

# City of Tekoa

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday, June 26, 2023*

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Roy Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. Councilpersons\* present at the meeting were Dave Tysz, Angie Rambo, Pete Martin, Mike Hale, B.J. Sperber and Shelly Ausmus. Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague was present, as well as additional attendees Darlene Pearson, John Jaeger, Marge Jaeger, Hugh Evans, Suzanne Evans, Lydia Fletcher, Mike Ausmus and R. Grace Lambert.

\*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. AGENDA:** Unchanged.

- IV. MAY 1, 2023, MAY 15 PUBLIC HEARING-SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM MINUTES AND MAY 15, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES and June 7, 2023 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** Regarding the May 1, 2023, Minutes, C. Ausmus asked that Section V. Correspondence be changed to read that she thought the mayor should have made her aware of the contents of the Schneider letter beforehand, not that she said the mayor should have only presented the letter to her. C. Ausmus also wanted an addition to Section VI, item B. that she had spoken with Shirly Cornelius, the financial director at the WCL. Additionally in Section VI, item B, she also wanted it to be added that the L & I factor for salaried wages will ultimately be 2.5x minimum wage. C. Martin moved to accept the May 1, 2023, Minutes. C. Prince seconded the motion. C. Ausmus also added she would like to clarify re: Gloria Rasmussen's comments in Section VII: item F, but reconsidered. C. Ausmus moved to approve the May 1, 2023, Minutes, C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Regarding the May 15, 2023, Minutes, C. Prince asked about the comment by the mayor in Section V: Comments From the Audience. She also asked about the comment from Brandon Schneider and there was discussion. C. Martin moved to approve the May 15, 2023, Minutes, C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Regarding May 15, 2023 Shoreline Master Program Minutes: C. Rambo moved to approve the minutes, C. Prince seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Regarding the June 7, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes: C. Martin moved to approve the minutes. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- V. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- A. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES:** The mayor introduced Steven Thomas and had Steven come up and give a brief "hello" to the audience and council. The mayor also introduced Blake Moore as a summer position employee and invited him to tell about himself. Angie Rambo commented on how nice everything looked in the city; there was consensus.

John Jaeger wanted to know how many were on the committee for hiring for the maintenance position. The mayor answered his question. John Jaeger talked about past hiring processes and expressed that he would like to see councilpersons involved in the hiring processes, especially as it comes to salaries. C. Tysz commented on how the four-10-hour-day weeks originated. There was discussion. John Jaeger would like to see equipment the city owns rented. There was discussion about how the process works. Suzanne Evans asked about insurance processes. The mayor explained the insurance. C. Ausmus spoke about the need to have limitations and clarify usage.

**B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** C. Ausmus spoke on behalf of the Whitman County Library about the summer reading program and using the rest stop park. She is partnering with Éclairs for some summer evening activities. July 23, 2023 is a community garden tour, with a potluck from noon-1P.M. and then tour following. The library will also be partnering with HTC for an Aug. 1, 2023, event including Lifeflight. Pete Martin spoke on behalf of Friends of the Tekoa Trestle. He reported all but two bikes have been updated and they are working on a system for people to use the bikes; there are approximately 20 bikes in all, around town. C. Prince shared that the ambulance board has had a surge in volunteers.

