

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The City of Tomah Long Range Planning Committee met in regular session on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Council Chambers 819 Superior Ave., Tomah, WI.

**Call to Order – Roll Call:** Chairperson Travis Scholze called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Travis Scholze, Mike Murray, Mitchell Koel, Joanne Westpfahl, Tina Thompson and Steve Peterson. Quorum present. Absent: Jeff Holthaus, Pete Reichardt and Shawn Zabinski. Also in attendance: City Administrator Roger Gorius, Greg Zingler and City Treasurer Julia Mann. Kirk Arity by telephone for part of the meeting.

**Approval of November 27, 2018 Minutes:** Motion by Thompson, seconded by Koel to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2018 meeting. Motion passed without negative vote.

**Street Light Design Review:** Administrator Gorius presented the design from Sternberg Lighting on the new street lighting. This design was presented to the Public Works Commission on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Town and Country Engineering recommended that all the light poles be the same height which was taller because of the projection of the light. This provides better illumination on the streets and at the intersections and is better for the safety of the traffic on Superior Avenue. Public Works Director Arity and Chamber Director Thompson have had discussion about what will be placed on the poles. They plan on putting up banners, flags and the Christmas decorations. The public works department would like to keep the changes of the displays on the polls to a minimum, once for putting up the Christmas decorations and then for taking them down. Greg Zingler had questions regarding the brackets for the placement of the banners on the poles and how they will be able to attach them. All questions were answered to his satisfaction. Discussion was held about the planning stage for the street lights. Originally plans were to have hanging baskets on the new poles and lighting that would be reflective on the sidewalks. The design presented did not accomplish what the committee envisioned. Director Arity pointed out that the baskets require daily watering and are a lot of upkeep for city staff and we don't have the staff for this. Mayor Murray suggested that we could ask a club to help with the up keep. Joe Protz will be contacted about what it takes to care for hanging baskets and the time commitment required from his staff. The committee requested that Director Arity check back with Sternberg on a different design of light pole that will project lighting over the sidewalk as well as the high light over the street. He will also check if the weight of the baskets will cause any issues with the poles. Director Thompson asked to have pricing with multiple options to choose from for the poles. Director Arity will get this information for follow up at a meeting. No motion at this time.

**Discussion Regarding Possible City Use of Tomah Historical Society Property:** The City was asked by the Historical Society if the City is interested in its property if it were available for a parking lot. The general consensus was no.

**Discussion of Possible Candidates for Open Committee Position:** Due to the resignation of Eric Prise the Long Range Planning Committee has an open position. The

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Committee has decided to recommend to the City Council to reduce the number of members on the committee by one during reorganization.

Motion by Murray and a second by Koel to reduce the committee by one. Passed without negative vote.

**Ongoing Projects:** Administrator Gorius informed the Committee that the City Council approved the TIF Development Incentives at their last January 2019 meeting. The Council is borrowing money from the State Trust Fund loan to start a revolving loan fund for the Downtown Rehabilitation TID in the amount of \$70,000. The Downtown Information Center should be open in the spring. The cement will be poured at that time. The question arose if there would be trees planted at the site. Some communities plant fruit trees such as apple trees to offer fruit for the homeless population. This was offered as a suggestion for the Information Center Site. Chamber Director Thompson is working on Downtown Marketing Materials at this time and they should be completed soon.

**Administrative Updates:** The funding for the approved Builders agreement for 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation was approved at the January 2019 City Council meeting. We are also received a State Grant towards this project. 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen has an agreement with ACT to use their parking lot. Monroe County has extended its contract with Steve Peterson for one more year. The first meeting to start a County Economic Development Group is going be held the last week of January. A corporation will be formed to provide economic development across Monroe County that has no political ties. Tomah does not have a website where prospective developers can go to see what is available in here. Coordinator Peterson plans on creating a one stop site for the commercial land available in the City that will be linked to many City features. The Economic Development Conference is February 27 and 28, 2019.

**Next Meeting Date:** February 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Koel, second by Murray to adjourn. Motion carried without negative vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Julia Mann