

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday –April 20, 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: Absent.

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: Absent.

IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:

V. April 6, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: CM Ausmus moved to accept the April 6, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. CM Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Steve Smith reported he put the red behind the lettering on the Welcome Sign. The council thanked him.

Amie Czarnota and Ester Brown both talked about Browns living on the property on Crosby Street.

B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES: There were none.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. DONAVON CHASE – FIRE DEPT/FIRE DISTRICT ANNEXATION: Donavon Chase presented information needed to annex the city fire department into the district. CM Ausmus wondered what the cost will be to the city to put it on the ballot in August. There was discussion. CM Hale made a motion to approve Proposition 1 for the Annexation of the City of Tekoa Fire Department in the Whitman County Fire Protection District 1. CM Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Schulz did a roll call: CM Martin – yes, CM Hale – yes, CM Jaeger – yes, CM Smith – yes, CM Tysz – yes, CM Ausmus no. The motion passed. CM Ausmus said she voted no because she would like to have the amount the ballot will cost when it is on the August ballot, and she would like it on the November ballot.

CM Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 911 stating the intent of the city to annex into Whitman County Fire Protection District No. 1. CM Martin seconded the motion. Mayor Schulz

did a roll call: CM Martin – yes, CM Hale – yes, CM Jaeger – yes, CM Smith – yes, CM Tysz – yes and CM Ausmus – no. The motion passed.

There was additional discussion about transferring \$20,000 for 2027 to the fire district. It was decided to discuss this after we see if it passes.

- B. RV ON CROSBY STREET:** Mayor Schulz said he has been talking to Mike Bogenreif, Code Enforcement officer, about the RV being lived in on Crosby Street, and he is handling it for now. He said he also called MRSC to get legal advice. They said this must be discussed in executive session with our attorney present, and he will need to talk to each council member individually to let them know what is happening.
- C. MAYOR TO MEETING:** Mayor Schulz reported he was already signed up for the Labor Relations meeting in May and we can't get out of it. CM Hale suggested we transfer the building inspector training budget to the mayor's budget. CM Ausmus said she is concerned the building inspector hasn't received training for years and would like it to stay where it is. CM Tysz asked what the mayor will get out of attending this meeting. Mayor Schulz asked AWC what he will learn, and they told him he would know how to address what we are going through with the union. CM Hale said he will also learn how to deal with a contractual issue with an employee. After additional discussion, CM Martin made a motion to increase the mayor's training budget by the amount needed to pay for the registration, and we can look at other classes in the future. CM Hale seconded the motion. Mayor Schulz did a roll call: CM Martin – yes, CM Hale – yes, CM Jaeger – yes, CM Smith – yes, CM Tysz – yes, CM Ausmus – no. The motion passed. CM Ausmus said she wants to clarify why she voted no: because she would like him to pick and choose what he would like to attend.
- D. UNION CONTRACT:** CM Martin reported they sent their recommendations to their negotiator and are waiting to hear back.
- E. HARRASMENT ORDINANCE:** Dave Tysz reported they don't have the information at the attorney's office and we will work on it.
- F. GOLF COURSE REMODEL:** CM Martin reported we met with Avista on the golf course. We sent the bids to Chris from Avista. Browning will get the bids to the council and we will put this on the next agenda. There was discussion about the importance of the golf course fund raiser.
- G. 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE COUNTRY CELEBRATION (PLANNING COMMITTEE):** CM Ausmus talked to Joel Doupe said he will do something to help celebrate the 250th birthday. They will combine the cars and the theatre.
- H. STREET LEVY PAVING PROJECT COSTS:** Matt Morkert discussed this under new business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. MATT MORKERT – TIB GRANT UPDATE:** Matt Morkert was in attendance and said we opened bids on April 3, 2026, and they came in lower than the last chip seal project. He talked to TIB about using the additional funds that are in the grant and he listed the streets that can be added. We will give TIB the list and get a final ok on this. We need to award the project to the lowest bidder, Arrow Concrete & Asphalt Specialties (base bid plus additive alternate A and B) for \$242,785.07. CM Hale made a motion to award the TIB contract to Arrow Concrete & Asphalt for \$242,785.07. CM Ausmus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CM Martin asked about people having their apron done in front of their house. Matt Morkert said we will send something to people to let them know they can contact the company if they want to get some work done.

