

The COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Tomah met in **SPECIAL SESSION**, October 22, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. with Mayor John Rusch presiding in the Municipal Building, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with LeRoy Kelsey, Luke Bohlen, Ted Schleicher, Pam Buchda, Nellie Pater, Dennis Greeno, Matthew Boyea, and Larry Siekert present. Absent: None. Also in attendance: City Admin. Jim Bialecki, City Clerk JoAnn Cram, Ambulance Director Jody Allen, Police Chief Wes Revels, Parks and Rec Dir. Joe Protz, Public Works & Utilities Director Ken Patterson, Fire Chief Kevin Decorah, CDBG/Housing Director Rachel Muehlenkamp, Police Dept. Admin. Asst. Rhonda Culpitt and Admin. Asst. Kitty Gnewikow. Gregg Hagen did not videotape the meeting.

Budget Summary – Jim Bialecki

Expenditures / Revenues: 2011 General fund budget was \$6,012,989, the expenditure restraint program allows for 2% increase to 6,133,249. The 2012 budget is proposed at \$6,069,344, \$63,915 under the ceiling. The 2011 levy was approved at \$4,026,005. The proposed 2012 levy is \$4,261,935 or an increase of 5.86% over 2011 but under the allowable by \$88,604. The combined tax rate for city and lake is .32 less than 2011. A \$100,000 home will see a \$32.00 decrease in their City tax bill if the proposed budget is approved.

Significant changes in the proposal include decreases in shared revenue and transportation aids, an increase in Debt Service for Hollister project, and a full time street labor position being eliminated.

Building Inspection/Zoning/Planning – Shane Rolff. Overall, Inspection is down 2.38% and the Planning budget is down 6%. Funds will be utilized towards enhancing the website as far as economic development.

CDBG – Rachel Muehlenkamp – No questions on the budget as presented. No tax dollars are involved with these budgets and they are currently operating with enough cash flow to fund the program.

Library – Irma Keller. The Library Board has control over how the Library spends their money. Utilities were lowered by \$1,000 from \$8,000 to \$7,000 by the City Admin. Maintenance of Effort requirements have been eliminated by the State Budget Bill for 2012.

Ambulance – Jody Allen. No tax dollars are involved with this budget except for the per capita fee of \$4 per city population. A new ambulance will be purchased in 2012.

Fire Protection – Kevin Decorah. Overall costs depend on the calls for service that are experienced. The costs are projected based on past experience. The Fire Department does a good job getting additional funding through grants and donations. The Fire Department is doing a fund raising project in November towards the purchase of a new command vehicle.

Tourism Budget. This budget is funded by the room tax income.

Parks & Recreation – Joe Protz. Mr. Protz advised there is a leak at the swimming pool and it has been isolated to a water slide which is outside the pool deck. It is unknown at this time the cost to repair the leak. There is \$160,000 proposed for drainage at Firemen's park (\$40,000 carried forward from park space fees) as well as resurfacing Glendale ballpark fields. The electrical upgrades at Recreation Park would be a split project for lighting (50/50) with Monroe County Ag Society (\$10,000 each). The old Boy Scout cabin near the pool is no longer in use. Possibly look at tearing it down in a future budget process.

General Buildings/Public Works/Refuse/Superfund/Utilities – Ken Patterson. The General Buildings budget went down 4.61%. The 1975 section of City hall was completed which resulted in a decrease in future energy costs. There is a slight decrease in highway and street maintenance. \$800,000 was carried forward on the Hollister Avenue project for final billings. Additional work was able to be completed on these street projects because of lower bids. There is \$42,389 in sidewalk maintenance for 2012. Proposed is \$50,000 carried forward for new sidewalk on North Superior Avenue with funds coming from the Hollister Street carryover. A proposed dump truck was removed by the Administrator at \$135,000. PW & Utilities Director Patterson advised the department is down 5 employees since 2000. They are proposing to replace 2 in 2012; however, if garbage collection is not changed to include pickup for one and two family dwellings only, they would need to replace 3 employees. It was asked if continuing to mow the north/south runway was an option in an effort to save funds. Mr. Patterson advised that they could look into that. The Weed and Nuisance Control Operations budget increased to \$29,000 due to increased mowing and snow removal costs. These costs are offset by revenues as the fees are charged back to the

property owner. Recycling – Refuse and Garbage Collection. It is proposed to eliminate a person and cut back staff to two employees. Solid Waste Disposal fees go down 50% with this proposal. By not picking up business garbage (anything over a 2 family dwelling), the projected savings is \$118,306. The amount of garbage is increasing due to higher population. Some cities run the refuse portion as an enterprise fund and add it to the water and sewer bills. Other communities rent a container per month and the garbage must fit in the container while other communities pick up all residential only. Another option is the bag system where you purchase the bags from the City. Mr. Patterson advised the recycling budget is going down because we changed the process for white goods. Instead of paying to dispose of them, we now have a place that will pay the City for the white goods. Superfund Budget has decreased from \$129,531 to \$69,527.

Judicial – Judge Tom Flock. There is a proposed adjustment of \$1500 to the Judge's wage effective April 2012.

Senior & Disabled Services – Delia Duncan. There is revenue from rental property to assist with this budget.

Public informational meeting held at 10 a.m. There is a proposal in the 2012 budget to limit garbage pickup to only one and two family homes with the approximate savings of \$118,306. The reason for the informational meeting is for public input. This would eliminate garbage pickup for apartment buildings with 3 or more units and all business. It is estimated that half of the current businesses have dumpsters in place at this time. State law dictates that motels/hotels/restaurants must have garbage picked up every 48 hours. The City only picks up garbage once per week. These types of businesses already have private garbage pickup contracted. This measure would save \$118,306 by only picking up one and two family residences. Mr. Patterson provided information as follows: There are approximately 3,200 residential and commercial pickups in the City. The cost for garbage pickup and disposal is roughly \$321,000 which is \$100.31 per household per year or \$1.93 per household per week. The cost for garbage pickup only is \$182,879 per year which is \$57.15 per household or \$1.10 per week. Recycling adds another \$175,489 per year raising the total budget to \$497,368 per year. This raises the total cost to \$155.43 per household per year or \$2.99 per household per week. Included in this price are garbage pick-up and disposal, recyclable material pick-up, appliance disposal, electronics disposal, furniture disposal, leaf pickup and brush pickup, all at curbside.

The following members of the public addressed the Council:

Brian Rice commended the City on their garbage pickup efforts. He believes changing this process will create problems with people not picking their garbage up timely. Mr. Rice feels that the City can take care of this garbage and is aware that budget cuts are necessary; however, he doesn't feel his renters can afford to have a rent increase to pay for additional garbage fees. Mr. Rice has about 40 renters.

Jane Smith, 1204 Lakeview Drive, Lakeview Condo Association. They have 10 units in their complex and she is asking for exemption due to the condo association as they are all individual property owners and they pay taxes just like a single family home. As a condo owner, they aren't able to pass on the additional expenses to a renter.

Sherry and Jeff Hininger of Hininger Rental Management advised they are tax payers. Will their taxes be reduced as apartment owners as they will now have to pay additional garbage fees? She feels every home should be taxed rather than just a few. They don't want to have to increase their rents and this seems to be a double tax situation. When you increase garbage fees, items appear at the dumpsters so they can avoid paying for garbage and they fear this would increase those types of problems. They advise that monthly they are getting tires, sofas, beds, garbage, etc. in their dumpsters. They are anticipating \$3,000 additional costs for their renters with this proposal. Mr. Hininger advised that if we eliminate the large pickup, dumpsters will receive more of those types of items in the middle of the night.

Carolyn Habelman, President of Waters Edge Condo Association, 403 Butts Avenue. Their problem is they have individual owners of 4 buildings, 16 units and none of them are rented. They have only so many slots to park something. If garbage is taken away, and they need to use a parking space for dumpsters, they will not meet code. Everyone should be treated equal. What makes them different because they own a condo, not a home? Ms. Habelman feels this is a form of discrimination and wishes the Council would consider the condo association aspect.

Tim Brohaugh of 1013 Hollister advised they currently own a 3 plex in which the parent lives in one, the son in another and a renter in the third. The assessed value is \$85,000 and would not even generate \$20 of tax relief. He doesn't want to raise the rent as the renter can't afford it. He doesn't see it as fair and also sees this as a first step of eliminating all garbage pickup.

Steve Austin with Tomah Lumber Properties feels this is a very unequal proposal. Mr. Austin took 41 single family residences compared to townhouse residences. On average, townhouses paid 7% more in taxes than the single family residences. He also feels this is a very ineffective means of garbage pickup. One-third of townhouse residents are retired with fixed income households. The net result would be one-eighth of the city subsidizing garbage pickup for the remaining households.

