

The COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Tomah met in REGULAR SESSION January 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Mike Murray presiding in the Municipal Building, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah WI. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the General Public was able to access the meeting as follows:

Zoom Meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/7689466740?pwd=dEdLR2hXK0ZYMK1qNU5vNFlwMzdSZz09>

Meeting ID: 768 946 6740 Password: Tomah2020

or

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 768 946 6740 Password: 546782713

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following members present: Mike Murray, Dean Peterson, Donna Evans, Lamont Kiefer (remote), Travis Scholze, Jeff Cram, Richard Yarrington, Shawn Zabinski (remote), Adam Gigous. Quorum present. Absent: None. Also present: City Administrator Brad Hanson, Police Chief Mark Nicholson, Lt. Scott Holum, City Clerk Becki Weyer, Treasurer Julia Mann, Library Director Irma Keller, Senior & Disabled Services Coordinator Pam Buchda, Building Inspector Shane Rolf, Public Works Director Kirk Arity, City Atty. Penny Precour, Public Safety Director/Fire Chief Tim Adler, and CVB Director Tina Thompson.

Reports

Mayor It has been a great winter up until this point in time. Snow is called for later this week, reminder to slow down and give others space and pay attention to children in the area. The Mayor commended all City employees for weathering the strain and stress of Covid-19 and the adjustments of the last year. The effort has not gone unnoticed. We look forward to the new year. Reminder there will be new faces on the Council this year as we move forward into 2021.

City Administrator Bradley Hanson introduced himself and gave a brief commentary on his background. He commended the City staff on their experience and professionalism as he acclimates to his new role.

City Clerk

The Spring Primary will be held on February 16th. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be on the primary ballot. The Spring Election will be held on April 6th, 2021. To be a registered write-in candidate for an election, all local office candidates must file registration paperwork with their local clerk by 12:00 p.m. (noon) the Friday before the election. The Clerk's office is currently going through candidates for the Part Time Deputy Clerk position. There were 34 candidates who applied for the position. Interviews will be scheduled between Jan 17th – Jan 29th. Budget books will be distributed this week.

Treasurer

A reminder that property taxes are due by the end of the month, at least one installment is due or it can be paid in full. Dog and cat licenses are also sold at City hall and are due by March 31st. Please do not forget to bring rabies paperwork in order to get your pet licensed.

Police Department

A written monthly report was provided. The newest officer will be starting on January 25th. We have received verbal resignation for an officer and the Police Department will be recruiting for this position. There is one officer off on Covid-19 quarantine. Tomah Health is now offering the Covid-19 vaccine for police officers and fire fighters and it will be voluntary. A reminder that alternate side parking is in effect. The radio project at Gundersen Clinic has been installed and will have a drastic improvement on radio communication on the south end of town. The lobby of the Police Department is now open Mon-Fri 8am-4pm.

Library

Dir. Keller reported there were 321 patron visits and 1588 checkouts in December. There were 1778 eBook checkouts. The library will be filming a segment to promote the Senior Connections program. For children, there will be a virtual story time on Zoom with link on the Library's website with registration online. Hot Reads for Cold Nights will start January 15th. A downloadable log is available on the library website and prizes will be awarded to those who finish their log. Patrons can now go online and see what new books are available at the library.

Tomah Public Housing & Community Development Block Grant

Director Muehlenkamp provided a monthly written report.

Senior & Disabled Services

Coordinator Buchda provided a written monthly report. Goals for 2021 and the 2020-year end review report were also provided. Buchda outlined the upcoming scheduled music activities planned for the Senior & Disabled Services Center. The music has free admission and allows for physical distancing. Tomah's Freezefest is coming up, and the Sr. and Disabled Services Center will be hosting Bingo and Euchre at 1:00 p.m. on February 5th. Participants will need a

FreezeFest button to attend. The Special Needs Ad Hoc meeting has been moved to the third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. effective January 1st. The Sr. and Disabled services board will be at 6:15 the same day.

Planning & Building Inspection

Building Inspector Rolf provided a monthly and annual report.

Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau

The CVB is working on several tourism projects for 2021 pending funding remaining stable. Downtown Thursday Nights is being planned with Covid-19 procedures in mind. A 2021 area guide is being worked on.

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2020
- 2) Approval of Minutes from December 21, 2020
- 3) Cash & Investment Report November
- 4) Approval of the Use of Lake Tomah for CWIRA Ice Race for January 17th and February 28th
- 5) Secondhand Article & Jewelry Dealer Licenses Application for Antique Mall of Tomah
- 6) Secondhand Article Dealer License Application for Kristi's Place Inc.
- 7) Budget Amendment Administrator Office Equipment
- 8) Bid Approval for Grader
- 9) Budget Amendment for CARES Federal Grant Expenditures
- 10) Start Date 3RT IT Managed Services
- 11) Special Beer Permit for Tomah Warrens Sportsmen Alliance Ice Fishery on February 13, 2021

Motion by Peterson, second by Scholze, to remove the Start Date 3RT IT Managed Services from the Consent Agenda due to further discussion, and to approve remaining items with amending the Minutes of the December 21st meeting striking Yarrington from the motion for the Wage Determination for Adam Robarge, (Scholze made motion), and adding level M which was omitted from the motion. Motion carried without negative vote.

