

MINUTES FOR COMMON COUNCIL JULY 15, 2025

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held at 819 Superior Ave. in the City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Dwyer at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Present: P. Dwyer, Shawn Zabinski, John Glynn, Richard Yarrington, Patrick Devine, Travis Scholze, Nellie Pater, Dean Peterson, and Mitchell Koel (6:31 p.m.) Absent: None. Also present: Pam Buchda, Tim Adler, Nick Morales, Nicole Jacobs, Eric Pedersen, Penny Precour, and Nikolas Dorava. The meeting was available via Zoom and was recorded by Hagen Sports Network. All motions are unanimously approved unless otherwise noted.

Anyone Desiring to Appear Before the Council

Pete Thorson, a property owner in Tomah, appeared before the council to speak about city wells and ground water and to request the detachment of his property from city limits.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dwyer had no report for the council.

Employee of the Month

N. Morales addressed the council, informing them that department heads unanimously nominated city employee, Megan Sweda, as June Employee of the Month. N. Morales said M. Sweda has been a source of consistency in the department and helped others acclimate to their new roles. He also said several other city employees have expressed how impressed they are with M. Sweda.

Acceptance of Reports: City Administrator, Economic Development and Zoning, Public Safety, Senior & Disabled Services, Library

Motion by S. Zabinski, second by J. Glynn, to accept the following reports:

City Administrator Monthly Report
Economic Development and Zoning Monthly Report
Library Monthly Report
Public Safety Monthly Report
Senior & Disabled Services Monthly Report

N. Pater suggested the Senior Center consider doing a monthly update on Hagen Sports Network. R. Yarrington asked T. Adler additional questions regarding the status of the new aerial truck the city will be purchasing. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion by R. Yarrington, second by M. Koel, to approve the following consent agenda: Motion carried.

Approval of Resolution for Payment of Monthly Bills

Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2025

Approval: Temporary Class "B" License to VFW Post 1382 for August 9, 2025

Approval: Temporary Class "B" License to VFW Post 1382 for September 6, 2025

Approval: Amendment of the Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage Licenses and the "Class B" Liquor Licenses for Kelsey's and The Elbow Room to include the fenced in area between the two establishments for the special event hosted on August 9, 2025

Committee of the Whole:

Approval: Ordinance providing for the detachment of a portion of territory of the City of Tomah to the Town of La Grange.

Motion by R. Yarrington, second by N. Pater, to table the approval of an ordinance providing for the detachment of a portion of territory of the City of Tomah to the Town of La Grange until all proper paperwork is received from the applicant. Motion carried.

Approval: Ordinance amending Article VII, Division 2, Sections 2-600 through 2-603 of the municipal code of the City of Tomah.

Motion by D. Peterson, second by N. Pater, to table the approval of an ordinance amending Article VII, Division 2, Sections 2-600 through 2-603 of the municipal code of the City of Tomah until next month. Motion carried.

Approval: Amendment of job description for one of the two Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk positions to Human Resources Generalist/Payroll Specialist.

Motion by T. Scholze, second by P. Devine, to approve the amendment of the job description for one of the two Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk positions to Human Resources Generalist/Payroll Specialist. Motion carried.

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Approval: Amendment of job description for part-time Deputy Clerk.

Motion by S. Zabinski, second by T. Scholze, to approve the amendment of the job description for part-time Deputy Clerk. Motion carried.

General:

Approval: Acceptance of DNR Grant Award for Trail Construction

Motion by J. Glynn, second by S. Zabinski, to approve the acceptance of a DNR Grant Award for trail construction. R. Yarrington expressed concerns about the proposed route, recommending possible changes to avoid bridges. A representative from Town and Country shared the route with the council and explained the plan includes an easement that was granted to the city, which was the only workable option available in the crossing of the creek. Motion carried (Yarrington opposed).

Adjourn to Closed session Pursuant to Wis Stat § 19.85(1):

Motion by T. Scholze, second by S. Zabinski, to adjourn to closed session under Wis Stat § 19.85(1) as listed on the agenda. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:00 p.m.

Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session for:

Discussion with Gerke Excavating for the purpose of public business to negotiation of a Right of First Refusal proposal pertaining to the construction of assets on city land and the distribution of city resources.

Adjourn Meeting

Motion by T. Scholze, second by N. Pater, to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Jacobs, City Clerk