

MINUTES FOR PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

A Public Works & Utilities was held on **Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 5:30 PM** in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by John Glynn

Call to Order - Roll Call

Quorum Present (Yes)

John Glynn (P), Dean Peterson (A), Patrick Devine (P), Brian Rice (P), Kerwin Greeno (P), Mayor Paul Dwyer (P), Mitch Koel (Not Present at Roll Call)

Approve Minutes

Motion by Dwyer and seconded by Rice to approve November minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion Items

1. Airport Update

A new windsock is on order and will be placed once it's received.

2. Approval: Rock Crushing Bid

Motion by Dwyer and seconded by Greeno to approve the rock crushing bid from Gerke's. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Discussion: Abandonment of Sewer Line at Tomah Health

Abandon a portion of an easement that currently contains a non-used sewer line and makes the new easement official and widen a new easement that contains water and sewer. This will be a better solution for the future that would benefit more developments.

4. Discussion: Forgiveness of Advance Provided by Wastewater Utility

City Administrator Nick Morales gave an executive summary; The city had multiple projects in TID 8 during the years of 2018 & 2019, which included improvements to wastewater and water line and street repairs. There was also a major redevelopment project happening at this time. There were multiple phases to these projects. An advance was granted to TID 8 from the water and wastewater enterprise. The TID 8 fund was to pay back the advancement. The advance to water was paid off. The advance to wastewater had made payments however, in or around 2020/2021 when the pandemic happened a decision was made by the city to suspend the repayment of the advance from the TID 8 fund back to the wastewater fund. In 2021 council passed a resolution that incorrectly labeled the advance as a loan. There is a significant difference between a loan and advance. The city continued to not make payments on the advancement to current day. 2026 budgeted to start making repayment advance from TID 8 fund to wastewater fund. Discussion amongst staff of advantages and disadvantages to closing TID 8 early. It is possible to close TID 8 as early as 2027. To close the TID down there cannot be any outstanding debt, it also must meet certain objectives of the original project plan which can be waived if the council determines the original objectives are in direct conflict with the city. TID 8 is not doing what we need a TID in our downtown district to do. Because of this the advantages potentially out way the disadvantages of closing the TID down early. It will not be possible to continue that discussion or close the TID early if that advance is not paid off or not forgiven. TID 8 owes approximately 1.9 million dollars in advance to the wastewater. Realistic option to close TID 8 early is to forgive the advance. Wastewater is strong enough to absorb the forgiveness of this advance. The plan is going forward; staff will provide in January a detailed staff report that accompanies a draft resolution to be approved by the common council to forgive the advance. It will be routed to this commission first in January to be voted on whether to recommend this resolution to the Council.

5. Project Updates

Nik from Town and Country discussed the 1st phase of the Hollister project and a future public information meeting that will take place.

6. Approval: Pay Request - Kilbourn Ave

Motin by Rice and seconded by Greeno to approve the pay request. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Payment of Monthly Water & Sewer Bills

Motion by Dwyer and seconded by Rice to approve the sewer bills as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dwyer and seconded by Devine to approve the water bills as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Departmental Reports

Public Works- Truck driver position has been filled and the new employee has started. Currently, we have used about 125 ton of salt so far this year. Plow frame broke on one of the plow trucks after the first snowfall. Brush pile is being chipped and is saving the city approximately \$20,000 by not having to load, haul and chip it ourselves. Public Works has been busy with the Holiday parade, holiday train and snow plowing.

Water- December's average daily pumpage is 770,00 gallons per day. Continue to wait for a response from DNR on Well 14. Checked frost today and the deepest was 29 inches in the road. There was 1 meter frozen over the weekend with the frigid weather. There was one water service leak on Ridgeview CT. White Construction hit it with their bore rig. Gereke's was called out to repair the leak.

Sewer – November's averages was 1 MGD. The last of the sludge was hauled out to farmers for the year and won't be hauled again until the spring. We are working on putting in our 20 HP motor for our RAS pump. Director Leis and Chad Richmond traveled to Wisconsin Rapids to look at the polymer system we are potentially going to be installing, which seems to be a very good and durable system. We hope to have some final figures for next month's meeting to get approval

9. Director's Report

Public Works has been working on the foundation at the library. Spray foaming, sheetrock, and texturing have been completed and painting will begin soon. Public Works & Utilities employees helped stuff envelopes for tax statements to be mailed out.

10. Next Meeting Date - January 28, 2026

Adjourn

Motion by Dwyer and seconded by Devine to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm. All ayes. Motion carried.