

**City of Tekoa**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*Monday – March 3, 2025, 6 P.M.*  
**Tekoa City Hall**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:01 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:** Mayor added Steven Thomas as item F.
- V. FEBRUARY 18, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Hale moved to approve the February 18, 2025, council meeting minutes. CM Currier seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Doug Palmer spoke about his poor experiences with the Tekoa Care Center patients both downtown and at his home. He is concerned about the aggressive behavior he has experienced, and he does not think it is getting better. There was some discussion about options and ways to make sure citizens are heard. Darlene Pearson wants to recognize the good work by our public works employees, Steven Thomas and Jessica May-Johnson, for their great work during and after the flood.
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** None.
- C. PORT OF WHITMAN:** Gabe Conley Natividad gave a presentation on what the Port of Whitman is doing re: the Tekoa Industrial Park site. They are working on water rights as well as other issues, currently. There was discussion.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. ETHICS POLICY:** The policy is ready to go. It just needs to be reviewed by the attorney.
- B. HARASSMENT POLICY:** CM Martin explained the harassment policy should be ready to go in two weeks.

- C. **TINY HOMES:** CM Ausmus will be getting the exact requirements for the needed changes from Atty. Hanson and it will go in the newsletter for April and be addressed the second meeting in April. There was discussion.
- D. **ADD DRUG TESTING TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY:** CM Hale has researched the WACs and RCWs. His conclusion is that the city cannot drug test for pre-employment. We may still be able to require testing if there is an accident or incident. There was discussion. CM Hale will bring specifics to the council on whether the city can test if accidents or incidents occur.
- E. **SPRING CLEAN-UP DATES/DUMPSTER RENTAL:** CM Ausmus has not been able to get ahold of the county landfill site to determine when the spring clean-up date this year will be. CM Ausmus moved to approve the funding at \$1500 or less to participate in the clean-up. CM Martin seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. **COMMUNITY SURVEY:** CM Ausmus would like to clarify what the city is hoping to gain from the city survey, so it is most useful. There was discussion about the survey. The council will submit survey questions to the office by Friday, March 14, after which the questions will be distilled into a rough draft for the meeting on March 17.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **ESTHER AND MONTEY BROWN-VARIANCE:** Esther Brown explained they live in the 5<sup>th</sup>-wheel on Crosby St. Their 6-month allowance for placing a home on the site is running out, and they are working on their loan. They would like to ask for a variance to live in their fifth wheel an additional six months. CM Tysz moved to approve the variance, and CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. **COUNCIL POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL UPDATE:** CM Ausmus spoke about the council policy and procedure manual and called attention to some of the rules and functions. CM Ausmus moved for the clerk to send a sample agenda to the council by Wednesday morning before the meeting, and the council will respond by Friday morning at 9AM. CM Martin seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. There was discussion about adding agenda items later in the process. CM Ausmus would like to review the policies and procedures each quarter for a season. There was discussion. CM Ausmus noted minutes styles and how they can be written for specific circumstances.
- C. **CORRESPONDENCE-CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURES:** CM Ausmus asked to clarify the procedures for reading correspondence vs. simply responding to the communication. The procedural outcome is that correspondence will be placed in the council packets and mentioned in the meeting. If someone wants their correspondence read but is unable to attend the meeting, they can have a proxy read it. There was extended discussion.
- D. **FINANCIAL REPORT CLARIFICATIONS:** CM Hale called attention to the report he submitted at the last meeting. CM Ausmus noted the balances the city is required to carry from year to year and where ending balances come from. CM Ausmus requested debt schedules be added to the quarterly reports.
- E. **STEVEN THOMAS:** The mayor relayed that Steven Thomas received an outside job offer today. The mayor explained where Steven is re: attaining his certifications. The mayor suggested raising Steven's wages as though he had his first two certifications. There was extended discussion.

#### IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz let the council know we did not get any grants for fog sealing this season. The city doesn't know about the gravel road paving grant, yet. There was discussion about sidewalk replacement. There was discussion and a suggestion that if the homeowner provided the material, the city could add the labor. The mayor brought up the .09 fund grant application and solicited ideas. CM Ausmus suggested presenting this to the Tekoa Chamber. CM Martin said the interpretive panels are ready to go whenever the city employees have time and the weather cooperates for installation. The mayor called the council's attention to the union notification in their packets. At some point the union will send a representative to let the council know what to expect and answer questions. There was discussion.
- B. STAFF REPORT:** The public records request suit offer has been accepted by Mr. Hood, so the process is going forward and should be finalized soon.
- C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:** CM Tysz commented that the budget committee will be meeting soon and has citizen volunteers. CM Ausmus commented that a citizen had questions about the top of Lake St. and paving. There was concern about maintaining the newly paved street in the Hay subdivision. CM Ausmus apologized about the implications of the previous meetings discussions if they negatively affected Kyle Dombroski's dog training business; that was not her intention. CM Martin reported on the Tekoa Golf Course building and that the board is leaning toward a feasibility study about remodeling the current clubhouse. More information is needed to make good decisions. The golf course needs some gravel for their road. CM Ausmus followed up re: the Tekoa Care Center. She will check in with the care center re: their efforts. CM Currier is donating some rock around the signs for the Welcome to Tekoa sign areas.
- X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** None.
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.
- XII. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Brad Chandler commented on a cross-reference survey and he suggests using examples. Brad also gave his perspective on what the council can expect from the union re: negotiations and ratifying the budget. His overall suggestion is to work with the union negotiator. CM Jaeger thinks it is important that the union process is clear for all the citizens of Tekoa.
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Ausmus moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza Evans-Teague- Clerk/Treasurer