

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – March 9, 2026 - 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 DAN THOMAS: Present.
CM MARGIE JAEGER: Present.
CM PETE MARTIN: Present.
CM MIKE HALE: Present.
CM SHELLY AUSMUS: Present.
CM DAVE TYSZ: Present.
CM REID SMITH: Present.
ATTY. BISHOP: Present.
- IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** CM Ausmus asked to add Spring clean-up dumpster rental.
- V. February 17, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Hale moved to accept the February 17, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. CM Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** There were none.
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** There were none.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. UNION CONTRACT:** CM Martin reported things are moving along and they will have another meeting on the 16th with both parties.
- B. GOLF COURSE REMODEL:** CM Martin said the mayor talked to the Port of Whitman and they will help with the remodel. Three bids were presented for siding and windows and CM Martin explained them. Kara Reibold from the Port of Whitman said she will attend the April 6 meeting to talk about this.
- C. GOLF COURSE LEASE AGREEMENT:** Mayor Schulz said they are continuing negotiations with the golf course. CM Ausmus recommends charging them \$1,000.00 a year. CM Hale suggested \$1,200.00 a year, and they pay for water to the club house. CM Hale suggested we wait to see what they offer at negotiations. CM Ausmus made a motion to raise the golf course lease to \$1,200.00 a year, and they pay for the potable water. There was not a second on the motion. There was discussion about the amount of insurance the city pays for liability. Browning will bring the policy to the next meeting for the council to review.

- D. STREET LEVY PAVING PROJECT COSTS:** Steven Thomas contacted the contractor Motley and Motley and received a bid for \$94,000.00 to pave. He will continue to reach out to contractors to get additional bids. The streets on the list are: Roosevelt, Crosby, Ross and Broadway.
- E. BROWN VARIANCE FOR LIVING IN TRAILER:** Mayor Schulz said that we are at 30 days and they are still living in their trailer. CM Ausmus suggested we give them a written warning and that we expect them to move out within the next 30 days.
- F. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE WAGE:** Mayor Schulz said he asked the council about giving the cemetery employees a raise to \$20.00 an hour from \$18.00 an hour. He explained how the endowment pays part of the wages and then explained other costs the endowment pays for. We are still obligated to pay a portion of the wages and costs. CM Martin said he talked to the endowment committee and they agreed. Mayor Schulz said he would like to consider purchasing equipment, so they don't have to use their own equipment. CM Hale made a motion to increase the cemetery wages to \$20.00 an hour. CM Ausmus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- G. WIFIBER OFFER FOR OLD CITY SHOP:** Wifiber presented an offer to purchase the old city shop and Mayor Schulz said we have had a bid from them. They will go into executive session to talk about the offer.
- H. 250th BIRTHDAY OF THE COUNTRY CELEBRATION (PLANNING COMMITTEE):** Mayor Schulz asked if anyone has any ideas of what to do for a celebration. The chamber is suggesting they do it at a separate time than Slippery Gulch.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. DATE FOR SECOND MEETING IN MARCH:** Mayor Schulz reported we are in the process of getting information to install equipment for remote access for interpreters for our meeting. He discussed dates for the next meeting. After discussion, CM Hale suggested we forgo the other March meeting. CM Tysz made a motion to have the next meeting on April 6. CM Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. PURCHASE GAS IN-LEIU OF MILEAGE:** Browning said the mayor has used his travel budget to go to two meetings on the west side. She is requesting permission for him to purchase gas in lieu of mileage so he can attend upcoming meetings for the city. There was discussion. CM Ausmus made a motion to reimburse paying for gas and look at the gas expenses every three or four months, if permitted by state guidelines. Browning will check with the state. CM Jaeger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. UPGRADE FOR MAINTENANCE TRUCK:** Mayor Schulz said the white flatbed is on its last leg. Steven Thomas reported the town truck has 299,000 miles. There are multiple things wrong with it. He took it to Brian Hay, and he said he already worked on it, and it will cost at least \$7,000 to repair it. Thomas is suggesting we buy a used service truck with locking cabinets for up to \$35,000. There was discussion. Mayor Schulz said we will have to see if we must put it out to bid. We will investigate what we must do legally and bring the information back to the council.
- D. BANNING THE SALE OF KRATOM IN TEKOA:** CM Smith presented information about Kratom. He said it is being sold in the grocery store in Tekoa and that it is not for human consumption. He would like Tekoa to make an ordinance to ban the sale of it. There was discussion.

CM Ausmus asked CM Smith if he can get a sample ordinance from Spokane to ban the sale of Kratom in Tekoa.

- E. DUMPSTER FOR TOWN CLEAN-UP:** CM Ausmus said the last few years we have provided a dumpster for the community clean up week, but suggested we take a break from it this year. CM Hale said that there is someone in town that will haul people's stuff for them. He also thinks we should take a break this year. Browning mentioned Empire Disposal will pick up appliances for a reasonable fee.

Mayor Schulz reported that they will go into executive session from 7:08 to 7:25 to discuss property. The meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

CM Ausmus made a motion to hire an appraiser for the old city shop and the old city hall. CM Hale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

- A. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz asked if we want to fog mosquitoes this year. CM Tysz said he would get certified to fog. There was discussion about bees getting killed by the fogging. The mayor asked the council who is in favor of fogging, and they all said they are in favor. CM Ausmus said that she thinks one of our employees should get certified in the future.

Mayor Schulz reported that the Innovia Conference is on the 16th and 17th of March in Spokane and three of us will be attending. Schulz will also be attending a federal conference in the Tri-Cities.

He reported they will have extra dirt from the Port of Whitman airport project, so if anyone needs dirt, let them know where they can put it.

CM Ausmus asked about the wage for the maintenance person that we are advertising for. The wage is the same as the last person hired, \$22.00 to \$30.00 an hour depending on experience.

There was discussion about asking for the .09 money for the theatre. Mayor Schulz will talk to them and get back to the council depending on the timeline.

Upper Columbia Academy people are offering to come and clean up for the city. The mayor asked CM Ausmus and CM Jaeger to look for properties to clean up when they come.

- B. STAFF REPORT:** Browning went over the financial statements with the council.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:

- CM Hale talked about a pilot asking about the length of the runway.
- CM Tysz said he will be attending a meeting in Wenatchee on the 27th for Mayor Pro-tempore.
- CM Ausmus will be attending an upcoming quarterly meeting with the care center. She also talked about cleaning up for Slippery Gulch, including picking up garbage along the highway and thanked the Jaegers, Kim Schulz and others for years of spearheading this. She asked on behalf of a citizen about the length of sewer pipe on the back of city hall. Steven Thomas said he will look at it.
- CM Martin talked about having a formal bike event in July utilizing the trestle.
- CM Martin asked if there will be council members on the hiring committee for the new maintenance person. Mayor Schulz said he will have two members on the committee.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Steve Haxton spoke about mileage reimbursement and spending for union contract legal fees.

Brent Babb and Kimber Douglas talked about their water bill and the fact that it didn't have any usage on it. He also said he wasn't here to disrupt Tekoa, and he apologized for the disruption last time.

X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS: CM Ausmus moved to approve EFT payroll and voided check number 18353, check numbers 18232-18248, 18355 to 18357, 18358-18354 in the amount of \$111,112.85. CM Hale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: CM Hale made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. CM Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Kynda Browning - Clerk/Treasurer