Start Date 3RT IT Managed Services

Motion by Yarrington, second by Cram, to approve starting the contract with 3RT on April 1st and terminating the Ironcore contract effective June 1st. Motion carried without negative vote.

Committee of the Whole

Request for Buckley Park Boy Scout Cabin Roof Repairs and Improvements

Improvements Motion by Peterson, second by Yarrington, to approve the request to continue with Scout Cabin bids with the \$100,000 in funds previously allocated for this reason in the 2020 Budget under TIF#8. Motion carried with one negative vote (Evans).

Ordinance Amending Chapter 52, Section 52-209 (b)(4) of the City of Tomah Municipal Code Regarding Requirements – Fences

(1st, 2nd Reading, & Adoption)

Motion by Scholze, second by Kiefer to waive the first verbatim reading of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 52, Section 52-209 (b)(4) of the City of Tomah Municipal Code Regarding Requirements – Fences Motion carried with one negative vote. (Yarrington)

Motion by Scholze, second by Evans to waive the second verbatim reading of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 52, Section 52-209 (b)(4) of the City of Tomah Municipal Code Regarding Requirements – Fences. Motion passed with one negative vote. (Yarrington)

Motion by Scholze, second by Kiefer to adopt Ordinance Amending Chapter 52, Section 52-209 (b)(4) of the City of Tomah Municipal Code Regarding Requirements – Fences. Motion carried with one negative vote. (Yarrington)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01-01-D

**Ordinance Amending Chapter 52, Section 52-209 (b)(4) of the City of Tomah
Municipal Code Regarding Requirements - Fences**

The Common Council of the City of Tomah, Monroe County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION ONE: Chapter 52 – Section 52-209 (b)(4) Fences and Hedges of the Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 52-209. – Fences and hedges.

(b)(4) No fence exceeding six feet in height shall be erected, constructed or maintained on any premises in a residential zoning district. Security fences are permitted in all districts except residential districts, but shall not exceed ten feet in height and shall be of an open type similar to woven wire or wrought iron fencing. Fences exceeding six feet in height to a maximum height of eight feet installed for the purpose of providing visual screening for onsite utilities, dumpsters, or similar items may be allowed by the plan commission. Swimming pool fences are covered in section 52-210. Chain link or metal wire fences shall not exceed four feet in height on properties with residential uses.

SECTION TWO: All ordinances in conflict with the foregoing are hereby repealed.

SECTION THREE: This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Michael Murray, Mayor

ATTEST: Becki Weyer, City Clerk:

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Monthly Bills

Motion by Scholze, second by Cram, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Monthly Bills for December. Motion carried without negative vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01-12-01

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Tomah that the Committee of the Whole has reviewed the monthly bills and recommends the City Council approve said bills as follows:

1. Pre-Paid Checks	\$ 294,576.56	Check #'s 128962-129011
		129039-129178
2. Payroll	\$ 371,982.90	Direct Deposit #'s 61852-62186
3. Wire Transfers	\$ 53,965.45	
4. Invoices	\$ 19,369.58	Check #'s 129225-129235

Total: \$ 739,894.49

Dated this 12th day of January, 2021

Michael Murray, Mayor

ATTEST:
Rebecca Weyer, City Clerk

Cost of Living Increase for 2021

Treasurer Mann presented options to the Council for potential cost-of-living wage increases for non-represented employees including a rate per hour increase. At 1% the rate would be \$0.27/ hr., 1.50% would be \$0.41 per hour, and 2% would be \$0.54 per hour. Mann also included what the rate of increase would be for each position for the City. Administrator Hanson recommended a percentage increase due to the percentage increase indicated in City union contracts. Police Chief Nicholson spoke about the wage study done in 2018. He reminded the council that the wage study indicated the wage scale was being compressed and would continue with flat rate-based increases. Atty. Precour spoke to how there is a concern this could occur due to current union contracts differing with a percentage-based increase vs. a flat amount increase.

Motion by Yarrington to approve a wage increase for City non-represented employees in the amount of \$0.28 per hour. Motion died due to lack of second.

Motion by Scholze, second by Evans to approve a wage increase for City non-represented employees in the amount of \$.41 per hour retroactive to January 1, 2021. Motion carried with one negative vote (Yarrington)

Committee of the Whole and Council Date Change

Motion by Cram, second by Scholze to approve moving the Common Council Meetings to the third Tuesday of the Month and the Committee of the Whole meetings to the Monday before the third Tuesday of the month beginning in March 2021. Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion by Gigous, second by Evans, to adjourn. Motion carried without negative vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Weyer
City Clerk