Matt Morkert presented the supplemental agreement for the consultant, Community Engineering and Consulting. CM Hale made a motion to approve the amended Consultant Supplemental Agreement for \$72,836. CM Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt Morkert talked about the well project at the Port Airport property. He said they are moving forward with the project.

Matt Morkert said he contacted Century West to update the plans for the sewer project, so it can go to ecology for their review. CM Ausmus asked them about finishing the plans and she asked about hiring an engineer for the project. Morkert explained we will put out an RFQ to select an engineer either for individual projects or for several projects. He said there are two more steps for the sewer plant. The plans must be finished and then we will move into the design phase. The city will have to approve the plan, then it will go to ecology, and they have two periods of 60 days to review it. It will be this fall at the earliest before the plans are approved. Then it will take a year at least to do design. He talked about property acquisition for either land application or purchasing property for a lagoon. We must present both options to ecology for the design. CM Tysz asked if we have the I and I under control. Morkert said Steven Thomas is working on this. Mayor Schulz asked if there is something we can do to get Century West to get the plan done. Morkert said we can send a letter and say this has been under review and let them know we need to have this done by June 1st, or whatever we would like to set as the deadline. Browning asked what the design award is. Morkert said we have been awarded design, and it is 50/50 loan and budget for about 1.5 million.

B. RUNWAY LIGHTING EXPENSE APPROVAL: CM Hale said we received three bids for the runway lighting. We received two from American Pride Electric, one for \$11,728.35, the other one for \$17,122.65 and then one from Power City Electric for \$79,684.80. CM Ausmus made a motion to approve the funds to get the runway lights done and to accept the bid from American Pride Electric for \$11,728.35. CM Tysz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. BUILDING INSPECTOR FEES: We are postponing this to the May meeting.

D. AWC EVENT IN MAY: Mayor Schulz said that they will be having a Small City Connectors meeting at the community center on May 18. He said the council can go online to sign up for it.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz said we have Kevin Turnbough scheduled to fog for mosquitoes. We will be fogging three times a week after dark for at least a few weeks. He also reported that our new employee, John Lahey, will be taking the test to get his mosquito license.

He talked about a social media conference he attended.

B. STAFF REPORT: Browning went over the budget position.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS: CM Tysz said he has been traveling around the state and sees that we will need to put more money into the training budget for the mayor, council and staff. CM Hale asked that we put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

CM Ausmus talked about the UCC kids volunteering. She said she really loves Tekoa and the way they came together to help Sean McCurdy. She also talked about the sewer project at the school and

the way people help with things. She wonders if our legal needs are being met and if we have a contract that is done every year. She talked about different options. She asked if the mayor would be ok with a committee to talk about options. He said it is something we can explore. CM Ausmus said she will bring suggestions.

CM Martin said the dinner and theatre with Oakesdale was a good thing. He said the interpreter signs are looking good. He is working on a bicycling and walking event on the trail on July 25th.

CM Jaeger asked when the pizza place will be opening. CM Hale said it is supposed to open within a month.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Steve Haxton stated his opinion about a council member badgering the mayor.

Mrs. Brown talked about the work they have done on the property and asked if they can meet with the mayor to talk about the timeline for them to move.

X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS: CM Hale moved to approve EFT payroll for \$11,923.98 and voided check number 18476, check numbers 18475 and 18477 to 18522 in the amount of \$27,833.14. CM Ausmus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: CM Ausmus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. CM Hale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Kynda Browning - Clerk/Treasurer