

**TOWN OF WILSON CREEK**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 15, 2026 – remote/online meeting via Google Meet**

Council Present: Councilmember Karl Hinze, Councilmember Scott Mortimer, Councilmember Kellie Ribail, Councilmember Shirley Billings

Council Absent: Mayor Rob Herron

Staff Present: Kaci Anderson

**COUNCIL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS**

**A. Interview of Candidates for Council Position 5:** Council interviewed five candidates for the option council position #5 with K. Anderson acting as moderator. Interviews of the following candidates began at 5:00 pm: James Herreid, Ryan Scheib, Wakie Ulman, HaLee Walter, and Tessa Wright. After the interviews, K. Anderson outlined the process moving forward: Council will enter executive session at the beginning of the regular council meeting to discuss the interviews, then the candidate will be appointed during open session, to be sworn in at the next regular council meeting in May.

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**A. Open Meeting:** Mayor Pro Tem Scott Mortimer called the meeting to order at 5:58 pm and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Executive Session – RCW 42.30.110(1)(a)(h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office:** Council entered Executive Session at 6:00 pm for an estimated 15 minutes. Council re-entered Open Session at 6:15pm.

**C. Appointment of Councilmember for Position 5:** Motion made by K. Ribail, seconded by K. Hinze, and unanimously carried to appoint HaLee Walter to Council Position 5. S. Mortimer thanked all candidates for their time and interest and encouraged filing for candidacy in upcoming elections.

**D. Mayor’s Address and Maintenance/Public Works Report:** K. Anderson shared on Mayor Herron’s behalf his thanks to Dylan Denton and Tom Gross for their assistance during the water emergency in town on April 5, 2026.

**E. Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by K. Ribail, seconded by S. Billings, and carried to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on March 16, 2026.

**F. Public Comment:** None.

**G. Council Concerns and Issues:** Council discussed the following:

1. Sidewalk grant availability
2. Remaining sidewalk damage at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Railroad
3. Building/development project on Navar Street
4. Airport updates: S. Mortimer visited with CenturyWest engineer, who will provide reference to a structural engineer for a future inspection
5. Portion of Railroad Street lights remain on during daylight
6. Insurance bid: K. Anderson reported representative will be invited to May meeting
7. Council asked for the airport closure to be listed on the next meeting’s agenda
8. Updates to ongoing task list
  - i. Monument cover lid is not gone, but the sleeve has sunk. Not as urgent as originally thought.
  - ii. Damaged water box remains. Council discussed K. Anderson sharing list with Public Works.
  - iii. Pothole on Kathy Blvd: CenturyWest/TIB working on agreement to address condition of Kathy Blvd.

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- iv. Gravel for some fire hydrants is still needed. Visitor Darin Herreid offered to donate gravel.
- v. One hydrant remains needing repairs. Only seals are needed, so the hydrant is operable.
- vi. Clock repairs have made no progress.
- vii. S. Mortimer reported he requested verbiage for assistant request letters regarding Silver Jackets, FEMA flood map, etc.
- viii. Signage to address speeding concerns have been addressed in our TIB grant applications.

**H. Clerk/Treasurer Report:** K. Anderson shared information from meeting with TIB and CenturyWest regarding the upcoming grant cycle. TIB is confident in moving forward with an out-of-call agreement to address conditions of Kathy Blvd in a more timely manner. Kanniwai/Maple Street bridge issues will be included with TIB grant applications, which are due July 31 with award announcements in November, and work to be completed in 2027.

- 1. **Bills, Checks, Electronic Withdrawal & Bank Balances:** Motion made by K. Ribail, seconded by K. Hinze, and carried to approve the Town’s current fiscal status, monthly bank reconciliations, and pay the bills as follows:

<u>Accounts Payable:</u>	PAYROLL: Check #11820 – 11828 .....	\$ 2,554.16
	CLAIMS: Check #11829 – 11837 .....	\$ 3,843.73
	EFT payments .....	\$ 3,003.01
	TOTAL .....	\$ 9,400.90
<u>Bank Account Balances:</u>	U.S. Bank (as of 3/31/26) .....	\$ 253,703.38
	Grant County Treasurer (as of 3/31/26) .....	\$ 124,712.02
	TOTAL .....	\$ 378,415.40

- 2. **PUG Contract with Department of Commerce and Nexus Planning:** Motion made by K. Hinze, seconded by S. Billings, and carried to approve agreements with Department of Commerce and Nexus Planning regarding Periodic Update Grant to update the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

**I. Old Business:**

- 1. **Land Lease Agreement for 575 Railroad Street:** Motion made by S. Billings, seconded by K. Ribail, and carried to table the agreement pending updates to proposed land lease agreement as discussed.
- 2. **DOE Water Rights Discussion:** Multiple Department of Ecology Reports of Exam currently open for appeal were shared. Findings in the reports were as follows:

- “ • The proposed change will not result in an enlargement of the subject water right.
- The proposed change will not impair existing rights.
- The existing and proposed points of withdrawal draw water from the same source.
- Water is physically available at the new point of withdrawal.
- Irrigation is a beneficial use.
- Approval of this Change Application will not be detrimental to the public interest.

This infill process will relieve the pumping demand on the deep Grande Ronde aquifer and thereby help stabilize groundwater levels in the Odessa Subarea, which includes the town of Wilson Creek.” *Furthermore...*

“The town of Wilson Creek predominately relies on its shallow wells, Well 2 and Well 3. A review of the Well 3 drilling report (a.k.a. well log) indicates that the upper 60 ft are gravel and cobbles underlain by basalt and broken basalt. The well surface seal extends through the

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coarse alluvial deposits to a depth of 90 ft. The static water level (SWL) was recorded at 61 ft below ground surface indicating the likelihood that the upper portion of the basalt is likely recharged by shallow groundwater (i.e., the SWL is at the basalt-alluvium contact). Based on the well log, Well 3 was tested at 1,100 gpm with 14 ft of drawdown. The well fully recovered after 1 minute. This shallow well is extremely productive and more than capable of supplying Wilson Creek with a population of 183 people.2F3 Well 2 has a similar configuration to Well 3 and can further augment Wilson Creek supply.”

Citing report conclusions that these and related water rights applications do not pose concerns for the Town of Wilson Creek, Council reached consensus to consider this matter resolved.

**J. New Business:**

- 1. Platform Lift Battery Purchase:** Motion made by S. Billings, seconded by K. Ribail, and carried to approve the purchase of four (4) batteries for the platform lift previously approved for surplus sale, in the amount of approximately \$215 per battery, to aid in sale of said equipment.
- 2. Livestock Permit Application – Chickens at 325 Spokane Street:** Motion made by K. Ribail, seconded by S. Billings, and carried to approve the livestock permit application for chickens at 325 Spokane Street as submitted.
- 3. Harvest Fest:** Motion made by K. Ribail, seconded by K. Hinze, and carried to approve hosting Harvest Fest as a Town event on October 3, 2026, highlighting that vendors are not covered under the Town’s event insurance.

**K. Adjournment:** Motion made by K. Ribail, seconded by S. Billings, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm pm. The next regular council meeting is Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6:00 pm. *This meeting was later rescheduled to Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mayor** \_\_\_\_\_ **Clerk** \_\_\_\_\_ **May 19, 2026** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**