

City of Tekoa
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday – January 5, 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. HANSON: Absent.
- IV. OATHS OF OFFICE:** Clerk Evans-Teague swore in CM Thomas, Hale, Ausmus, Tysz and Smith.
- V. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** None.
- VI. DECEMBER 15, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** CM Ausmus moved to accept the December 15, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes. CM Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- A. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Steve Haxton commented on the processes that lead to employee resignations.
- B. COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES:** None.
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- A. UNION CONTRACT:** CM Martin reported that negotiations are in progress. Mayor Schulz asked about accrued negotiating costs. CM Martin thinks about 1/3 of the \$10,000 budget remains.
- B. NOISE ORDINANCE:** Atty. Hanson is expected at the next meeting with the noise ordinance he has worked on. The mayor commented on the difficulty of crafting changes to this ordinance and invited comment. There was discussion. Having a general targeted harassment policy was discussed. CM Tysz will contact Atty. Hanson to discuss this.
- C. WWTP FACILITIES PLAN:** Matt Morkert will be here at the next meeting to address the council's questions. CM Tysz had comments about procuring land and modernizing the plant. He

would like to have an engineer start looking at a package plant and make sure the land is available. He also noted that the package plant option requires a class 3 certification for sewer. There was discussion. The mayor will approach the landowners near the sewer plant to see what may be feasible. There was additional discussion. Steven Thomas answered some of the questions and explained the end goals of a new plant. Steven will look at package plants to visit near us. There was extended discussion. Put option discussion on the agenda for the WWTP plant discussion.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. GOLF COURSE REMODEL:** Scott Cocking spoke about the golf course; how income is generated and how that impacts the city. The golf course committee is looking possibly at a phased way to improve the club house. He explained that there is no expertise on the committee and they are looking to the council to help facilitate grants or help improve the building and/or septic tank in some way and possibly coordinate with other services in the city. CM Martin will obtain new bids for the clubhouse. Jared Carter reported on the state of sales and memberships, building improvements, etc. There was discussion.
- B. COMMUNITY HEART & SOUL:** Alex Overton updated the city on Community Heart & Soul. The application for Tekoa has been submitted and now they need a resolution of support from the city. She will give the template to the clerk and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting for the council to officially approve. Now CH&S is entering into the data collection phase to see what is important to the community. There was discussion.
- C. WHITMAN RECOVERY COMMUNITY REQUEST:** Whitman Recovery Community wrote to request permission to place a distribution box for Narcan in the community. There was discussion. The mayor will talk to the owners of the store to see if this is a possible location.
- D. PAYMENT REQUESTS CE&C/JUB:** CM Ausmus moved to pay the CE & C invoice #1025 for \$1,170.00. CM Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. CM Ausmus moved to pay JUB invoice #192007 for \$1073.60. CM Hale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- E. CLERK/TREASURER APPOINTMENT ORDINANCE:** CM Martin spoke about the RCW re: the appointment of the Clerk/Treasurer. There was discussion. CM Ausmus moved to accept the terms put forth by CM Martin. There was discussion. CM Ausmus amended the motion to accept the items 1,3 and 5 from CM Martin's proposal and put them in an ordinance. CM Tysz seconded the motion. CM Thomas voted no. CM Hale, Smith, Tysz, Jaeger and Martin voted yes. The motion carried.
- F. UPDATE ON CLERK/TREASURER HIRING PROCESS:** CM Ausmus asked where things are in process for hiring a new clerk/treasurer. Mayor Schulz clarified the process.
- G. CLERK/TREASURER JOB DESCRIPTION:** CM Ausmus submitted a description describing the role of Clerk/Treasurer. There was discussion. CM Martin moved to accept the job description with the exception of making the IIMC certification recommended. CM Jaeger seconded the motion. CM Hale voted no. CM Thomas abstained. CM Smith, Tysz, Jaeger, Martin and Ausmus voted yes. The motion carried. There was discussion re: moving the regular meeting to January 13 in consideration of the holiday the following Monday, as well as other issues. CM Martin moved to meet on January 13, 2026. CM Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schulz reported that there are a good number of applicants for the clerk/treasurer position. He will be going to a conference mid- next week to a small city advisory committee and AWC meeting for mayors to meet with legislators. AWC would like to host a small city connector in Tekoa in May.

B. STAFF REPORT: Annual report review is back. Clerk Evans-Teague will forward it to the council to look over for the next meeting. Steven Thomas passed his Sewer II certification.

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS: CM Smith will be going to the fire department meeting next week. CM Tysz asked about the RR property. The Port of Whitman is still active with that property.

XII. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS: None.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Schulz called Executive Session at 8:40 P.M. for 20 minutes to discuss personnel qualifications for the open clerk/treasurer position. The mayor adjourned executive session at 9:03 P.M. CM Ausmus thanked Eliza Evans-Teague for her service as clerk-treasurer.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: CM Tysz moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Hale seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Schulz adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

APPROVED:

Roy Schulz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Eliza Evans-Teague- Clerk/Treasurer