

MINUTES FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by John Glynn at 6:30 p.m. Present: Paul Dwyer, John Glynn, Richard Yarrington, Shawn Zabinski (arrived at 7:06), Mitchell Koel (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Patrick Devine, and Dean Peterson. Absent: Travis Scholze and Nellie Pater. Also present: Nick Morales, Becki Weyer, Justin Derhammer, Kirk Arity, Joe Protz, Scott Holum, Tina Thompson, and special guest, Lamont Kiefer. The meeting was available via Zoom and recorded by Hagen Sports Network. All motions are unanimously approved unless otherwise noted.

Lake Presentation by Lamont Kiefer

Lake Committee Chair Lamont Kiefer appeared to the Committee to provide a brief video on Lake Tomah and to show the award the Lake Committee was achieved for Conservationist of the Year from Monroe County Land Conservation Land Department.

City Clerk Monthly Report

Weyer provided a monthly written report. She gave a brief outline of the spring primary election tomorrow, February 18, 2025. Those interested in serving on committees or commissions in the city should contact the mayor or the clerk's office prior to the Reorganizational meeting in April. The Spring election will be on April 1, 2025.

February 2025 Treasurer's Report

The budget books are complete and currently being distributed. City Council members will receive their copies on February 17-18, 2025. Nick is reviewing the remaining balance in the Economic Development (ED) account at Bank First. The annual audit is scheduled to begin in March 2025, with auditors already submitting preliminary requests. The Treasurer's Office will provide updates to the Council on the audit's progress and findings.

Approval of Budget Amendment for Creation of Buyout Accounting Codes

The City provides a cash incentive for employees who opt out of the City's insurance plan, reducing long-term costs. One employee chose not to enroll; however, the necessary accounts were not properly set up or budgeted for this situation. This budget amendment ensures that the general ledger accounts are correctly aligned for the year. Motion by Dwyer, second by Yarrington, to recommend the Council approve the budget amendment and creation of the buyout accounting codes. Motion carried.

Resolution for Payment of Monthly Bills

Motion by Dwyer, second by Peterson, to recommend the Council approve the payment of monthly bills in the amount of \$2,874,443.64. Motion carried.

Tomah Parks and Recreation Program Report

Protz provided a monthly written report. He provided a brief update on the shelter rentals at the parks, the upcoming and ongoing recreation programs, and the events at Recreation park. They are staying on top of the snow removal on city sidewalks and ask for patience in cleaning the trail. There was vandalism at Joliet park, so the bathrooms are now closed.

Public Works & Utilities

Street Department: Operations are normal. A garbage truck was briefly out of service but has been repaired. Mattresses and box springs are now non-collectible; Moder Disposal is a local disposal option. Recycled asphalt and concrete are ready for spring use, primarily for the Kilborne Ave watermain replacement. Tree clearing continues at the airport.

Sewer Department: Operations are normal, with an average daily flow of 1.0 million gallons.

Water Department: Frost depth readings range from 42" to 48", with water temperatures around 42°F.

Regular maintenance and painting are ongoing.

Lake Committee: The next meeting is on March 20, 2025, at 5:00 PM. The forebay dredging project bid will be on February 26, 2025.

Police Department Monthly Report - January 2025

Chief Holum provided a monthly written report. The newest employee has started the Police Academy in Sparta. They have promoted Alex Brueggeman to Sergeant. The annual K-9 golf outing will be on June 13th at Hiawatha golf course. The therapy dog in training will be picked up this week by the handler Jayden Olson. Police continue to have a common-sense approach to alternate side parking.

Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau

Dir. Thompson provided a printed copy of the Tomah Chamber and Visitor's Center area guide to the committee members. The Annual Chamber Banquet will be on Monday, February 24th. They continue to make progress on the new website. The Best of Tomah competition is in full swing. Thompson will be attending educational summits and providing support for the Monroe County Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

Plan Commission recommendation to amendment ordinance section 52-116 Parking requirements

U.S. communities are reducing outdated minimum parking requirements to prevent excessive underutilized parking, lower development costs, and minimize impervious surfaces that impact stormwater management. Cities are shifting toward a market-driven rather than policy-driven approach. City staff, in collaboration with Vandewalle & Associates, has drafted proposed amendments to Section 52-116 of the Zoning Ordinance. The Plan Commission recommends approval of these amendments.

Motion by Yarrington, second by Dwyer, to recommend the Council approve the ordinance amending ordinance 52-116. Motion carried.

Plan Commission recommendation to amendment ordinance section 2-559-2-568

The current ordinance limits the Industrial Development Fund to industrial projects. The Plan Commission and Long-Range Plan Commission recommend expanding its use to align with Economic Development as outlined in the proposed amendments. This change allows the Long-Range Planning Commission to oversee the funds. Both commissions support the amendment. Motion by Dwyer, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the ordinance as submitted. Motion carried.

Temporary Class "B" license application by North American Squirrel Association (n.a.s.a.) to sell fermented malt beverages and wine at the Annual Fundraising Banquet on March 29, 2025.

The North American Squirrel Association has applied for a Temporary Class "B" License to serve beer and wine at its annual banquet on March 29, 2025, at Tomah Recreation Park (1625 Butts Ave). The Committee of the Whole is requested to review the application and recommend approval to the Common Council. Motion by Koel, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the temporary license as requested. Motion carried.

Plan Commission recommendation to amendment ordinance section 2-350--2-377

This ordinance amendment is only altering section 2-350-2-377 to align with the changes with ordinance 2-559-2-568 earlier in the agenda. Motion by Dwyer, second by Peterson, to recommend the Council approve the ordinance changes to section 2-350-2-377 as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Vandewalle and Associates Funding for FY25 and Budget Amendment

The LRPC meeting in February 2024 voted to recommend to City Council for approval funding for V&A from the Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$60,000 for the year. The approved ordinance above gives the Long-Range Planning Commission the duty to oversee the fund. Motion by Peterson, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the budget amendment for \$60,000 from the industrial fund to the general fund to cover expenses for future economic development partnership with Vandewalle and Associates. Motion carried with one negative vote (Koel).

Resolution Disallowing the Claim of Scott Martin

On December 23, 2024, Scott Martin filed a vehicle damage claim against the City of Tomah, alleging a collision with a City snowplow. After investigation, the City's insurance provider, Statewide Services, Inc., found no clear evidence of negligence, citing conflicting accounts, no police report, and no independent

witnesses. Under Wisconsin law, municipalities are not automatically liable for vehicle damage. Statewide Services recommends disallowing the claim to protect the City from unjustified liability. This standard legal practice does not prevent the claimant from seeking compensation through other means. Council approval of the resolution affirms the City's position and avoids potential challenges. Motion by Yarrington, second by Peterson, to recommend the Council approve the resolution disallowing the claim for Scott Martin. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Motion by Peterson, second by Dwyer, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Weyer