

Committee of the Whole Minutes, October 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held at 819 Superior Ave at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by John Glynn at 6:30 p.m. Present: Paul Dwyer, John Glynn, Travis Scholze, Richard Yarrington, Shawn Zabinski, Patrick Devine, and Dean Peterson. Absent: District 5 vacancy and Nellie Pater. Also present: Penny Precour, Becki Weyer, Joe Protz, Scott Holum (remote), and Tina Thompson. The meeting was available via Zoom. All motions are unanimously approved unless otherwise noted.

Informational Visit from Dr. Mike Hanson Tomah Area School District

Dr. Mike Hanson, Superintendent of the Tomah Area School District gave a short informational presentation on the upcoming school referendum.

Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2024

Motion by Peterson, second by Dwyer, to approve the minutes from September 16, 2024. Motion carried.

City Clerk Monthly Report

Weyer provided a monthly written report and summarized for the committee. In-person absentee voting will begin on October 22, 2024. Open enrollment is in full swing and will end on October 25.

Tomah Parks and Recreation Department Program

Protz provided a monthly written report. He covered the current recreation programs in the city. There is fall maintenance and cleaning at the Aquatic Center. He informed the committee of the upcoming events at Recreation Park. Weather will determine whether park bathrooms will be open through Halloween.

Public Works And Utilities Director Report

Director Arity provided a monthly written report.

Police Department Monthly Report - September 2024

Chief Holum provided a monthly written report. There is an open hiring process for one patrol officer, they will be accepting applications through October 28. They will be selecting the next K-9 officer and the new canine will arrive in spring of 2025. Trick or Treating will be from 4pm -7pm.

Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau

They are preparing for the activities in 2025 including the area guide, a separate website for tourism and lodging. They were recently nominated for the state Trailblazer award due to the increase in tourism over the last year. They are working with Tomah Health to spearhead the issue of lack of childhood in the area. They are in phase three of the project to help alleviate the issues with available child care.

Special Beer Permit Application by Queen of the Apostles for Queen of the Apostles Fall Fest on October 20, 2024

Motion by Zabinski second by Peterson, to recommend the Council approve the special beer permit for the Queen of the Apostles for October 20, 2024. Motion carried.

Approval of TID 9 funds for additional street lighting

The Public Works Commission has recommended the addition of street lights that were requested by Walmart D.C. for the two entrances and Rusch/Industrial Ave. A recent bicycle accident brought awareness to the area. The distribution center has approximately 850 employees and bimodal transportation has become more common. Motion by Dwyer, second by Yarrington, to recommend the Council approve the TID 9 funds for the addition of street lighting. Motion carried.

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Monthly Bills

Motion by Peterson, second by Scholze, to recommend the Council approve the resolution authorizing payment of monthly bills in the amount of \$2,704,009.72. Motion carried.

Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing

Motion by Scholze, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the resolution declaring official intent to reimburse from the proceeds of next year's debt service borrowing. Motion carried.

Approval of ARPA Funding to 2025 and 2026 Budgets

The city received \$983,570.41 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2020. These funds have been used for a variety of projects, as approved by Council. The remaining \$279,832.13 must be assigned before 12/31/2024. As approved at the budget workshop, the recommendation is to assign the remaining balance as follows: \$74,000 for 2025 Senior Center Operations, \$122,000 assigned to the 2025 General Fund for IT expenditures and \$83,832 to the 2026 General Fund for IT Expenditures. Motion by Zabinski, second by Dwyer, to recommend the Council approve the designations as presented. Motion carried.

Request to Donate Leave

The city offers a sick leave donation program for its employees where employees who are short on paid medical leave can request donations from city employees for major illness or medical procedures. The leave policy requires that the donating employee have 80 hours remaining in their bank account after the donation. As Molly Powell is leaving the city, she is requesting the Council approve her to leave 40 hours of sick leave to a City employee with an open leave donation request. Motion by Yarrington, second by Scholze, to recommend the Council approve the donation request. Motion carried.

September 30, 2024 Cash and Investments Schedule

Motion by Scholze, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the September 30, 2024 Cash and Investments report. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Motion by Peterson, second by Zabinski, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Weyer, City Clerk