

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – May 20, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M. Councilmembers* in attendance were Mike Hale, Margie Jaeger, Pete Martin, Mandi Prince and Lydia Fletcher. Also in attendance were Eric Hanson and Clerk/Treasurer Eliza Evans-Teague.

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

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. INTERVIEW POTENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Candidates interviewed were Brad Chandler, Stephanie Clark and Shelly Ausmus.
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called Executive Session at 6:22 P.M. for 20 minutes to evaluate applicants for the council. Mayor Schulz announced Executive Session was closed at 6:42 P.M. Votes were cast as follows: C. Martin, Jaeger, Prince and Tysz voted for Shelly Ausmus. C. Hale and Fletcher voted for Brad Chandler. Shelly Ausmus is the newly appointed Council Member, Position 5.
- V. AGENDA:** Mayor Schulz added WILLARD FIELD BID EVALUATION and related EXECUTIVE SESSION and C. Jaeger added CONTAINERS.
- VI. MAY 1, 2024, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MAY 6, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES & MAY 8, 2024, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** C. Hale moved to accept the May 1, 2024, special council meeting minutes. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. C. Hale moved to accept the May 6, 2024, council meeting minutes. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. C. Fletcher moved to accept the May 8, 2024, special council meeting minutes. C. Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VII. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Roger Sandberg announced himself as a Whitman County judicial candidate. John Jaeger inquired about the six-year transportation plan.
- VIII. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. UNFIT DWELLING COMMITTEE:** C. Tysz reported on the progress of the committee re: the Keegan Bldg. C. Tysz asked if fellow Unfit Dwelling Committee member Brad Chandler could take the leadership role on the committee with C. Tysz supervising. A letter should be going out to Denise Keegan next week.
- B. WAGES FOR CLEANING THE COMMUNITY CENTER:** C. Prince moved to table the discussion until after theatre proposals are heard. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. BRANDON SCHNEIDER VARIANCE REQUEST-236 S. HOWARD ST.:** Brandon Schneider requested a 10' set-back vs the 20' set-back currently in place. There was discussion. C. Hale moved to approve the variance request. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. .09 GRANT ACCEPTANCE:** C. Martin updated the council on the grant parameters. The grant would be for the full amount applied for: \$5600. C. Ausmus moved to accept the .09 grant. C. Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. WA STATE ARCHIVES-ORGANIZING THE RECORDS ROOM GRANT ACCEPTANCE:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the purpose of the grant. C. Ausmus moved to accept the grant. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. STEVE HAXTON-TINY HOMES AND ZONING:** C. Tysz let the council know the whole ordinance needs to be overhauled.
- E. CONTAINERS:** C. Jaeger moved to establish a shipping container moratorium in the city until the council can adopt a new ordinance addressing containers. There was discussion. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. There was discussion. Atty Hanson said he was not sure it was enforceable without an ordinance. There was discussion. C. Fletcher and C. Hale voted no. C. Tysz, Prince, Jaeger, Ausmus and Martin voted yes. The motion passed.
- F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Schulz called Executive Session at 7:15 P.M for 5 minutes to evaluate the Willard Field runway bid. Mayor Schulz closed Executive Session at 7:24 P.M.
- G. WILLARD FIELD BID UPDATE:** C. Hale moved to reject current bids and solicit new bids. C. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. APPROVE JUB INVOICE FOR AIRPORT GRANT:** C. Hale moved to approve the current JUB invoice. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- I. BOND MATURITY DISCUSSION:** Harrison Stenberg from TVI explained via video chat the options for reinvesting the bond that is coming into maturity at the end of May. C. Hale moved to reinvest in a bond for 3 years at 4.45 percent with up to a 10-basis point lower floor being acceptable if rates changed. C. Ausmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- J. EMPIRE THEATRE RE: TAKING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER:** Tammy Mendoza proposed the Empire Theatre committee take over the management of the community center as well as the theatre. There was discussion. They would like to take over the management right away. There was discussion. The Empire Theatre board will come back with a proposal with specifics.

XI. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

B. STAFF REPORT: Clerk Evans-Teague let the council know the Six Year Transportation Hearing will be June 3.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS: C. Hale reported on the airport runway renovation progress, and Slippery Gulch prep with the chamber, and C. Martin reported on the EMS/Ambulance status. He also reported on the cemetery board and endowment, as well as possible cemetery projects. C. Prince asked about the sewer budget. There was discussion about bid proposal wording. C. Tysz would like to see the wood along the bridge site removed ASAP.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Brad Chandler reported that Lynd, WA has a surplus sweeper available. He also cautioned about limiting the property rights of the individual.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

C. Hale moved to adjourn. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer