

MINUTES FOR COMMON COUNCIL FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Murray at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Present: Michael Murray, Travis Scholze, Richard Yarrington, John Glynn, Nicole Hart, Lamont Kiefer, Nellie Pater, and Dean Peterson. Absent: Shawn Zabinski. Also present: Kirk Arity, Tim Adler, Becki Weyer, Irma Keller, and Shane Rolff (remote). The meeting was also available to the public via Zoom and recorded by Hagen Sports Network. All motions are unanimously approved unless otherwise noted.

ANYONE DESIRING TO APPEAR TO COUNCIL

John Rouch 1201 Sheri Ct. appeared to the council to voice his concerns regarding the VA changing the name of the Tomah Veterans' Affairs (VA) Medical Center to the Jason Simcakoski Veterans' Affairs Medical Center. He was concerned that the public was not able to give public input on the potential change. Rouch wrote a letter to the editor in the paper also voicing his concerns. He read an email from Senator Tami Baldwin regarding the bill and the reasons for renaming the facility. He asked the public to call their Congressperson to oppose the bill.

Michelle Clark a business partner with the Tomah Area School District addressed the Council to thank the City of Tomah for their partnership with the school district, including the city's help with snow removal, the asphalt repair at the high school, the focus on safety, and parks and recreation programs.

Mayor

The Mayor extended his condolences to the family of Rachel Muhlenkamp who passed away recently. Muhlenkamp was a long-term employee of Tomah Public Housing and contributed much during her long tenure with the city. She will be missed. Murray shared a Facebook post in relation to the Senior Executive Team and to why the Council chose this type of leadership in the city.

Monthly SET Report

The SET provided a monthly written report and Kirk Arity summarized for the Council. The Council asked about the upcoming ET project as the bids were accepted by the county and contracts will be signed soon.

Public Safety January Monthly Report

Fire: The police and fire commission approved six new people for the eligibility list for the Fire Department. The annual report will be ready to report in March. Though the new Public Safety building has been occupied for close to a year, and Keller continues to stop at the facility every few weeks to ensure the city is satisfied with the service. The training tower is almost complete.

EMS: They currently have one open full-time position and have internal candidates that may fill the position. They are still waiting for the union to ratify the new union contract. There is an ambulance commission meeting on February 29, 2024. The current inventory of IV pumps needs to be replaced due to a software change. The remounted ambulance will be returned sometime in May.

City Clerk Monthly Report

The next election will be on April 2, 2024. Traffic in the clerk's office is picking up due to registrations and election needs. In person absentee voting begins on March 19, 2024. The clerk's office will have hours on the two Fridays before the election to assist those who prefer to vote early. Poll worker training is scheduled for March 6, 2024 at Recreation Park.

Council Member Kiefer asked questions about election residency requirements for running for office, and they were answered by the City Clerk and the City Attorney.

Library

The Library had 23,897 eBook checkouts and 50,398 physical checkouts for a total of 74,295 total checkouts in 2023. In January, there were 2,153 eBook 4,523 physical checkouts for a total of 6,676 total checkouts during the month. Dir. Keller covered the upcoming events at the library. There are free literacy calendars available in the Children's Department at the library.

Senior & Disabled Services Department Monthly Report

Dir. Buchda provided a monthly written report.

Senior Center LED Lighting Project

This item will be covered under agenda item C under General.

January Building Permit and Code Enforcement Reports

Rolff provided written monthly reports and asked if Council had questions. The new online building permit system was rolled out three weeks ago to streamline the process for customers and to reduce workload and administrative costs in the Building Inspector's office. Rolff asked for addresses of properties that have dilapidated buildings, sheds, or other structures and for citizens to report them to the Inspector's office. He is compiling a list to target those issues around the city sometime in March.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Peterson, second by Pater, to approve the following consent agenda:

A. Minutes from January 16, 2024

Common Council – February 20, 2024

- B. Special Beer and Wine Permit Application by Monroe County Support Services for Budweiser Dairyland Super Nat’l Truck & Tractor Pull on June 19-22, 2024.
 - C. Special Beer and Wine License Application by Monroe County Support Services for Monroe County Fair on July 24-28, 2024.
 - D. Monroe County Support Services (MCSS) extending hours of operation at the Monroe County Fair Beer Garden on Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27, 2024 at Recreation Park.
 - E. Special Beer and Wine Permit Application by Tomah Baseball Club Inc Opening Night on March 2, 2024.
 - F. Special Beer and Wine Permit Application by Families First of Monroe County Trivia Night on March 9, 2024.
 - G. January 31, 2024 Cash and Investments Report
- Carried.

Ordinance Rezoning Alexandra Matthews & David Deprey property located at 1201 Kilbourn Ave. (Parcel 286-01906-0000) from B-Business District to R2-One- and Two-Family Residential District. 1st & 2nd Reading and Adoption

Motion by Scholze, second by Peterson, to waive the first verbatim reading of the Ordinance Rezoning Alexandra Matthews & David Deprey property located at 1201 Kilbourn Ave. (Parcel 286-01906-0000) from B-Business District to R2-One- and Two-Family Residential District. Motion carried

Motion by Scholze, second by Peterson, to waive the second verbatim reading of the Ordinance Rezoning Alexandra Matthews & David Deprey property located at 1201 Kilbourn Ave. (Parcel 286-01906-0000) from B-Business District to R2-One- and Two-Family Residential District. Motion carried.

Motion by Kiefer, second by Yarrington, to adopt the Ordinance Rezoning Alexandra Matthews & David Deprey property located at 1201 Kilbourn Ave. (Parcel 286-01906-0000) from B-Business District to R2-One- and Two-Family Residential District. Motion carried.

Ordinance No.

ORDINANCE RE-ZONING PROPERTY

PARCEL #286-01906-0000

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

SECTION ONE:
After Petition, Notice and Public Hearing in accordance with the Wisconsin Statutes and City of Tomah Ordinance, the Common Council of the City of Tomah hereby re-zone the following described real estate from B-Business to R2-One-and-Two Family Residential District.

N 1/2 OF LOT 11 AND ALL OF LOT 12, BLK 19 OF ORIGINAL PLAT, CITY OF TOMAH, BEING LOCATED IN SW ¼-SE ¼, SECTION 4, T17N-R1W, CITY OF TOMAH, MONROE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

SECTION TWO:
All Ordinances or part thereof in conflict with the foregoing are hereby repealed.

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

Michael Murray, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Weyer, City Clerk

READ:
PASSED:
PUBLISHED:

Resolution adopting the Public Participation Plan for City of Tomah Comprehensive Plan update
Motion by Kiefer, second by Yarrington, to approve the Resolution adopting the Public Participation Plan for the City of Tomah Comprehensive Plan Update. Motion carried.

Common Council – February 20, 2024

PLAN COMMISSION RESOLUTION -
RECOMMENDING THE ADOPTION OF A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
FOR THE CITY OF TOMAH, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the City of Tomah on September 19, 2013, adopted the City of Tomah Comprehensive Plan, under the authority of and procedures established by §66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, that 2013 Comprehensive Plan document advises both the regular Plan Commission update of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as the ability to respond to unique circumstances which arise in relation to the Comprehensive Plan which are distinct from the regular plan review process, and to enable the City's consideration of potential updates or amendments where the Plan becomes irrelevant or contradictory to emerging policy or trends; and

WHEREAS, §66.1001(4)(a), Wisconsin Statutes, requires that the governing body of the local governmental unit adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation at every stage of the comprehensive plan preparation or amendment process, and that such written procedures shall provide for wide distribution of draft plan materials, an opportunity for the public to submit written comments on the plan materials, and a process for the governing body to respond to such comments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tomah believes that meaningful public involvement in processes designed to consider and adopt updates or amendments to its Comprehensive Plan is important to assure that the resulting Plan meets the wishes and expectations of the public; and

WHEREAS, the attached "City of Tomah Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Plan" includes procedures to foster public participation, ensure distribution of draft plan materials, provide opportunities for written comments on such materials, and provide mechanisms to respond to such comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Plan Commission of the City of Tomah hereby recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution to constitute official City approval of the attached "City of Tomah Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Plan" as required under §66.1001(4)(a), Wisconsin Statutes.

Adopted this Xth day of X, 2024.

Mike Murray, Mayor and Plan Commission Chair

Becki Weyer, City Clerk

LRPC request to use Economic Development funds up to \$60,000 for 2024 to expand current Planning Services provided by Vandewalle & Associates to include Economic Development duties as stated in the attached Economic Development Work Plan
Motion by Scholze, second by Glynn, to approve the LRPC request to use Economic Development funds up to \$60,000 for 2024 to expand current Planning Services provided by Vandewalle & Associates to include Economic Development duties as stated in the attached Economic Development Work Plan. Motion carried with three negative votes (Kiefer, Yarrington, Peterson).

Approval and Adoption of City of Tomah's Updated Title VI Plan
Motion by Kiefer, second by Peterson, to recommend the Council adopt the City of Tomah updated Title VI Plan as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of ARPA Funding for LED Lighting upgrade
Motion by Peterson, second by Yarrington, to recommend the Council approve the use of up to \$2402.50 in ARPA funds to fund a LED lighting upgrade at the Senior Center. Motion carried.

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Monthly Bills
Motion by Scholze, second by Pater, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Payment of Monthly Bills in the amount of \$1,629,734.31. Motion carried.

Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wis Stat § 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session
Motion by Kiefer, second by Peterson, to adjourn the meeting to closed session pursuant to Wis Stat §19.85(1))e) to deliberate or negotiate on the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds when requiring a closed session due to competitive or bargaining reasons. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:32 p.m.

Michael Murray, Mayor

Attest: Rebecca Weyer, City Clerk