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE:** Eliza Evans-Teague read the letters from Dan Brinkman, Virginia Heaton and Diane Harp. There was discussion about Diane Harp's request to vacate the piece of alley on their acreage. The council would like to run this past the city attorney. There was discussion re: the letter from Jim Gordon about the charging station. Eliza Evans-Teague will ask about a meter, order another donation box, and order a sign that doesn't forbid other vehicles from parking there completely. C. Ausmus brought up Dan Brinkman's second request for recognition for the day Theodore Roosevelt visited Tekoa on May 27, 1903. The mayor suggested we make a proclamation at the next council meeting to recognize this day next year and going forward. C. Martin read a letter from Fred Wagner. There was discussion. C. Martin moved to amend the processes for late fees so that there can be a shortage of \$5.00 or less, one consecutive time, that will not incur a late fee for that billing period. The shortage will be rolled into the next month's billing period. C. Sperber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS:** None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. SAO ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW & APPROVAL:** Eliza explained the SAO Annual Report for 2023. C. Tysz moved to accept the report. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. APPROVE WAGES FOR NEW EMPLOYEE IN MAINTENANCE POSITION:** The mayor provided an overview of the hiring process. There was discussion about salaries and how they are set. C. Ausmus would like to see the formal presentation. C. Sperber moved to set the wage at the next meeting with the formal wage presentation. There was discussion. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. APPROVE MODIFIED MAINTENANCE POSITIONS:** There was discussion about the new employee and how current employees may be able to go half-time and help transition the new employee. C. Tysz suggested going back to having committees for oversight and suggestions. The council would like to see the numbers. C. Ausmus moved to look at the positions next meeting with more information. C. Sperber seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was a discussion. Committees discussion will come up at the next meeting.
- D. APPROVE PAVING ESTIMATE:** Eliza Evans-Teague will send out more information about this paving project for the next meeting.
- E. YARD ABATEMENT ORDINANCE:** C. Martin would like to postpone this discussion until the next meeting. He will send out some more information for the council to consider before the next meeting.
- F. ORDINANCE NO. 883: BUDGET AMENDMENT:** Eliza Evans-Teague explained the monies that need to move in the budget and to fully accommodate the approved budgets for the 2023 years. C. Rambo moved to approve the ordinance and C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. RESOLUTION 23-05: YARD ABATEMENT ENFORCEMENT:** There was discussion about how many properties are included in the resolution. C. Rambo moved to approve the resolution. C. Hale seconded. There was discussion. C. Martin abstained. C. Tysz, C. Hale, C. Ausmus, C. Sperber, C. Prince and C. Rambo voted yes. The motion passed.

## **IX. REPORTS:**

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Regarding the Influent Lift Station bedrock issue, the mayor reported that DW Excavating will be here soon to break the rock. The mayor received a letter re: dog incident on Crosby St. The dog has been removed from city limits, and, after another upsetting incident, the dog will no longer be coming into town. Slippery Gulch was great. Denise Keegan is still rolling on her project and she will give another update in about a week. She has been very cooperative.
- B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** Eliza Evans-Teague reported that the 2023 .09 Economic Development Grant project was fully approved and the project sign ordered. She also brought up C. Ausmus's suggestion to get city emails for the council. The council would like Eliza Evans-Teague to arrange that. Finally, Eliza Evans-Teague asked the council to approve a new sign for the EV charging station that would allow all cars to park there, but give preference to electric vehicles. C. Ausmus moved to get a new sign and C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. COUNCIL REPORTS:** C. Rambo would like to talk about the Dorsey lot at the next meeting. There was discussion. Sperber asked about how the airport makes money. There was discussion about how the maintenance has been done and if there can be any compensation. Currently it is done on a volunteer basis. There is a donation that could possibly be directed to a mower. C. Hale mentioned that the Airline Pilots' Association had

volunteered to do some of the maintenance. C. Hale will connect with them about that. C. Ausmus asked questions about the website. She also asked about the “No overnight parking.” at the Gymkana Grounds. There was discussion about dry camping. Short term campers can also stay to the east of Washington street across from the trestle trailhead. C. Ausmus asked that unapproved minutes be labelled as such until they are approved. C. Ausmus also brought up the recent communications to the council by email. C. Martin reported he spoke with Duane Groom about visiting the different sites around the city. Duane Groom suggested that the council go as a group. C. Ausmus suggested going to different sites, such as the sewer plant, on a quarterly basis. C. Hale said he is waiting for the date to open for him to submit the needed report for WSDOT aviation. Mayor Schulz suggested to C. Hale that he talk with Steve Haxton about a fly-in. C. Tysz is going to try and burn tomorrow and the next day, depending on DOE approval.

**D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was none.
- XI. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** C. Ausmus moved to approve EFT payroll and checks 16560-16578 in the amount of \$84,129.02 and EFT payroll and checks 16579-16606 in the amount of \$186,449.74. C. Sperber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Hale moved to adjourn. C. Rambo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 9:21 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer