

**City of Tekoa**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*Monday –May 4, 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:** Absent.  
**CM SHELLY AUSMUS:** Present.  
**CM DAVE TYSZ:** Present.  
**CM REID SMITH:** Present.  
**ATTY. BISHOP:** Present.

- IV. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** There were none.

- V. **April 20, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Martin moved to accept the April 20, 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:** Darlene Pearson said she is thankful for CM Jaeger and CM Ausmus scheduling the kids from UCA to clean her yard.

Adam Matthews said the harassment ordinance is not on the agenda and the harassment has started again in his neighborhood. He is encouraging the council to create and put the harassment ordinance in place.

Laurie Overton talked about a fentanyl awareness program that will be held on May 14, at 6:30 P.M., at the high school.

- B. **COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** Jennifer Olsen was in attendance to talk about Healthy Tekoa Coalition. She passed out information about their upcoming audit and their end-of-year celebration.

- C. **CASEY LOWDER – PINE CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT:** Casey Lowder was in attendance to give the council information about the Pine Creek Conservation District. They are working on wildfire conservancy and forest health. He said they purchased a chipper and would like to offer it to all the towns in their district for both the town and individuals. He will send information to make an interlocal agreement with the City of Tekoa. The only cost is an hour meter, and we split the cost with the other towns that use it. He talked about the Riparian Habitat Grant

that we applied for to improve the habitat on Hangman Creek. He is proposing a low-tech project with weed control and then coming in and planting trees and shrubs. The other piece is on education and outreach to our community. CM Ausmus asked what the overall benefit of planting in this location is. He said it's a wildlife habitat, and he is recommending planting woody plants. He said they would plant and maintain it for 3 to 4 years and the need for maintenance keeps being lessened.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. RV ON CROSBY STREET:** Mayor Schulz and the council recessed into executive session to discuss a legal issue for 15 minutes, from 7:10 to 7:25 P.M. The mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:25 P.M.
- B. GOLF COURSE REMODEL:** Mayor Schulz said the council has the information in their packet from Avista. He is waiting to hear back from Avista with more information.
- C. BUILDING INSPECTOR FEES:** CM Ausmus talked about the revenue we received from building permits from 2021 through 2026. She asked if the council would like to consider changing the process for building inspection, either having the building inspector from Rosalia or paying the building inspector based on the number of times the home is inspected. She asked the council to consider this and said it will be on the May 20 agenda.
- D. TRAINING BUDGET:** The mayor announced he received a grant for the workshop, hotel and mileage from AWC for the workshop he is attending on Labor Negotiations in Wenatchee.
- E. STREET LEVEY PAVING PROJECT COSTS:** We haven't received any additional information concerning this.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. MONEY FROM LGIP TO BANNER BANK (Haleigh Varney):** Browning said that Haleigh Varney is in attendance from Banner Bank to discuss putting our LGIP savings into their bank. She is requesting that we put \$500,000 from the LGIP and \$150,000 from our checking account with an interest rate of 3.75% into their savings. After discussion, CM Smith made a motion to approve putting \$500,000 from the LGIP and \$150,000 from the checking account at Banner Bank into the savings account at Banner Bank for 3.75% interest. This amount will be good until we withdraw to the point where we have less than \$500,000 in the savings account. CM Thomas seconded the motion. CM Ausmus said she has concerns about having to decide on this so quickly. Haleigh Varney said she only has permission to extend this offer for a few more days. Mayor Schulz did a roll call vote: CM Martin – abstained, CM Smith – yes, CM Jaeger – yes, CM Tysz – yes, CM Thomas – yes, and CM Ausmus – yes. Motion passed.
- B. CONTRACTOR TO BURN PILE – FEE:** We will discuss this at the May 20 meeting.
- C. RESOLUTION TO INCREASE SEWER RATES:** Browning told the council we will need to increase sewer rates to get the maximum grant for the sewer plant when we start updating it in a few years. She presented an updated resolution raising the sewer \$10 per month. CM Ausmus talked about the people that live outside the city that get our water and sewer, because they only pay \$6 more than the city residents. There was discussion about them annexing into the city. She would like to have a discussion about the rate they pay at the May 20, 2026, council meeting.

- D. APPROVE REALTOR TO SELL BUILDINGS:** CM Martin made a motion to sell the Old City Shop and the Old City Hall buildings with the realtor, Rob Hudkins. CM Jaeger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. APPROVE CE&C BILLS FOR TIB AND SWSMP:** CM Tysz made a motion to approve bill No. 1076 for the SWSMP Update and bill No. 1077 for the TIB Pavement Preservation Project. CM Ausmus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE NO. 912:** CM Martin made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 912 transferring \$35,000 from the CE fund to the Street fund. CM Tysz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:**

- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Mr. Chandler said the bond market is soft, and it will probably go down with the new federal chair. He told the council they did the right thing by putting the money into Banner Bank savings with a set interest rate.
- B. MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Schulz said he talked to CM Jaeger about taking over the community center and hiring someone to clean it. He said there are people interested in doing it, but they want more than we are offering to pay. CM Jaeger will look into getting someone.

Mayor Schulz said there will be an AWC Small City Connectors meeting at the community center on May 18. Browning will sign up the council members that would like to attend.

The mayor reported that groundbreaking at Tekoa Industrial Park will be May 14, at 11:00 A.M.

CM Ausmus asked about the Riparian Habitat project on the creek and wondered if it is a long or short-term gain. There was discussion.

- C. STAFF REPORT:** Browning went over the budget position.

**D. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS:**

~CM Thomas said he thinks it would be a good thing to get the chipper from the Pine Creek Conservation District.

~CM Martin reported Melinda Wilkins has been working on the storybook stands.

~CM Smith said he may be absent from the next two meetings because his wife is having a medical procedure.

~CM Jaeger reported the Upper Columbia Academy students are coming to help people with their yards.

- X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS:** CM Ausmus moved to approve EFT payroll for \$2,537.97 from April 1, 2026, and voided check numbers 18492 through 18499, EFT payroll and checks and check numbers 18479 through 18491 and 18500 through 18510 and 18523 through 18528 of \$47,873.59. CM Jaeger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** CM Ausmus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 P.M. CM Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVED:**

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Roy Schulz - Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Kynda Browning - Clerk/Treasurer