

**Common Council – March 21, 2023**

**MINUTES FOR COMMON COUNCIL MARCH 21, 2023**

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call**

Mayor Michael Murray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Present: Michael Murray, Adam Gigous, Richard Yarrington, Shawn Zabinski, John Glynn, Mitchell Koel (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Lamont Kiefer, Nellie Pater, and Dean Peterson. Absent: none. Others present: Kirk Arity, Becki Weyer, Molly Powell, Shane Rolf (remote), Tim Adler, Pam Buchda, Irma Keller, Tina Thompson, and Joe Protz. The meeting was available remotely via Zoom and was recorded by Hagen Sports Network.

**Anyone Desiring to be seen before the Council**

Odile Nelson appealed to the Council regarding the decision regarding the decision by the Committee of the Whole recommending the council deny the request to lengthen the trail at the Winnebago Park. She is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and made a plea for the safety and usage that the new trail would provide for the community.

Pete Thorson appeared to the Council with concerns about polluted drinking water on his property, sewer encroachments, and issues with a hydraulic study.

**Brief Presentation of TASD Operational Referendum Information Tomah School Board**

School Superintendent Mike Hanson appeared before the Council to give a short presentation on the upcoming school referendum at the April 4<sup>th</sup> election. The Tomah Area School District is asking taxpayers to vote “yes” to exceed the current revenue limit by \$2,500,000. Hanson introduced a video by Michelle Clark that explained the history of previous year funding, where the monies will be used, and how the funds requested are less than neighboring school districts are using in their operating budgets. Hanson entertained questions from the Council and outlined what the school district will do if the referendum does not pass.

**Request by Jennifer Sasser for consideration of granting her beverage operator’s license**

Jennifer Sasser did not appear. Motion by Glyn, second by Pater, to deny appeal for the bartender license for Jennifer Sasser. Motion carried.

**Mayor**

In response to public scrutiny, the Mayor passed out a 5-year improvement list showing businesses and amenities added to the city over the past five years (shown below). He thanked the Council and city employees that have contributed to the continued growth of the city of Tomah.

Business	
Year	Property description
2017/2018	Mill Haven
2018	Toro Expansion
2018	Jimmy Johns
2018	Gundersen Health
2018	Bakers Table
2019	Riverbank
2019	1st Community Credit Union
2019	3rd Gen. Complex
2019	Holland Truck Addition
2019	Doogie's Doggie Day Care
2020	Bubnich Redevelopment
2020	Storage Units - Berry Ave.
2022	Holiday Inn Express
2022	Dwyer Transport
2022	Cardinal Expansion
2022	Our Town Tomah Assisted Living
2022	Storage Units - E. Washington
2022	Storage Units - Hwy 21
2023	Redevelopment
2023	Redevelopment Denny's Auto

Amenities	
Year	Property description
2018/2019	Public Restroom
2018	Chamber Building
2018	Tomah Health
2019	Boy Scout Cabin Roof
2019	Streetsights
2019	Walking Trail Extension
2020	All-Inclusive Pier
2021	All-Inclusive Park
2021	Point Trail
2022	Winnebago Park
2023	Disc Golf
2023	Dog Park
2023	Ems Building
2023	Flare Ave Complex
2023	Ice Center Expansion
2023	Veteran's Playground

Housing	
Year	Property description
2018-2022	Housing per year
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 - New Homes</li> <li>• 23 - Duplexes</li> <li>• 1 -51 Unit Multifamily</li> <li>• 8 - Mobile Homes</li> </ul>

This is not a comprehensive list of all developments that have occurred in the last five years, but, it is an attempt to quantify development, business investments and amenities that were added to the City of Tomah.

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### **Resolution in Recognition of Service to the City of Tomah for Paul D. Marten**

Paul Marten was not available for the service recognition resolution, and it will be read at a later date.

### **Senior Executive Team**

The SET provided a written monthly Senior Executive Team Monthly Report and entertained questions from the Council.

### **Public Safety**

Adler provided a Public Safety monthly and annual written report.

There was a structure fire at 519 Glendale Ave. Entry was made quickly, but there was smoke damage. A DSPS audit recommendation was for the city to have an auto-aid agreement with a neighboring department. Adler presented this to Ft. McCoy, and they will be discussing an agreement in the future. Adler gave an update on the EMS building be complete in early June.

The final EMS full-time position has been filled and they are fully staffed. Transfer percentages are over 90% completion. Medicaid revalidation is complete.

The fire department responded to 335 calls last year. There has been a 500% increase in fire calls in the last 20 years. There have been no fire related deaths in the city in 41 years. The Fire Department received a score of 3.0 ISO rating which could help with property owner's insurance rates. Adler thanked all the businesses in Tomah that support the fire safety programs in the city. Adler covered the highlights of his Fire Department report and EMS annual report with the council. Adler thanked the Council for their help with the EMS building.

### **Library**

There were 1,798 eBook and 4,194 Physical checkouts during the month of February. Keller covered the upcoming children's and adult's department events. "Blind date with a book" is upcoming where patrons can get a free bookmark.

