

City of Tomah Historic Preservation Commission

Combined Meeting with Long Range Planning Committee

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 Council Chambers, City Hall 819 Superior Ave., Tomah WI

*This was a combined commission & committee meeting and public forum, focusing on the Operation Phoenix revitalization project that is being initiated by the City of Tomah. LRP took the lead in running the meeting and forum and full minutes can be found with that committee.

The meeting was called to at 5:30 p.m. by LRP Chair Eric Prise with the Pledge of Allegiance. HPC chair Shawn Zabinski called the meeting to order for HPC members. HPC members present were Shawn Zabinski, Suzanne Baker-Young, John Miles, Nellie Patter, John Glynn, and Deb Chesser. Also present was Economic Development & Zoning Director Nick Morales.

A public forum was held. Several business and property owners spoke on what they feel needs to be done in the area that is generally covered by the Downtown Master Plan. Some of the items included are an outdoor/sidewalk dining ordinance; reopening of the Peking Restaurant; renovations of the building at 1100 Superior Ave.; purchase of the lots on the 1100 block that were affected by recent fires; suggestions for what could be done with the CCF (Farmers & Merchants) Bank building; an update on renovations being done at the former J & R Variety building located at 1006 Superior Ave.; increasing downtown tourism by having a hotel in the downtown area and having

more activities for youth and families; expansion of the summer farmer's market and creating a fall and/or winter market similar to Sparta's Kristkindle Mart; distribution of room tax monies and improvement grants. This included Baker-Young giving a short account as to what the HPC does and can help with regarding historic properties that may include tax credits. Tomah Chamber Director Tina Thompson feels that the Downtown Master Plan needs better enforcement. Also mentioned by several people was enforcement of seed limits and parking regulations.

Economic Development and Zoning Director Nick Morales provided information on what steps are being done to initiate Operation Pheonix. Surveys are being prepared by Kansas State University and the Chamber Foundation to collect more information. There will be 2 more public forums held in the upcoming months.

The next LRP meeting will be on June 24, 2025. This may be held jointly with the HPC meeting.

A motion to adjourn the HPC portion of the meeting was made by Miles and seconded by Chessser. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Suzanne Baker-Young, Secretary