

MINUTES FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JULY 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Travis Scholze at 6:30 p.m. Present: Michael Murray, Travis Scholze, Richard Yarrington, Shawn Zabinski, Nicole Hart, Lamont Kiefer, and Dean Peterson. Absent: Nellie Pater and John Glynn. Also present: Kirk Arity, Becki Weyer, Molly Powell, and Tina Thompson. All motions are unanimous unless otherwise noted. The meeting was available remotely via Zoom and was recorded by Hagen Sports Network.

Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2023

Motion by Zabinski, second by Murray, to approve the minutes from June 19, 2023. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

City Clerk

Weyer provided a written monthly report. The City Clerk and full-time Deputy Clerk are both attending a full week of training the week of 07/17/2023 – 07/21/2023 for obtaining their Certified Municipal Clerk certifications. The Joint Review Board has been tentatively scheduled for August 17th at 9:00 a.m. All but three of the existing licenses have been changed over to the new Mobile Food Truck Ordinance process. They are eagerly looking for updates on Assembly Bill 304. The item of note for the Clerk's office and Police department is the state's regulation of bartender licenses, which will remove that burden from the municipality.

Treasurer

Powell provided the May 31, 2023 Revenue and Expenditures with Comparison to Budget for review and the Cash and Investments Report for approval.

Motion by Kiefer, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the June 30, 2023 Cash and Investments Report. Motion carried.

Tomah will receive an additional \$398,187 in 2024 to be used toward law enforcement, fire protection, EMS, public works, courts, and transportation. This amount represents a 20% increase plus our share of a supplemental amount designed to close per capita gaps between communities. The Repeal of Personal Property tax was also passed, with a plan for the state to backfill lost revenue. This will take place for the December 2024 tax levy due in 2025. We should have guidance on our allowable levy increase and our state funding by mid-August. At that time, we will update our budgets and begin meetings with Department Heads. The treasurer's office is short on staffing through the rest of the summer due to a medical leave of absence.

Moody's Credit Opinion

On June 27th the City had its Moody's rating call. This was a positive call as the City of Tomah (A1) maintains a consistent credit profile supported by measured year-over-year tax base growth and stable governmental and business-type enterprise fund operations and available reserves. The city's long-term liabilities ratio is average for its sector. The rating stayed the same from previous years. They are considering an upgrade to an AA3 rating; however, the performance and young life of TID 8 kept the rating from being upgraded.

Public Works And Utilities Director Report

Arity provided a written monthly report.

Street: They have completed the crack sealing, chip sealing, and micro slurry operations. The bridge deck near the dam has been sealed with polymer epoxy coating. May Street is coming along nicely with the west side of the street nearing completion. The white paint is complete and the yellow will be completed shortly. The resurfacing of Winnebago park will start soon. They aided the school district by helping them pave a small portion of their parking lot.

Sewer: The ET intersection project has started, and the sewer replacement is approximately 25% complete. There is a new employee in their trial period of training.

Water: The car wash next to the ET intersection project had a disruption of service for several days due to a pipe break.

Lake: The Lake Committee's next meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 5:00 p.m. The dam inspection was on July 6th and they are awaiting the final report.

Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau

Dir. Thompson reported they are a third of the way through Downtown Thursday Nights events. The first three events went very well. There will be a change in the music lineup, Bon Journey will not be available, but they are working on a replacement. Thompson appreciated the City for sharing the last-minute change to the fireworks schedule due to the weather. She explained that they attempted to get a color guard and student band for the 4th of July parade but were unable to get one scheduled despite trying to schedule groups as early as March. The golf tournament is on September 8th. Next week Business after 5 will be at the Monroe County Fair and DTN will be delayed during the week of the fair.

Revocation of Taxi Cab Drivers License for Daniel Martin

In November of 2019, the then City Clerk and Police Chief denied a renewal taxi-cab license for Daniel Martin for the 2020 license year due to an extensive history of vehicle crashes, particularly when using city-owned vehicles. In the December 2019 Committee of the Whole and Council meetings Mr. Martin appeared to appeal the non-renewal decision, citing he drives over 800 miles per week, and he was not at fault for the accidents he was involved in. The Common Council passed a motion on 12/19/2019 to reverse the non-renewal and grant Mr. Martin the taxi cab driver license. Since the appeal, Martin has been in two significant accidents, the last of which resulted in a Tomah Transit passenger being injured. It is the recommendation of the City Clerk and Police Chief that the taxi cab driver's license issued to Daniel Martin be revoked. Motion by Murray, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the revocation of the taxi cab license for Daniel Martin. Motion carried.

Approval to use ARPA funding to purchase six (6) Radar Feedback Speed Signs

The Tomah Police Department historically reviews many complaints about speeding vehicles in certain areas of the community. In particular, the areas most complained about are Bow Street, La Grange Ave, North Glendale Avenue, and W. Clifton Street. After seeing results from their Metro Count unit, the police recommend installing radar feedback signs to reduce the amount of speeding in these areas. Motion by Yarrington, second by Peterson to recommend the Council approve the purchase of six radar feedback speed signs in the amount of \$23,419.49 using ARPA funds. Motion carried.

Original application of "Class B" Liquor & Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage License

The Elbow Room has new owners, who have applied for an original alcohol license for the period August 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Motion by Kiefer, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the original application for The Elbow Room. Motion carried.

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Monthly Bills

Motion by Zabinski, second by Murray, to recommend the Council approve the Resolution Authorizing Payment of Monthly Bills in the amount of \$1,938,677.84. Motion carried.

Approval of Ehlers Contract for 2023 Financial Management Plan

Motion by Murray, second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the contract for the 2023 financial management plan with Ehlers. Motion carried with one negative vote (Yarrington)

Special Event Cabaret license application by KC Entertainment to have karaoke music at Gillette Park (in Tomah) on July 23rd, 2023

Motion by Murray second by Zabinski, to recommend the Council approve the Special Event cabaret license for KC Entertainment for July 23rd, 2023 pending the receipt of liability insurance information. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Motion by Peterson, second by Zabinski, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Weyer, City Clerk
To be approved August 14, 2023