

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, COMMON COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER:

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 6:31 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Present: P. Dwyer, Nellie Pater, Shawn Zabinski, Richard Yarrington, Patrick Devine, Travis Scholze, Mitchell Koel, and John Glynn (7:08 p.m.) Absent: Dean Peterson. Also present: Nicole Jacobs, Tim Adler, Nick Morales, Justin Derhammer, Pam Buchda, Penny Precour, Barbara Hendricks, and Irma Keller. 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 TO COUNCIL:

No one appeared before the council.

MAYOR:

Mayor P. Dwyer announced this month's Employee of the Month as Barbara Hendricks. He expressed appreciation to her and all the work she does for the city. Dwyer asked N. Morales to address the council regarding a meeting that took place last week to discuss the high-speed passenger rail caucus, which consisted of representatives from Wisconsin and Minnesota. The mayor and the city administrator met with the representatives and talked about why the passenger rail was important to Tomah.

ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY REPORTS:

Motion by S. Zabinski, second by M. Koel, to accept the following reports:

City Administrator Monthly Report
Zoning Department Monthly Report
Public Safety Department Monthly Report
Senior & Disabled Services Department Monthly Report
Library Monthly Report

N. Pater asked N. Morales clarifying questions regarding the process of enforcing code violations for long grass. M. Koel asked Chief Adler questions regarding the department's new ladder truck, which was delivered last Tuesday. N. Pater asked both P. Buchda and I. Keller for programming updates. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by R. Yarrington, second by P. Devine, to approve the following consent agenda: Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2025

Approval: Special Beer Permit Application by Tomah Firefighters Association for Hunters Night Out on November 1, 2025

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Approval: Reassignment of Lot 3 Lease at Bloyer Field Airport

Motion by S. Zabinski, second by M. Koel, to approve the reassignment of Lot 3 Lease at Bloyer Field Airport. Motion carried.

Approval: Resolution Disallowing the Claim of Nathan Waege

Motion by R. Yarrington, second by N. Pater, to approve the resolution disallowing the claim of Nathan Waege. Motion carried.

Approval: Resolution for the Payment of Monthly Bills

Motion by M. Koel, second by P. Devine, to approve the resolution for the payment of monthly bills in the amount of \$2,625,147.80. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMISSION:

Approval: Mattress Removal Fee

Motion by M. Koel, second by N. Pater, to approve the mattress removal fee. R. Yarrington made comments that he had not seen anything on the public works website regarding the process of mattress removal being changed. T. Scholze asked for clarification regarding the idea of spray-painting a resident's address on the mattress. N. Morales clarified that the spray paint will help determine the origin of the mattress if it shows up in a commercial dumpster. N. Morales added that public works hasn't experienced people dumping mattresses on other residential properties, but it has become an issue of residents dumping them in dumpsters owned by local businesses. Motion carried. (Yarrington opposed)

GENERAL:

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Approval: Common Council Meeting Schedule

Motion by T. Scholze, second by R. Yarrington, to approve changing the regular common council meeting schedule to the third Monday of every month. N. Morales clarified this change was made in an effort to allow more time between meetings, which was discussed more in depth at the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 15, 2025. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Scholze, second by M. Koel to schedule two budget meetings; a public hearing on October 20, 2025 and a potential second meeting on October 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. N. Morales wanted to further clarify that all budget workshops and hearings are open to the public. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

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

Motion by M. Koel, second by T. Scholze, to adjourn to closed session under Wis Stat § 19.85(1) as listed on the agenda. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:19 p.m.

(e) 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.

- Discussion of initial proposal by the police union for FY26 collective bargaining agreements.
- Discussion of initial proposal by the ambulance union for FY26 collective bargaining agreements.
- Discussion of lease agreement with Tomah Public Housing Authority.
- Discussion of lease agreement with JNC Latin Market.

(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

- Discussion of palpable errors in Tax Increment District 8 and updates from the Department of Revenue relevant to previous legal counsel provided after notification by a taxpayer of possible litigation.
- Discussion regarding a notice of possible litigation from a resident of the City of Tomah.

Adjourn Meeting

Motion by R. Yarrington, second by T. Scholze, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Jacobs, City Clerk