agenda online. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. CM Ausmus would also like to eliminate the second public comment period for each meeting. There was discussion. CM Ausmus moved to eliminate the second public comment period. CM Jaeger seconded the motion. There was a discussion. The mayor thinks the second public comment period is valuable. There was discussion. “No” votes- CMs Thomas and Hale. “Yes “votes -CMs Jaeger, Ausmus, Martin, Currier and Tysz. The motion passed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. FILING DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS (MAY 5-9):** There was discussion. The clerk will double-check the terms for CM Tysz.

- B. CENTURY WEST-PORT OF WHITMAN HYDROGEOLOGIC STUDY:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the request. CM Tysz moved to move forward with the Port of Whitman. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. MRSC ROSTERS RESOLUTION 25-01:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the resolution to adopt the MRSC Small Works, Vendor and Consultant Rosters. CM Hale moved to accept the resolution. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. SWEEPER TRUCK:** The mayor explained that the public works supervisor has located a used sweeper truck. He explained the current issues Public Works is facing re: the city's broken sweeper truck and possibly purchasing the used one formerly owned by the City of Spokane. There was extended discussion. CM Hale moved to purchase the sweeper for \$20,000. CM Jaeger seconded the motion. There was discussion. CM Ausmus abstained. CMs Tysz, Hale, Jaeger, Martin, Currier and Thomas voted "Yes." The motion passed.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** The pothole behind the pharmacy is repaired. There was discussion. CM Ausmus clarified the council had not approved the gravel costs and they were not on the fee resolution. There was discussion.
- B. STAFF REPORT:** Clerk Evans-Teague reported that USDA loan reporting showed that the unaccounted-for water production has dropped from 21% last year to 12% for the 2024 report. The audit is finished, the report will come out online in the next week, and copies will be distributed at the next meeting.
- C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:** CM Hale said the Chamber of Commerce is meeting the evening on March 20 at 6 P.M. in the council chambers. The Chamber is participating in the Stuff the Bus event, and the community can contribute. CM Thomas asked about the employee union. The union representative will be here April 21. CM Thomas was wondering why Tekoa doesn't have a ballot box. He will ask the county about it when he files for the next election. There was discussion. CM Martin reported the golf course board is meeting March 28. He invited the mayor and anyone else who is interested. The Port of Whitman will be there, and he would like to see everyone there who can help define the project so grants can be applied for. There was discussion. CM Hale would like to renegotiate the lease with the golf course. He is also concerned about any matching grant funds that would be required. There was discussion. CM Martin inquired about the status of Kevin Turnbough's employment with the city. Kevin is a part-time water/sewer and project-based employee. CM Ausmus reported on the new playground equipment at Gymkanna Grounds and Ruhl Park. She clarified that the money for the equipment came from a grant, and the Parks and Rec. District is operating on savings for this year as their levy did not pass. They continue to apply for grants. CM Ausmus also spoke about the church signs that used to be in the garden spot by the reader board. She was informed the signs are not in good condition, and that is why they were not put back up. CM Ausmus asked about the branches on the property east of Ruhl Park. There was discussion. CM Tysz brought information about what the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Ecology want to see for the contracted water and sewer operator. There was extended discussion.

- X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** CM Martin moved to approve EFT payroll and checks #17697-17710 in the amount of \$64,761.06 and EFT payroll and checks #17712-17740 in the amount of \$45,683.62. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The mayor called Executive Session at 7:40 P.M. for 15 minutes for the purpose of possible litigation. The mayor adjourned the Executive Session at 7:55 P.M.
- XII. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Steve Haxton commented that he believes the removal of the second comment period is wrong. He would like the public to be able to comment on what happens at the meeting. Brad Chandler noted that the council took two opportunities from the public: one to speak and one to see what the council is considering.
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Tysz moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza Evans-Teague- Clerk/Treasurer