

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – April 8, 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, Darlene Pearson, Kathi Houston, Hugh and Suzanne Evans, Steven Thomas, Jessica Sperber, Melinda Wilkins, Marianne Gordon, Todd Jensen, Brad and Shelia Chandler, John Giudice, Steve Haxton, Diana Kimball and Susie Creger.

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

II. CALL TO ORDER:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

- IV. AWC-RMSA TRAINING:** Attorney Charlotte Archer conducted a virtual training on the OPMA-Open Public Meetings Act, as well as public records training.

V. AGENDA: None.

- VI. APRIL 8, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Fletcher moved to approve the April 8, 2024, council meeting minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- A. DIANA KIMBALL:** Diana Kimball spoke about the council approving the downtown ice and snow removal decision that was voted on April 8, 2024. She asked the council to reverse their decision.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

IX. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- A. STEVEN THOMAS RE: ARPA FUNDING FOR SEWER & WATER REPAIR PROJECTS:** Steven Thomas explained what is needed to repair the sewer projects in the Huffman/Crosby St. areas and west of Truax St. Eliza Evans-Teague explained the need to designate ARPA funds specifically for the sewer and water projects they were set aside for. There was discussion. C. Tysz moved to designate the funds for the water and sewer projects and easements using the remaining ARPA funds in the

amount of \$43,180.73. C. Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. JOHN GIUDICE-VARIANCE: The garage setback had been discussed and looked at previously but not voted on. There was discussion. C. Hale moved to grant the Giudice request for a variance that allowed his garage setback to be within 2 feet of the property line on the west side of his property at 445 S. Truax St., Bonanza Addition to Tekoa, Block 7, Lot 6. C. Prince seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Melinda Wilkins, as president and on behalf of the Tekoa Chamber of Commerce, read a letter re: the thoughts of the business community about the recent snow/ice removal vote. C. Martin brought up the actual costs of snow removal being unknown, liability concerns, and his thoughts. C. Jaeger spoke in support of snow plowing. C. Tysz commented in support of the plowing. Mayor Schulz asked Atty. Hanson if he still was against the plowing. Atty. Hanson said he still was.

B. SHIPPING CONTAINERS: C. Tysz said the shipping containers on Crosby St. need building permits. Eric Hanson said the city could act re: the containers if they were in violation of a zoning code. Otherwise, they would be grandfathered in if ordinances were crafted. He can look at the ordinance. Steve Haxton, the building inspector, said he has contacted the owner to request that he obtain permits for the containers. The mayor asked about temporary vs. permanent structures re: permitting. C. Jaeger would like to enact a moratorium on their placement in our downtown area. The council requested Atty. Hanson to investigate the issue in our code, and the mayor asked C. Fletcher to look into the way other communities are handling this issue. C. Martin suggested we look at similar ordinances as for junkyards.

C. TEDDY ROOSEVELT PROCLAMATION: The mayor explained that Dan Brinkman has not yet responded to the request about crafting the Teddy Roosevelt Proclamation. He will report at the next meeting.

D. ANNETTE CLAUSEN GIFTS TO GOLDENROD CEMETERY: Clerk Evans-Teague explained Annette Clausen left two bequests to the Goldenrod Cemetery. C. Martin moved to accept the funds left to the city by Annette Clausen. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The mayor called executive session at 7:40 P.M. to discuss personnel issues. The council and mayor returned at 7:50 P.M.

XII. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: The film company is working in town. The walking bridge has been placed and will be completed very soon.

B. CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: VC3 will be sending cybersecurity training modules out to the council. Joel Doupe would like to close a block of Crosby St. on July 20 for a few hours to allow a classic car meet-up. It will be on the agenda May 6, 2024.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Sperber read a letter resigning from the council effective today. He is willing to continue to advise on roads. C. Martin reported the .09 economic development grant presentation was delayed until May. C. Tysz said there is no water for the burn pile, yet. Steven Thomas explained that the major fiber-optic lines to the city run through that area. He is waiting to be able to use a vacuum line excavation truck to not hit those lines. Steven will make the water truck usable so the burn pile can be burned in the meantime. The mayor also mentioned the traction motor on the sweeper truck is broken. There are issues with possible repairs. Mayor Schulz stated the tentative plan is to use a company to sweep for this year. The sweeping contract will be on the next agenda. C. Hale reported on being the new representative to the Chamber of Commerce.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

XIV. PAY THE BILLS: C. Tysz moved to pay EFT payroll and checks 17079-17096 in the amount of \$442,212.37 and EFT payroll and checks 17097- 17130 in the amount of \$59,418.17. C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

XV. ADJOURNMENT: C. Hale moved to adjourn. C. Tysz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer