

**City of Tekoa**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*Monday – September 23, 2024, 6 P.M.*  
**Tekoa City Hall**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Mayor Schulz led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. ROLL CALL:**
- MAYOR SCHULZ: present  
CM MANDI PRINCE: present  
CM MARGIE JAEGER: present  
CM PETE MARTIN: present  
CM MIKE HALE: present  
CM SHELLY AUSMUS: present  
CM DAVE TYSZ: present  
CM LYDIA FLETCHER: present  
ATTY HANSON was also in attendance.
- IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** CM Ausmus requested to add BURN PILE and DOG TAGS to the agenda. The council voted unanimously to add these items to the agenda.
- V. SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Fletcher moved to accept the September 9, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes. CM Hale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** John Jaeger spoke about Dana Wilkinson’s water meter assembly damage. He believes that Dana Wilkinson’s water meter should have been turned on sooner. He would like to see the council establish a timeframe for re-establishing water service. He would like all meters to be certified. Reid Smith is a certified quality auditor. He said that council needs to have objective viewpoints vs. subjective viewpoints when they evaluate ordinances and consider city business.
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** None.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. CARGO CONTAINER ORDINANCE PROPOSAL:** Mayor Schulz noted that we have ordinances in place that deal with whatever uses cargo containers will be used for. Simply add containers to those uses, i.e. the different kinds of zoning. CM Ausmus said that it is not clear how containers need to be treated, so she believes the city should move forward with addressing some of the issues that came up. There was extended discussion.

**B. WATER METER ORDINANCE CLARIFICATION:** CM Ausmus distributed suggested changes to the current water meter ordinances. CM Hale would like to have it on the agenda for the next meeting to vote on. CM Ausmus moved to approve the ordinance. CM Martin seconded it. There were questions about the meter at Dana Wilkinson's. The mayor spoke about the possibility of including language re: consequences for breaking the meter. There was discussion about the Wilkinson meter and whether the new language is appropriate or needed. Atty. Hanson spoke to the statute of limitations and recommended not limiting the city's ability to enforce ordinances further. There was discussion. CM Jaeger would like to add timelines to the ordinance. There was additional discussion. Yes votes- CM Ausmus, Martin and Jaeger, No votes- CM Hale, Fletcher, Tysz and Prince. Motion fails and the item will be on the next agenda.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. TRIPLE D CENTENNIAL FARMS SANITARY EASEMENT:** CM Ausmus moved to approve the Triple D Centennial Farms easement. CM Prince seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- B. APPROVE CENTURY WEST WWTP PLANNING EXPENSE REQUEST:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the billing request. CM Hale moved to approve the Century West WWTP planning expense request, Fletcher seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously
- C. JUB: TIM IKE: APPROVE WSDOT GRANT AWARD FOR WILLARD FIELD:** Tim Ike updated the council and public that the city has been awarded the WSDOT aviation construction grant that was applied for. CM Hale is working with the Port of Whitman re: the city's matching grant. His understanding is that we are basically approved through the POW, and he let the council know the match for the city would be \$43,986.06, including the \$5,000 rebid fee and a \$2,500 administration fee. Tim Ike explained the contingencies. There was discussion. CM Hale let the council know there is a timeline. CM Fletcher moved to approve receiving the grant contingent on grant-match assistance from the Port of Whitman and approval of the contract rate by the contractor. The motion passed unanimously. Tim Ike explained the process.
- D. ORDINANCE 894: BUDGET AMENDMENT & CREATION OF FUND:** Clerk Evans-Teague explained the ordinance. CM Fletcher moved to adopt Ordinance 894. CM Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- E. SNOWPLOW BLADE BIDS:** Steven Thomas explained he is the only city employee with a CDL (Commercial Driver's License). When the big snowplow is loaded with gravel, it is overweight for a non-CDL employee. He explained the new plow blade would enable the city to have an additional employee in the lower weight truck. Steven explained what articulating wings provide on the plow. There was extended discussion. CM Tysz moved to accept the lowest bid for the snowplow blade. CM Hale seconded the motion. CM Ausmus abstained and CM Martin, Tysz, Fletcher, Prince, Jaeger and Hale voted yes.
- F. CEMETERY ENDOWMENT REQUEST:** CM Martin explained the state of the Goldenrod Perpetual Care Endowment. It is in good shape and designated into disbursement funds and growth funds. He thought all aspects of the cemetery functioning were going well. Clerk Evans/Teague explained the city is making a funding request to the committee. Mayor Schulz

explained the process. CM Martin explained how the endowment committee will be evaluating proposals going forward as well as suggesting new projects to the city. There was discussion. CM Ausmus moved to approve the request. CM Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. CURRENT STATUS OF GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE:** CM Martin reported that the groundskeeper realized he doesn't have time to work on the clubhouse project. CM Martin will go forward with the process of defining the projects and getting bids for the various needs to report to the Port of Whitman. There was discussion about timelines and needs.

**H. BURN PILE:** CM Ausmus would like the council to consider removing the \$1 fee for the burn pile. She would like that added to the agenda next meeting. CM Tysz supported the monthly charge citing the expenses involved in maintaining the burn pile. There was discussion.

**I. DOG TABS:** Postponed until the next meeting.

#### **IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz suggested raising sewer rates for next year at \$2/month. He also reported the deputy clerk gave her two weeks' notice that she will be leaving for a new position. He will include the council in the hiring process.

**B. STAFF REPORT:** Clerk Evans-Teague reported on attending the recent WFOA conference.

**J. COUNCIL REPORTS:** CM Hale reported that Tekoa Chamber is planning a music festival, "Wheatstalk," on Oct. 26, at the Empire Theatre. CM Fletcher read her resignation as she is taking an appointment in Texas. CM Jaeger confirmed council involvement in the employment and council processes. CM Martin mentioned the interpretive panels from the .09 grant. He will go to the next Parks and Rec. meeting to seek approval for placing the interpretive panels. CM Ausmus reported on Parks and Rec.; the pool had a good summer, and they have received a large grant for new playground equipment for Gymkanna and Ruhl Park equipment. Parks and Rec. would like to suggest permanent bathrooms at the Gymkanna Grounds when .09 grant season comes around. Parks and Rec. would like the city to put up a bigger sign for the pool. CM Ausmus reported on growth in Tekoa for employment, housing and community. CM Tysz asked about the Lift Station. Steven Thomas spoke about some of the programming changes for the Lift Station. There were questions about flow.

**X. MAYOR AND COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS AND NEW INITIATIVES:** None.

**XI. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** CM Martin moved to approve EFT payroll and checks 17374-17392 totaling \$83,262.14 and EFT payroll and checks 17393-17430 totaling \$158,141.94. CM Hale seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The mayor set executive session at 8:05 P.M. for 30 minutes and the subject is personnel. Executive session adjourned at 8:35 P.M. The council would like to clarify the ethics policy at the next meeting.

**XIII. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Kathi Houston clarified CM Ausmus' housing developments comments. She also noted that time to discuss issues needing further consideration should be allowed regardless of an individual council member's opinion. CM Ausmus clarified

with Atty. Hanson re: whether the sidewalk snow removal issue was illegal vs. inadvisable. The attorney said, *\*“The council did nothing illegal.”* There was discussion.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Ausmus moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 8:38 P.M.

*\*changes added by the Tekoa City Council, 10-7-2024.*

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Eliza M. Evans-Teague– Clerk/Treasurer