Doug Lueck is a condo owner. Condo owners are not renters. They are owner residents and have a common interest in the exterior of the building. The condo association contracts out lawn and snow care. It's like a single family home and is asking that the city exempt condominiums from the consideration that is being undertaken.

Eric Carlson, 1204 Lakeview Drive feels the proposed method would be an efficient way to fix the problem. Mr. Carlson suggested eliminating all garbage pickup and contracting everything instead of selecting certain properties to pay more.

Mark Butterfield of 1021 Ellen Drive is a property owner and manages a non-profit office complex. It's more efficient for the city overall and the cost is lower if the garbage is picked up comprehensively. He also owns a business downtown. He doesn't have the space at the non-profit location for a dumpster. Mr. Butterfield fears misuse of the dumpsters by others will be a major problem. The City also operates the recycling program and most of their refuse is recycled material.

Jerry Martel of Modern Disposal Systems of 800 Townline Road and his son John advised the landfill cost is over \$300,000. If the City could promote recycling more and eliminate some of the landfill costs, it would save budget dollars. The police department is very aggressive about going after illegal dumpsters. Illegal dumping is an issue. People buy storage units and dump the items wherever to get rid of it. He suggests working with Modern Disposal to pick up more recycling and alleviate the tipping fees at the landfill site.

Mayor Rusch asked for a show of hands for people not in favor of the proposal and the majority raised their hands. Mayor Rusch advised he is not in favor of the proposal and at the end of the day he hopes to convince the Council to put this back in the budget. This is not a situation that is going to disappear and we need to promote the elimination of people bringing in garbage from outside the city limits. Education of what Modern Disposal will take also needs to be done so that people know that there are other options.

Aldersperson Schleicher advised that an ad-hoc committee has been established to look at cost savings in all aspects of city operations. Aldersperson Pater advised that the garbage pickup process costs a substantial amount of money and alternatives need to be looked at. These costs will continue to rise. Aldersperson Bohlen summarized that we have an excellent service that is being provided in our garbage pickup. We have to look at both sides of the issue while still falling within the guidelines established for us by the legislature. In this situation, to keep the service we have currently provided, it will be 20 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. Where will the funds come from to comply with levy limit requirements?

City Administrator Bialecki advised that state funding has been cut by \$150,000 which we are trying to make up for due to recent legislative directives. Declining values also play a factor as well as the changes in the calculation process. The intention of the ad hoc committee will look at maintaining services within the budget limitations.

Public informational session ended at 10:57 a.m.

Law Enforcement / Other Public Safety – Wes Revels. Chief Revels provided a summary of his budget proposal. The police department will maintain current staffing. The department now registers new vehicles and also renews plates. There is a \$19.50 fee per new registration. The City receives revenue for each new registration. Training is an area that reduces risk and liability exposure. Law Enforcement Outlay – The department head proposed amount increased from \$15,700 to \$21,845 to allow for the purchase of a new copier. The main concern in relationship to personnel is safety. The new squad will be a Taurus style versus the previous Crown Victoria. They are now rotating vehicles out at 100,000 miles which allows for only one vehicle in 2012. The K-9 vehicle is now being utilized for 8 years which is the lifespan of the K-9. This saves changeover costs. A trade-in or sale of an older squad will offset the costs of the squad in 2012. It isn't reflected in the budget this year as it is unknown the cost of the squad and conversion as the squad will be a different make/model. Overtime was discussed as well as reimbursement of \$10,600 projected from officers that assisted at the Capitol during the year.

Ambulance – Service Contracts – Jim Bialecki. This is a per capita fee of \$4 per resident. This has not increased in quite some time other than population adjustments.

Administrative/General Government

City Clerk - JoAnn Cram . Discussion was held on going paperless for Council agendas. It was requested that the clerk look at the costs associated with this process. Additional funds were added for the copier.

Elections - JoAnn Cram. There is a possibility of 6 elections in 2012. The County will be responsible for paying for the majority of the costs but the city would be required to staff the additional elections including minor publication costs.

Insurance - JoAnn Cram. Workers Comp mod rate has increased which will increase the workers comp insurance premiums.

Computer - JoAnn Cram/Julia Rusch. Normal computer replacement is scheduled.

Other General Govt. – Jim Bialecki, JoAnn Cram/Julia Rusch

Debt Service – Jim Bialecki/JoAnn Cram/Julia Rusch.

Treasurer - Julia Rusch The credit card fee was questioned and explained. Alderperson Boyea is requesting that a convenience fee be looked at to offset the \$5,000 credit card fee and charge the costs back to the consumer.

