

# City of Tekoa

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday, March 20, 2023*

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. Councilpersons\* present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Shelly Ausmus, Mike Hale, Pete Martin, and B.J. Sperber, and Angie Rambo. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Whitney Bloom, Brad Chandler, John Spendlove, Jonathan Fletcher, Eric Hanson, and Lydia Spencer.

\*In following paragraphs, Councilperson(s) will be abbreviated as: “C.”

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

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

- IV. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

- V. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- A. DENISE KEEGAN BUILDING UPDATE:** No known date for inspection, currently.

- B. WHITNEY BLOOM-HOURLY RATE FOR COMMUNITY CENTER PROPOSAL:**  
C. Ausmus moved to accept Whitney’s proposal for renting the Tekoa Community Center. C. Hale seconded the motion. C. Sperber wants a timeline to evaluate the arrangement. C. Sperber amended the motion to accept Whitney’s proposal to rent the community center and to re-evaluate in 90 days. Whitney will check in with the office at least weekly to update her schedule.

- C. U-TURNS ON CROSBY ST.:** C. Ausmus commented on her interactions with the WSDOT. U-turns are not illegal, but they could be problematic in terms of safety. There was some discussion about what is desirable and how to proceed from here.

- D. SPRING CLEAN-UP:** C. Ausmus introduced her flyer for the Spring Clean-up. She has several volunteers for the clean-up monitoring, but she would like to recruit a few more volunteers.

- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. LETTERS OF INTENT-OPEN COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION INTERVIEWS:**  
Letters of Intent from Brad Chandler and John Spendlove were introduced for the council to read. C. Ausmus moved to make this a two-part process and allow time until the next meeting for people to respond. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Brad Chandler spoke about getting involved in the community locally. He spoke about incorporating new business and addressing housing issues. He would like to see another 50-100 families in Tekoa. He would like to encourage our “bedroom community”

status and work with what we have and be diverse enough to handle the future demand. Brad thinks he would approach the business aspect before addressing the housing aspect of the community- needs equation. Brad also talked about the importance of the council in determining the accessibility of the business climate here. There were additional questions about roads, etc. John Spendlove introduced himself as a prospective councilperson. He stated that his only agenda is helping Tekoa to thrive with a small-town atmosphere. He would like to see bigger businesses come in but preserve the privilege of small-town living. He wants to cultivate jobs here, but also to build affordable housing for people who currently work here or would like to continue working here but cannot afford the fuel for commuting. He believes that exposure to what Tekoa already has is key in promoting Tekoa. Signage and promotion would help let people know what is here. He would like to see businesses come in that promote local businesses and products. He has a degree in business and would like to make sure the city has a plan to go forward. He believes that tourism has an important role to play in the revitalization of Tekoa. Mayor Schulz solicited any ideas he or Brad might have to improve Tekoa.

- B. PERSONNEL ISSUE/COUNCIL MEMBER VACANCY:** There was discussion about the executive session, and its purposes, with the city attorney. There was also discussion about overtime and compensation. Atty. Hanson will look further into the separation of powers in establishing overtime. There was recognition of the new statutes coming into effect from the state re: required wages and pay scales. Following was prolonged discussion re: the pros and cons of hourly vs. a salaried position: C. Martin asked Eliza Evans-Teague if she thought 10 hours a month of overtime was sufficient, and she answered that council meetings alone account for about 8-10 hours a month of overtime. C. Hale would like to bring some suggestions for the next meeting to present for a future meeting. Atty. Hanson also suggested that the council could put this into a personnel policy vs. ordinance and then address how the salaries are determined. C. Ausmus moved to repeal the 2016 decision that states the city will follow the CPI increases every year and that medical benefits will be capped where they currently are. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was continued discussion about salaries vs. hourly wages. The council agreed to put this on the agenda next meeting and move through some of the issues. Eliza Evans-Teague spoke about the actual hours involved in the job and asked the council to consider that in their planning.
- C. RESOLUTION 23-01: DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY-FACILITIES PLAN LOAN:** C. Hale moved to approve the DOE Facilities Planning Loan. C. Martin seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. MEETING ORDER REVISIONS: Postponed.**
- E. READER BOARD SIGNS:** There was discussion about the desired location for the proposed reader-board sign. C. Ausmus discussed the sign in Palouse and that it was funded by ARPA funds. There was additional discussion.
- F. BURN PILE-COMMERCIAL DUMPING-SIGNAGE:** C. Ausmus asked the question about whether the burn pile is for the citizens only or for commercial purposes. C. Tysz said he would like it to be for citizens only. There was discussion about the subject. C. Sperber said he would mock-up a sign to bring for the council next time. There was discussion. Eliza will email C. Sperber about the signs.

**G. WHITMAN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:** C. Sperber moved to accept the agreement. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. REPORTS:**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz brought up the Union Pacific RR property. There was discussion about the upcoming INWP workshop on housing projects. The office will be closed on March 29, 2023 to accommodate that training.

**B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** The picnic table for the rest area was included by the county in the .09 grant. Duane Groom has found an alternative source for salvage and will be looking for the type of metal that can be used on the footbridge.

**C. COUNCIL REPORTS:** C. Sperber discussed the electric car charging station and comments from the community. C. Ausmus reported that the Chamber Shop Hop event went well. She also commented that she has been in touch with Madison, the Tekoa Care Center administrator, about a panel formed from the Tekoa Care Center and local citizens. Shelly would like to see a business owner on the panel. There was discussion about Tekoa Care Center policies and she mentioned the responsive follow-up on the Tekoa Care Center's part. C. Martin has spoken with Superintendent Cordova and now the bicycles at the school will be available for the town and the trail. He also reported that the Trestle Trail Committee is negotiating with the State Parks to take care of the trailhead. The plan for the trailhead is still being developed. C. Ausmus clarified the summer help positions and which would be taking care of the various gardens, now that the monies were dedicated to those areas by the council several months ago.

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

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. MARCH 6, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Sperber moved to approve the minutes. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Sperber moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer