

The COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Tomah met in **REGULAR SESSION**, January 12, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Allan "Ed" Thompson presiding.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with George Wright, Ron Olsen, Ted Schleicher, Pete Peterson, Nellie Pater, Dennis Greeno, John Cram, and Joanne Westpfahl present. Absent: None. Also in attendance: City Admin. Jim Bialecki, Asst. City Attorney Penny Berry, and City Clerk JoAnn Cram. Gregg Hagen videotaped the meeting.

Motion by Wright, second by Greeno to adjourn to closed session pursuant to State Statute 19.85(1)(c) and (e) to confer with legal counsel with respect to deliberating/negotiating the sale of public properties, discussion of Union Negotiations regarding WPPA Union, and non-represented compensation. Meeting adjourned to closed session at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to open session pursuant to State Statute 19.85(2) at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes: Motion by Peterson, second by Westpfahl to approve the December 8, 2009 Regular Council minutes and the December 15, 2009 Special Common Council minutes as presented. Motion passed without negative vote.

Appointment: Motion by Wright, second by Olsen to approve Mayor Thompson's recommendation and appoint Tony Farmer to the Public Works and Utilities Commission to fulfill the remaining term of Dan Ludeking with the term expiring April 2011. Motion passed with one negative vote (Peterson).

Mayor Report. Mayor Thompson advised that a public meeting will be held on 1/26/10 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers regarding the Hollister Avenue street improvement project. The contractor, engineers, and city officials will be present to explain project details and to answer questions. There may be assessments for installation of new curb, gutter and sidewalk as well as one block of new street construction.

City Administrator. E.P.A. 5-Year Review. The review should be available to the City by the end of January. Up until this year, we have been required to do quarterly inspections of the monitoring and sentry wells. As of 2010, the inspections are semi-annual. The EPA is asking us to install another sentry well northeast of the plume to further protect the five home owners nearby. We are researching the fiscal and health benefits of providing city water to the nearby home owners. **Annual Audit.** The 2009 Annual Audit will commence the week of March 15, 2010. There is an extra billing request of \$5,820 for the 2008 audit under Committee of the Whole. **High Speed Rail.** City Administrator Bialecki will be attending the Empire Builder High Speed Rail Coalition meeting on Friday, January 15th. **Health Insurance Options.** City Administrator Bialecki scheduled meetings with Gundersen Lutheran and Health Traditions on January 15th, 2010 to discuss program and fiscal options for city health insurance.

City Clerk. City Clerk Cram provided information on the Spring Primary and Spring Election.

Public Works & Utilities – Water, Sewer, Public Works & Lake Updates. Public Works & Utilities Director Ken Patterson provided a written report to the Council. Sidewalks need to be cleaned during the winter. Citations will be issued as well as charges for the City having to clean the sidewalk. Notices were delivered to all residents that will be affected by the Hollister Avenue project in the spring. There will be another meeting once the contractors are selected.

Library Report. Library Director Irma Keller advised that the Library has a new website. Story time events continue to increase in numbers. Friends of the Library hosted the annual Tea in December and raised \$1,500.

Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau. Executive Director Chris Hanson advised that Business After 5 will be held January 20th at Pizones Restaurant. The annual banquet is scheduled for February 22nd at Cranberry Country Lodge. The Chamber is working on a new website. The Executive Board was elected for the Chamber and Donna Evans is the new President. The Tomah Veterans Memorial Campaign has hit \$50,000 in fundraising in less than one year. All donations are encouraged as the goal is \$125,000.

Tomah Public Housing & Community Development Block Grant Monthly Report. Director Rachel Muehlenkamp provided a summarized report. The procurement policy has been revised. The Block Grant program has been working on updating the manual and procedural guidelines for business loans. A rehab is currently being worked on with the Senior Center for rental property. \$7,000 is requested to invest in that property to make the property ready for rental.

Senior & Disabled Services Report. No report provided.

Parks & Recreation Monthly Report. Parks & Recreation Director Joe Protz provided a monthly report of activities. Recreation programs have been busy and many established as well as new programs have begun.

Treasurer Cash & Investment Reports for December. Motion by Peterson, second by Cram to accept the treasurer's cash & investment reports for December, 2009. Motion passed without negative vote.

Community Development Block Grant - FR09-12 Affordable Rental Property Loan. Kupper Ratsch Senior Center currently owns an unutilized 1 bedroom rental unit at 107 ½ E. Milwaukee Street that is in need of rehab to make it ready for occupancy. Work items include: flooring, appliances, bathroom window replacement, painting, plumbing inspection/repair as needed, removal of walls to create living room area and other general repairs. Tomah Public Housing Authority staff would manage the lease and occupancy of the apartment at no charge to the Senior Center. On-going maintenance of the unit would be completed or overseen by Tomah Public Housing Authority staff and the Senior Center would be billed for actual time and materials. The proposed loan is for 5 years at 3% interest in the amount of \$7,000 with principal and interest payments of \$126 per month. Loan terms would require that the rental unit be rented to low/moderate income households with the rental rate set at or below 110% of the Dept. of HUD Fair Market Rent which is currently at \$518 per month. Based on these terms the rent would be set at \$510 and would include all utilities.

Motion by Greeno, second by Pater to approve Affordable Rental Property Loan FR09-12, a 5-year 3% interest rental rehab loan in the amount of \$7,000 be approved for the Kupper Ratsch Senior Center. Motion passed without negative vote.

Bartender Licenses. Motion by Cram, second by Peterson to approve the bartender licenses as listed. Motion passed without negative vote. Bartender licenses approved as follows: Elizabeth A. Cottrell, Marie K. Harkner, Christina M. Huber, and Shantelle C. Hunter.

Additional Charges for the 2008 Audit. Deb Welch of Clifton Gunderson advised that the actual hours for the 2008 audit were 346 which is an unanticipated overrun of 93 hours. Some of the areas they spent more time on included allowance of doubtful debt accounts for the ambulance service, fund balances, clearing of the tax fund, landfill related debt obligation, and changes in the capital asset records. They are suggesting a one-time additional fee of \$5,820.

Motion by Cram, second by Westpfahl to deny the request from Clifton Gunderson LLP for an additional \$5,820 for services connected with the 2008 Audit as the contract states the fees will not exceed \$24,600 unless the City is advised before they undertake any work that would require an increase in the fee arrangement. Motion passed without negative vote.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. The auditors have used 120 days as a cutoff for allowance for doubtful accounts. This is not to be confused with uncollectable accounts. It is requested that the City establish a policy and use 12 months versus 120 days as charges wind up in litigation and payment exceeds 120 days and the turn-around time with Medicare and Insurance companies may also exceed 120 days.

Motion by Cram, second by Westpfahl to establish a policy and use 12 months as the cutoff for allowance for doubtful accounts. Motion passed without negative vote.

Resolution in Support of Midwest Rail Route – Chicago to the Twin Cities via La Crosse. There are two proposed routes; one is Madison to La Crosse and the other Madison to Eau Claire. The Eau Claire route will go from Madison to Camp Douglas and then north to Eau Claire and bypass Tomah. The La Crosse route goes through Tomah and stops in Tomah. The intent of the Long Range Planning Committee is to create a transportation hub located on the railroad property. Presently Amtrak carries 10,000 riders annually. High Speed Rail is expected to increase ridership an additional 30,000. The increased frequency of trains on this route makes high speed rail a viable alternative to travel to the Twin Cities, Madison, Milwaukee or Chicago because a round trip may be accomplished in one day.

Motion by Schleicher, second by Peterson to approve **Resolution No. 2010-01-12-01** Supporting the Midwest Rail Route – Chicago to the Twin Cities via La Crosse. Motion passed without negative vote.

Resolution Approving Monthly Bills. Motion by Schleicher, second by Olsen to approve **Resolution No. 2010-01-12-02** Authorizing Payment of the Monthly Bills as follows: Pre-Paid Checks at \$240,663.49 (Check #'s 103719-103784), Payroll at \$390,255.63, Direct Deposit (#21601 - 22003), Wire Transfers at \$29,174.16, Invoices at \$85,600.57 (Check #'s 103792 -

103942), and Vouchers Payable 2009 at \$109,987.71 for a total amount of \$855,681.56. Motion passed without negative vote.

Non-Union Compensation.

Motion by Peterson, second by Wright to approve the non represented compensation package for 2010 as follows: Wage increase of 2% on January 1, 2010 and a one-half (½) % increase effective October 1, 2010; the employee contribution for health insurance increases to 10% of the health insurance premium with health insurance premium deductions occurring twice per month; and per Department of Employee Trust Funds rules and regulations, the \$250 buyout compensation for not electing health insurance through the City of Tomah will be eliminated for non-represented employees. Motion passed without negative vote.

Update on Status of Veterans Memorial Oversight Group – Information Only. Alderperson Schleicher advised that fundraising efforts have continued and there is over \$50,000 currently in the fund. A student from WTC has been working on letters for local businesses. Those letters will be sent out which will hopefully generate additional funds for the project.

No one else wished to appear before the Common Council.

Motion by Pater second by Westpfahl to adjourn. Motion passed without negative vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Approved: Allan "Ed" Thompson, Mayor

Attest: JoAnn M. Cram, City Clerk
To be approved 2/9/2010