

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – March 4, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Councilmembers* in attendance were Mike Hale, Dave Tysz, Margie Jaeger, Pete Martin, B.J. Sperber, Mandi Prince and Lydia Fletcher. Also in attendance were Atty. Eric Hanson, Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague, Reid Smith, Shelly Ausmus, Darlene Pearson, Kathi Houston, Brad Chandler, Steven Thomas, Nancy Thorson and Matt Morkert.

*In the following paragraphs, Councilmember(s) will be abbreviated as “C.”

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. AGENDA:** No changes.

- IV. FEBRUARY 5, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND FEBRUARY 15 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Hale moved to approve the February 5, 2024, council meeting minutes. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. C. Martin moved to accept the February 15, 2024, special council meeting minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None.

- A. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** None.

- B. CENTURY WEST- MATT MORKERT: INFLUENT LIFT STATION UPDATE AND AMENDMENT APPROVAL:** Matt Morkert explained that the project has now reached “substantial completion” as of February 26, 2024. The Influent Lift Station is working. There was discussion. There is still evaluation happening. Matt presented Amendment No. 4 from DOE incorporating the remainder of the change orders and construction management fees. C. Tysz moved to approve the amendment. C. Hale seconded the amendment. The amendment was unanimously approved. Matt also brought up the “Safe Routes to School” WSDOT grant application. He would like to reapply now that some of the funding requirements have changed a little. There was discussion.

- VI. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

- VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- A. SIDEWALK PLOWING:** C. Martin revisited possible sidewalk plowing downtown. He contends that the city should plow the entire downtown for egress and liability. There was discussion. Atty. Hanson gave his opinion about not seeking

more liability. There was discussion. C. Jaeger moved to revisit the ordinance. There was discussion. Mayor Schulz asked the council to put together a proposal and bring it back to the next council meeting.

- B. BURN PILE HYDRANT/WATER SERVICE: STEVEN THOMAS:** Steven Thomas presented information about the water access for the burn pile. He presented the options, problems and costs associated with providing water to manage the burn pile. There was discussion.
- C. EV CHARGING STATION:** Mayor Schulz updated the council about the EV charging station. The charging station is not working correctly. Avista is researching solutions. There was more discussion.
- D. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:** Mayor Schulz gave some information about the .09 Economic Development Grant opportunity and asked for volunteers to come up with ideas. C. Martin volunteered to work on some ideas. There was discussion.
- E. KEEGAN BLDG.: UNFIT DWELLING COMMITTEE:** C. Tysz updated the council about the Keegan Bldg. He will be asking former committee members for written opinions from their previous inspection. He submitted a picture of the roof and let the council know the process may take some time. There was discussion. Atty. Hanson clarified the process re: having educated and in-person opinions for making decisions. There was extended discussion. The mayor will reach out to Denise Keegan.
- F. JUB PAYMENT APPROVAL:** C. Martin moved to approve payment requests-to-date for the Willard Field planning phase. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The mayor called executive session for the purpose of a real estate discussion to last 18 minutes beginning at 7:42 P.M. The council returned from executive session at 8:00 P.M.

IX. REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz reported the new recycling set-up. The city is now participating in the county's recycling grant. He brought up the current charge for the recycling program (\$1/mo./per citizen). He made a suggestion that the one-dollar charge be applied to the burn pile expenses instead. C. Tysz moved to change the \$1/mo. recycling fee to fund the burn pile. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz let the council know that the city is approved to go through training through AWC. He proposed that we do a very light agenda for the first meeting of the month along with a training. The majority of the city business will then take place the second meeting of the month. This agenda will start in April.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: None.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Tysz commented on our contract operator for sewer and the new DOE requirements. He wants to be sure the city is aware of new requirements for contract operators. There was discussion. C. Fletcher wanted to know if the council would be opposed to moving the meetings back to 7 P.M. They will discuss it at the next meeting.

X. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Shelly Ausmus spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce about snow plowing and said that it would be a good service for the downtown as sometimes it was hard for the businesses to get to it and some businesses were not open every day. She also brought up the wrecked truck on or near Heaton's property. C. Martin brought up parking near Kirk's Garage Door Service.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: C. Tysz moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer