

The COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Tomah met in REGULAR SESSION March 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Mike Murray presiding in the Municipal Building, 819 Superior Ave., Tomah WI.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with Mike Murray, Travis Scholze, Lamont Kiefer, Wayne Kling, Richard Yarrington, Remy Gomez, Shawn Zabinski, Mary Ann Komiskey and Jeff Cram present. Quorum present. Absent: None. Also in attendance: City Atty. Penny Precour, City Administrator Roger Gorius, and City Clerk JoAnn Cram. Gregg Hagen videotaped the meeting.

**Anyone Desiring to Appear Before the City Council.** No one desired to appear.

**Mayor.** Council members were requested to speak into their microphones for the public. Mayor Murray thanked the Public Works Staff for their efforts in clearing the excessive amounts of snow/ice during these severe winter months. The Ambulance staff was also recognized for the work they do in responding to calls.

**City Administrator & Long Range Plan Committee Report.** City Administrator Gorius provided a written report regarding current and ongoing activities. 1. **Chamber of Commerce Concert Series.** The Dept. of Transportation has indicated we will be able to close a section of Superior Avenue for the concert series. 2. **Chamber Annual Banquet.** The banquet was well attended. 3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Gen Building Update.** The building is progressing nicely. The restaurant is 90% complete with the last major component, the elevator, scheduled for installation on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Certificate of Occupancy has been issued and inspections have been completed for restaurant areas. 4. **Monroe Economic Development Conference.** This annual event was held on Feb. 27-28.

**Special Recognition of Paramedics Jeremy Schaller and Tom Colloton** – Ambulance Director Randy Dunford recognized paramedics Jeremy Schaller and Tom Colloton for their quick actions during the ambulance fire that occurred in January. The paramedics performed above and beyond. The brave and heroic actions kept the patient safe and also saved thousands of dollars of medical equipment. Commendation plaques were presented to Paramedic Jeremy Schaller and Paramedic Tom Colloton.

**Presentation by Cindy Zahrte, Tomah Area School District Regarding Spring Election School Referendum.** The School Board has approved the startup of an ROTC Program. The School District does their best to seek out funding from sources other than the tax base. They have secured \$320,000 for building security from the State of Wisconsin which will be used for a special phone program. They also secured a \$250,000 grant from the Dept. of Defense to be used to develop a stem lab at the High School to motivate students in science and math. A \$125,000 grant was received from the Dept. of Workforce Dev. to provide teacher's with coursework to receive a reading certification or master's degree in reading. In 2016 a 1.5 million dollar referendum was passed for additional public education funding. This fills the gap between what we must spend every year between inflation and the funding available through tax dollars. There is a new governor and things may change, however, it takes a long period of time to make those changes and the school district needs to proceed as if no change were to occur. The Board of Education establishes the Budget and the Board can make a determination annually if the total amount of additional funding is needed. A survey was completed and 75% of the people advised they would support the \$1.5 million dollars. Overall, the average of the 4 year additional funding would cost 13 cents per hundred thousand dollars of valuation per month. The Tomah School District has the 29<sup>th</sup> lowest tax mill rate in the State out of 365 school districts.

**City Clerk.** City Clerk Cram gave an update on the Spring Election to be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Clerk Cram also advised that Board of Review has been scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Open Book will be held May 8-10 with the assessor available on May 9<sup>th</sup> all day. An update was also provided on the status of District 5/Sportsman's Bar as court proceedings have concluded. Training is also available to veteran and newly elected public officials and administrators through the League of WI Municipalities as well as a Public Officials program put on by Davis Kuelthau Law Firm in the upcoming weeks. Any council member interested in attending should contact Clerk Cram for registration.

**Police Department Monthly Report.** Police Chief Mark Nicholson advised that the department is very busy. There is one recruit at the academy and the department will be at full staff once he graduates. Monthly statistics are up including accident reports due to the inclement weather we have experienced. Alternate Side Parking is in effect until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Two vehicles have been ordered; K-9 vehicle and a marked patrol vehicle. The annual meeting with local liquor licensed establishments will be held at the P.D. on April 17<sup>th</sup> and all Council members are invited to attend.

**Library Monthly Report.** No report.

**Convention & Visitors Bureau/Chamber of Commerce.** Exec. Dir. Tina Thompson advised the annual CVB/Chamber Banquet was held on February 25<sup>th</sup>. A forum was hosted last week with council members on the upcoming Spring ballot. The Area Guide is completed and 37,000 copies will be distributed.

**Discussion of Street Closures for Multiple Chamber Events.** Exec. Dir. Tina Thompson advised they are trying to increase traffic downtown. A contract has been signed for a six week concert series which be held on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be a family friendly event for all ages including bounce houses, face painting, and an event that will bring all ages and the entire community out. Several locations were discussed and the most logical place was Superior Avenue. The Dept. of Transportation has approved the closing of Superior Avenue to have this event. The music would be from 6 to 9 p.m. Food trucks, beer sales, music plus an area with kids' activities are proposed. The closure of Superior Avenue would be from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. This is a completely separate program from Americana in the Park. The talent will be brought in from out of the area. The purpose of this is to promote business in the downtown area. The detour route will be the same as for parades. Northbound Superior Avenue would be detoured onto Kilbourn and southbound on McLean or Hollister. Just the 900 block of Superior Avenue would host the event. Superior Avenue would be detoured at Monowau St. and Jackson St. Funding would be obtained through sponsorships.

Motion by Kiefer, second by Yarrington to authorize closing Superior Avenue from Monowau to Jackson Street for the Chamber Event for the first three Thursdays in July and the first three Thursdays in August with the Public Works Department authorized to assist with street closure. Motion passed without negative vote.

**Tomah Public Housing & Community Development Block Grant Monthly Report.** Director Rachel Muehlenkamp provided a written report.

**Senior & Disabled Services Report.** Pam Buchda, Senior & Disabled Services Coordinator provided a monthly calendar and written summary of events. There is a Make-N-Take Painting Class scheduled at the Sr. Center on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1-2 music programs are held each month which is free to the public. Sunday Funday for March is March 31<sup>st</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m. Sr. Center is looking for someone to build puzzle frames.

**Planning/Building Inspection Monthly Report.** Shane Rolff provided a written report. A report was also provided from Corliss Tischer regarding February violations.

**Appointment of Candice Ziems to the Library Board** to fulfill the remaining term of Trudy Peterson with the term expiring April 2020.

Motion by Gomez, second by Kling to accept Mayor Murray's recommendation and appoint Candice Ziems to the Library Board to fulfill the remaining term of Trudy Peterson with the term expiring April 2020. Motion passed without negative vote.

**Consent Agenda Items.** Motion by Cram, second by Kiefer to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Motion passed without negative vote. Clarification was requested to be added to the February minutes in regards to the votes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen indicating that Mayor Murray did not vote on any of these issues.

- A. **Minutes** of February 12, 2019 as amended.
- B. **Treasurers Cash and Investment Reports** for February 2019.
- C. **Bartender Licenses** for Rebecca D. Boggle, Connie J. Hurd, Kody M. Friend, Daniel J. Libke, Natalie M. Payne, Teri L. LaPorte, and Debra J. Pearson.
- D. **2019 Budget Amendment** – Recognizing Revenue from Insurance Recoveries – **Equipment Acct. 03-48440 of \$148,000 and Utilize Fund Balance Applied of \$56,290 in Acct. #03-49300** and Reduce Ambulance Outlay-Vehicles Acct. #03-57230-8400 by \$172,300 and reduce Ambulance Outlay – Equipment Acct. 03-57230-8300 by \$31,990 authorizing the expenditures to cover the cost of replacing ambulance destroyed by Fire.

**Veteran's Memorial Update and Discontinuation of the Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee.** The memorial is now complete and after 13 years the committee has decided it is time to disband. There is a balance of \$23,000 in the account which can be used for maintenance of the memorial, lawn care, snow removal and purchase of flags. A final dedication event will be held at the site at 10 a.m. on Memorial Day.

Motion by Cram, second by Yarrington to approve discontinuation of the Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee and authorize the Parks and Recreation Commission to oversee the Veterans Memorial account which will be used for the Veterans Memorial only and will be left open for continued donations. Motion passed without negative vote.

**Taxi Cab License for Tomah Transit – Running Inc.** Inspections are complete and the certificate of insurance is on file.

Motion by Scholze, second by Cram to approve the taxi cab license for Tomah Transit – Running Inc., for a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan, VIN 32C4RDGBGFR736368 for the period of March 12 – December 31, 2019. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Capitol Project Borrowing TID #8 and #10.** The Long Range Planning Committee has approved a design proposal for streetlights in the downtown corridor. The cost of the project is \$700,000 and would be eligible for reimbursement through tax revenue in TID #8. Additionally the City needs to finish the reconfiguration of Goose Avenue to meet DOT requirements as well as a complete reconstruct of Gopher Avenue including sewer, water and stub outs to the recently annexed land to the south. The cost for the street reconstruction projects is \$1.28 million and will be TID #10 eligible for reimbursement. Tomah Memorial will contribute up to \$425,000 for utility improvements and up to \$775,000 for their portion of road improvements. The money would be available to the City upon completion of the project.

Motion by Scholze, second by Gomez to proceed with the street light and street reconstruction projects as presented and authorize City officials to move forward on the borrowing with F & M Bank. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Ordinance Amending Section 2-557 Regarding Composition; Term; Quorum; Meetings of the Long Range Planning Committee.** The Common Council authorized the drafting of an amended ordinance reducing the size of the Long Range Planning Committee by one member.

Motion by Gomez, second by Kiefer to waive the first verbatim reading of the Ordinance amending Section 2-557 regarding composition, term, quorum and meetings in regard to the Long Range Planning Committee as presented. Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Gomez, second by Kiefer to waive the second verbatim reading of the Ordinance amending Section 2-557 regarding composition, term, quorum and meetings in regard to the Long Range Planning Committee as presented. Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Gomez, second by Cram to adopt **Ordinance No. 2019-03-01** amending Section 2-557 regarding composition, term, quorum and meetings in regard to the Long Range Planning Committee as presented. Motion passed with one negative vote (Yarrington).

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-03-01-D**

**Ordinance Amending Section 2-557 of the City of Tomah Municipal Code Regarding Composition; Term; Quorum; Meetings of the Long Range Planning Committee**

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

**SECTION ONE:** Division 6. - Long Range Planning Committee Section 2-557 of the Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-557. - Composition; term; quorum; meetings.**

The Long Range Planning Committee shall consist of the mayor, two members of the Common Council, and six members with two of said members being members of the Planning Commission. The Council member terms shall be for two years. Members shall be appointed by the mayor at the annual organizational meeting of the Council subject to confirmation by the Council. Each of the remaining members shall hold office three years, unless sooner removed for cause. Five members shall constitute a quorum, but all actions shall require the affirmative approval of a majority of all members of the committee. The members shall elect the officers and hold the meetings as necessary and proper for carrying on its functions.

**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:

JoAnn M. Cram, City Clerk

Read: 03/12/2019

Passed: 03/12/2019

Published: 03/22/2019

**Resolution Authorizing Payment of Monthly Bills.**

Motion by Gomez, second by Kiefer to approve **Resolution No. 2019-03-12-08** authorizing payment of the monthly bills in the amount of \$3,519,037.78 as presented. Motion passed without negative vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-03-12-08  
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	\$2,963,942.97	Check #'s 124195-124270 & 124339-124405
2. Payroll	\$ 357,166.90	Direct Deposit #'s 56356-56610
3. Wire Transfers	\$ 26,046.74	
4. Invoices	\$ 79,099.50	
5. Vouchers Payable	<u>\$ 92,781.67</u>	Check #'s 124469-124519
	\$3,519,037.78	

Mike Murray, Mayor

ATTEST: JoAnn Cram, City Clerk

Motion by Cram, second by Gomez to adjourn to closed session pursuant to State Statute 19.85(1)(e) to Confer with Legal Counsel with Respect to Negotiating the Purchase/Sale of Public Property. Motion passed without negative vote. The meeting adjourned to Closed Session 7:46 p.m.

Approved:

Michael Murray, Mayor

ATTEST:

JoAnn Cram, City Clerk  
Minutes to be approved on April 9, 2019