Illegal Taxes, Tax Refunds and Uncollectible Taxes, Special Assessments & Receivables - Julia Rusch.

Mass Transit – Julia Rusch. \$35,000 is put into the budget for an additional vehicle for the program. There are no tax dollars involved this year.

City Administrator – Jim Bialecki advised the health insurance rates increased.

Legislative – Jim Bialecki

Mayor - Jim Bialecki. Mayor Rusch is requesting that the 2011 current \$12,000 salary be kept at \$12,000 rather than increasing it to \$13,200 as requested by the Administrator. Mayor Rusch is asking that the \$1,200 be put in the training budget instead to allow for additional training opportunities. Alderperson Buchda feels the \$1,200 additional wages are warranted as there hasn't been an increase in many years in the Mayor's wages. It was the consensus to leave the wage increase.

Legal – Jim Bialecki. This budget has decreased as AFSCME bargaining won't be required in 2012.

Assessor – Jim Bialecki. Per current contract.

Special Accounting – Jim Bialecki/JoAnn Cram. Per current audit contract.

Capital Outlay & Capital Projects – Jim Bialecki.

TIF District, Industrial Development – Jim Bialecki

Summary: Discussion was held regarding the garbage collection. Refer to Budget page 46 – Proposed \$497,994 to fully fund the garbage as it is. City Admin. Bialecki proposed to decrease this to \$379,688 which means we have to come up with \$118,306. We were approximately \$88,000 under the levy limit on the proposed figures. If we use that \$88,000 that covers all but \$30,306. There is approximately \$1.1 million dollars in the capital fund for future projects. \$386,000 is undesignated. It was proposed to pull the difference out of the capital fund and apply it towards part of the drainage plan at Firemen's Park. This would result in a .15 cent increase per \$1,000 of valuation. \$7.56 plus 9 cents for the lake would make it 7.65 which is still lower than what it was last year at \$7.82. Because the Lake debt will be paid off and no debt payment required in 2013, the overall levy will be lower.

Alderperson Pater advised the City needs to look at garbage collection alternatives in 2012. It is suggested that this issue be addressed by the new ad hoc committee also in 2012. The City should monitor the changes in garbage pickup and have hard numbers from the study next year.

Approval of Preliminary Budget. Motion by Boyea, second by Siekert to put \$118,306 back into the budget to cover the cost of garbage collection. Motion passed without negative votes.

Motion by Boyea, second by Greeno to move \$37,000 from Fund 1 Outlay to Fund 8 Capital project (the van and the handicap lift). Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Siekert, second by Buchda to increase the City Clerk's capital project by \$3,850 for the purchase of a copy machine. Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Bohlen, second by Greeno to increase the Law Enforcement Training Account #1-52100-335(pg 52) by \$400 from \$6800 to \$7200 for law enforcement training. Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Bohlen, second by Kelsey to increase Law Enforcement Account #1-52100-114 Overtime from the proposed \$95,000 to \$100,000, an increase of \$5,000. Motion and second were withdrawn. No action.

Motion by Bohlen, second by Greeno to increase Account #1—52100-330 Law Enforcement Travel from \$5,500 to \$6,000, an increase of \$500. Motion passes with Pater and Boyea voting no.

Motion by Bohlen, to increase Library Account # L55110-221-Utilities-Gas from \$7,000 to \$8,000 due to increased utility fees. Alderperson Boyea would like to increase the electric account L55110-220 instead of gas and then debate possibly the increase to \$500. Motions are out of order as the City can't tell the Library how to spend their money. No vote.

Motion by Bohlen, second by Buchda to increase the library budget by \$1,000 due to increased costs of utility bills at the library. Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Greeno, second by Boyea to include the administrator in the same formula as other non-represented retirement adjustments for 2012. Motion passed without negative vote.

Motion by Schleicher, to not increase the Judge salary because of pending legislation. No second. Motion dies for lack of second.

Motion by Bohlen, second by Kelsey to approve the preliminary budget and to establish the 2012 levy at \$7.57 per \$1,000 of valuation. Motion passed with one negative vote (Schleicher).

Scheduling of Public Hearing – The public hearing tentatively is scheduled for November 15, 2011 - 6:30 p.m. (Availability Nov. 22nd if needed).

Motion by Greeno, second by Siekert to adjourn. Motion passed without negative vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Approved: John J. Rusch, Mayor

Attest: JoAnn M. Cram, City Clerk
To be approved 11/8/2011