

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – December 18, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tempore Dave Tysz called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. Councilmembers*present at the meeting were Lydia Fletcher, Mike Hale, Mandi Prince, Marge Jaeger and Pete Martin. Atty. Eric Hansen and Clerk-Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague were present, as well as additional attendees Darlene Pearson, Suzanne and Hugh Evans, Doug Palmer, Kevin and Heidi Turnbough, Kathi Houston, Shelly Ausmus, Nancy Thorson, Brad Chandler, Karl Webber, Kirk Fisher and Reid Smith.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Dave Tysz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **AGENDA:** No changes.
- IV. **DECEMBER 4, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Hale moved to approve the December 4, 2023, council meeting minutes. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Doug Palmer let the council know that from his observation, the public works employees and the office staff are performing well. He wants to recognize that things are going well and wants to see employees treated well.
- VI. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
- VII. **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
 - A. **KEVIN TURNBOUGH PROPOSAL:** Kevin Turnbough read a statement clarifying his earlier proposal and the condition of his leave. He outlined what he is asking for. There was discussion. Kevin clarified the conditions of his leaves, historically. Mayor Pro Tempore Tysz wants to discuss insurance first and discuss Kevin Turnbough’s proposal later.
 - B. **KARL WEBBER RE: KEEGAN BLDG.:** Karl Webber came forward to speak and clarified the requirements of the April 17, 2023, minutes. He brought up permits, codes and unfit dwelling ordinances, and how long the building has been in disrepair. He is concerned that nothing will happen. There was discussion. Eric Hanson asked about the condition of the building. There was discussion. Liability came up. Eric asked what needed to be fixed. Karl gave some illustration of what some of the issues appear to be. Eric spoke as to whether there were current issues of health and safety. He said the city would have to get a structural engineer inside to lay the issues out for the city. Eric reinforced that it must be an imminent danger, not simply unattractive or on hearsay. Karl asked the council to follow the ordinance and have a committee move forward on the issue. There was discussion about how to move forward. Eric will look into this first and get back to the council with next steps at the

January 8th meeting. Karl asked us to keep it on the agenda for the next two meetings that he cannot attend in person. Eliza will research the letter from April/May of this year and get that to the council and to Karl to satisfy his PRR. C. Fletcher asked to clarify the unfit dwelling process.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE 889: 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT: Clerk Evans-Teague presented Ordinance 889. C. Hale moved to accept Ord. 899. C. Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously

B. MEDICAL INSURANCE PROPOSAL: Eliza Evans-Teague presented the employee's request to cancel the city's insurance for medical, vision, and dental and replace it with an insurance stipend within the city's insurance budget. C. Hale moved to cancel the medical, dental and vision insurance and replace it with a \$500/mo. insurance stipend. C. Prince seconded the motion. There was discussion and this will be revisited in the fall of 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Session was called at 6:48 P.M. for 20 minutes to talk about liability issues and personnel performance.

X. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Pro Tempore Tysz asked about the policy for plowing snow downtown. Kevin Turnbough said there is no official policy.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Eliza Evans-Teague brought a well pump failure to the council and asked the council to approve the purchase of a new pump from the water reserves fund. C. Jaeger moved to approve the money (~\$32 K) to repair the pump. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: None.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

XI. PAY THE BILLS: C. Hale moved to approve EFT payroll and checks 16863-16884 for \$246,404.45 and EFT payroll and checks 16885-16915 for \$47,501.25. C. Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously

XII. ADJOURNMENT: C. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tempore Tysz adjourned the meeting at 7:12 P.M.