### **Senior & Disabled Services**

Dir. Buchda provided a written monthly report and covered the highlights with the Council. Buchda had created a code of conduct for the Senior Center which will be published in the April newsletter. Good Friday potluck is at 11:00 and then the Sr. Center will be closed. Buchda covered the upcoming events and classes, and the success on the new basketweaving class. It only costs \$5.00 and patrons can take home a basket. The volunteer appreciation dinner will be held Thursday after the April council meeting. The Monroe County Herald published a complimentary article about the Sr. Center.

### **Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Dir. Thompson thanked Chief Adler for a tour of the new EMS facility and thanked those who attended the Chamber Banquet. Thompson covered building issues at the Chamber. They are moving forward with wayfinding signage around the city. That project has not been done for a considerable number of years. The last band has been booked for Downtown Thursday Nights. Sponsorship is now open to sponsor the event. Thompson covered the upcoming ribbon cuttings. They are working with Ft. McCoy to figure out how to attract military spouses for jobs in our region. Thompson will be attending the Mid-America Chamber Executive Conference in May. Registration is open for the Career and Job Fair on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2023
- B. Special Beer and Wine Permit Application by Monroe County Support Services for Budweiser Dairyland Super Nat'l Truck & Tractor Pull on June 22-24, 2023.
- C. Special Beer and Wine License Application by Monroe County Support Services for Monroe County Fair on July 26-30, 2023.
- D. Monroe County Support Services (MCSS) extending hours of operation at the Monroe County Fair Beer Garden on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29, 2023 at Recreation Park
- E. Tomah PD Suppression Device Reimbursement Budget Amendment
- F. February 28, 2023 Cash and Investments Report

Motion carried.

### **Ordinance amending Ordinance Sec. 2-557 of the City of Tomah Municipal Code (First Reading, Second Reading, Adoption)**

Motion by Zabinski, second by Kiefer, to waive the first verbatim reading of the ordinance amending ordinance Sec. 2-57 of the city of Tomah Municipal Code. Motion carried.

Motion by Zabinski, second by Pater to waive the first verbatim reading of the ordinance amending ordinance Sec. 2-557 of the city of Tomah Municipal Code. Motion carried.

Motion by Kiefer, second by Glynn, to adopt ordinance amending ordinance Sec. 2-557 of the city of Tomah Municipal Code. Motion carried with one negative vote (Yarrington)

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ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**Ordinance Amending Section 2-557 of the City of Tomah Municipal Code**

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

**SECTION ONE:** Section 2-557 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-557. Composition; term; quorum; meetings.**

The long range planning committee shall consist of the mayor, two members of the common council, and four members with two of said members being members of the planning commission. The council member terms shall be for two years. Members shall be appointed by the mayor at the annual organizational meeting of the council subject to confirmation by the council. Each of the remaining members shall hold office three years, unless sooner removed for cause. Four members shall constitute a quorum, but all actions shall require the affirmative approval of a majority of all members of the committee. The members shall elect the officers and hold the meetings as necessary and proper for carrying on its functions.

**SECTION TWO:** All ordinances in conflict with the foregoing are hereby repealed.

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

**Resolution for Payment of Monthly Bills**

Motion by Zabinski, second by Gigous, to approve the Resolution for Payment of Monthly Bills in the amount of \$6,180,023.38. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO : \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

Be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Tomah that the Committee of the Whole has reviewed the monthly bills and recommends the City Council approve said bills as follows:

1. Pre-Paid Checks:	2023	\$3,805,490.90	Check #'s:	141973	142008
				142029	142198
2. Payroll:		\$411,834.60	Dir Dep #'s:	9298309	9298697
3. Wire/ACH Transfers:		\$885,381.29			
4. Invoices:		\$1,077,316.59			
Total:		<u>\$6,180,023.38</u>			

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Requested by: Finance Department

Submitted by: Committee of the Whole

March 20, 2023

**Winnebago Park Trail Addition**

Motion by Glynn, second by Gigous, approve the addition of the recreational trail to the Winnebago Park project. Discussion ensued on the safety of the trail vs. the removal of additional green land in the park. The Mayor asked Odile Nelson from the Parks and Recreation Commission to speak on the items discussed at the meeting where this item was recommended to council. Dir. Protz appealed to the council to approve this item while the park is under construction. Dir. Arity was asked how much more expensive it would be to complete this after the current project is complete, and it would incur a slight increase in cost. Motion carried with three negative votes (Kiefer, Peterson, and Yarrington.)

**Request usage of A.R.P.A. funds for lighting upgrades at Recreation Park**

Motion by Glynn, second by Gigous, to recommend the Council approve the use \$36,307 for the purchase of lighting upgrades at Rec Park. Motion carried.

**Approval of the new lease with Tomah Youth Hockey Association**

The current lease is outdated and has been revised by the City Attorney. Motion by Yarrington, second by Glynn, to approve the updated lease between the City of Tomah and the Tomah Youth Hockey Association. Motion carried.

**Election Tally for the February 21, 2023 Election**

Motion by Kiefer, second by Zabinski, to accept the election tally for the February 21, 2023 Election.

**Adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel regarding strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved**

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Motion by Koel, second by Zabinski, to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(g) to confer with the city attorney. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:04 p.m.

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Michael Murray, Mayor

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Attest: Rebecca Weyer, City Clerk

To be approved April 18, 2023