

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday –April 6, 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: Absent.
- IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:**
- V. March 9, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES and March 13, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Hale moved to accept the March 9, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. CM Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CM Hale moved to accept the March 13, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes. CM Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Adam Matthews talked about the harassment ordinance not being done and that it has been on the table for 6 months. He also said the trailer with the variance hasn't been moved.
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** There were none.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. UNION CONTRACT:** CM Martin reported the management committee has been meeting regularly and are hoping to come to agreement soon. CM Ausmus said they are 85% done with the negotiations with the union. CM Martin said he thinks they have spent about \$12,000.00.
- B. HARRASMENT ORDINANCE:** Mayor Schulz said we currently don't have an attorney available. CM Ausmus said they have a sample from another city that CM Tysz has, and asked him to bring it back

- C. **GOLF COURSE REMODEL:** Mayor Schulz said they will be meeting with Avista for them to see if they can help with the windows and siding on the clubhouse.
- D. **GOLF COURSE LEASE AGREEMENT:** After discussion, CM Ausmus made a motion to move the lease for the golf course to \$1200/yr and have them pay for the water starting May 1st, with a 3-year lease and any increases or decreases will be based on the 3-year average of the CPI. CM Tysz and CM Jaeger voted no. CM Smith, CM Thomas, CM Hale, CM Ausmus and CM Martin voted yes. The motion passed.
- E. **250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE COUNTRY CELEBRATION (PLANNING COMMITTEE):** There was discussion.
- F. **SURPLUS ITEM RESOLUTION:** This was postponed.
- G. **STREET LEVY PAVING PROJECT COSTS:** Browning reported the bids for the TIB project were opened and the bids came in low. Steven Thomas will be putting together a list of additional roads to add to the project so they can be presented to TIB for funding.
- H. **BROWN VARIANCE FOR LIVING IN TRAILER:** A letter was sent to the Brown's telling them they have to be moved out of their trailer by April 13, 2026. There was discussion about our ordinance that says they will have to pay \$250.00 a day for every day they occupy the trailer after the 13th. Browning will write another letter to them explaining this.
- I. **UTILIZATION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:** Mayor Schulz asked CM Jaeger if she is interested in being the liaison for the community center. She said she would do it. He talked about her helping to find someone to clean it.
- J. **WIFIBER OFFER FOR OLD CITY SHOP:** The mayor reported he is still looking for someone to give an appraisal before we countered the Wifiber offer. This will be put on the April 20th agenda.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **KARA RIEBOL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PORT OF WHITMAN:** Kara Riebol was in attendance to give the council an update on the Tekoa Mountain Business Park. They are planning the groundbreaking in May. The Port Commissioners adopted a strategic plan and she gave copies to the council.
- B. **DONAVON CHASE – FIRE DEPT/FIRE DISTRICT ANNEXATION:** Donavon Chase was in attendance to talk about annexing the fire department into the district. If the council and fire district decide to do it, they will both sign a resolution, and then it will go to the vote of the county and the city residents. This will keep it status quo for 2027. He will attend the April 20 meeting to present the resolution.
- C. **MAYOR EDUCATION BUDGET:** Mayor Schulz shared he used most of his budget to attend conferences and he has several more he would like to go to this year, including an upcoming one on labor relations. It was clarified that his budget is \$700, not \$500 and he has over \$250 left. There was discussion about what conferences were essential and benefited the city. There was also discussion about the mayor's versus the council's role in labor negotiations. CM Jaeger asked if he would consider his \$400 monthly stipend along with his conference budget when determining what he could afford to attend. CM Thomas made a motion to increase his budget by \$400.00. CM Hale seconded the motion. The mayor asked for a roll call vote. CM Ausmus voted no, CM Tysz voted

no, CM Thomas voted yes, CM Smith voted yes, CM Jaeger voted no, CM Hale voted yes and CM Martin voted no. The motion failed.

D. JOHN LAHEY NEW EMPLOYEE: Mayor Schulz said that we hired John Lahey as the new public employee. He lives in Plummer and his kids go to school here. He will start tomorrow and will be paid \$28.00 per hour.

E. DISCUSSION ABOUT DEPOSIT FOR CUSTOMER WHO WENT BANKRUPT: Browning reported we have a utility customer who went bankrupt and we weren't able to collect their debt. They moved back into the house and we started the utilities again. There was discussion about charging a deposit for people who have defaulted on their utility bill.

F. APPROVE PAYMENT FOR BILLS PAID TO CE&C: Browning presented the bills to be paid to CE&C for the TIB project and the SWSMP update. CM Hale made a motion to approve paying CE&C for their bills. CM Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. MOSQUITO FOGGING: There was discussion about Kevin Turnbough getting his mosquito license renewed. The mayor said his plan is for John Lahey to get certified.

H. SOUND SYSTEM FOR INTERPRETER: Mayor Schulz talked to Donavon Chase and said in the event we need an interpreter, we would like to know what Wifiber would do to install the equipment for a remote interpreter. There was discussion. We will reach out to him if Mayor Schulz finds out we need an interpreter.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz said he and CM Martin will attend a meeting at the golf course with Avista on Thursday.

C. STAFF REPORT: Browning talked about the great job the employees do.

D. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:

-CM Smith said the restrooms were a mess on Saturday. The mayor will check on it.

-CM Thomas said he agrees with Browning that Steven Thomas does a great job.

-CM Ausmus asked what is needed for the upcoming volunteer day with the Upper Columbia Academy. She and CM Jaeger are working on getting a list of projects.

-CM Martin said he received a call that there was a sewer leak at the golf course. Steven Thomas looked at it and it was just ground water.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Steve Haxton shared his opinions on deposits for utilities, the mayor's education budget, and the golf course lease.

X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS: CM Ausmus moved to approve EFT payroll and voided check numbers 18414, 18415, and 18433 check numbers 18416 to 18473. Claims totaling- \$130,186.32 and Payroll totaling – \$38,036.12. CM Hale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: CM Ausmus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. CM Hale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Kynda Browning - Clerk/Treasurer