

The COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Tomah met in **SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE SESSION** March 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Mike Murray presiding in the Municipal Building, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah WI.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following members present: Mike Murray, Travis Scholze, Lamont Kiefer, Donna Evans, Sue Holme, Adam Gigous, Shawn Zabinski, Jeff Cram, and Richard Yarrington. Quorum present. (Due to the Emergency Situation and the Safer at Home Order by the Governor, all parties attended via Go To Meeting,

Also present: City Attorney Penny Precour, City Administrator Roger Gorius, and City Clerk JoAnn Cram.

Review and Ratification of the Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency City of Tomah Covid-19 Response

Mayor Murray read the Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Tomah regarding Covid-19 Response. A novel strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) has spread throughout numerous countries including the United States and the World Health Organization has declared a public health emergency of international concern. The emergency conditions require a proactive response to stop the spread of COVID-19. The City of Tomah declares a state of emergency for the City of Tomah. It is ordered that Fire Chief Tim Adler shall act as the Emergency Management Director during this period of emergency. All in-person meetings and gatherings involving City employees, staff, and/or elected officials are suspended for the duration of this emergency. All meetings of the Common Council Committees, Boards and/or Commissions may be conducted remotely with access granted to the public to the full extent possible. Public access to City facilities shall be limited. All city sponsored events will either be cancelled or rescheduled during the emergency.

Motion by Yarrington, second by Scholze to approve the Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Tomah regarding Covid-19. Motion passed without negative vote.

Review and Ratification of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Temporary/Emergency Policy

Motion by Zabinski, second by Holme to approve the ratification of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Temporary/Emergency Policy. Motion passed without negative vote.

General discussion of COVID-19 in relation to city action/response.

When the original discussions were held, it was felt that the Fire Chief be appointed as the Emergency Management Director during this emergency. It is felt that the City Administrator, in light of the situation, be named as the Emergency Management Director due to the nature of the pandemic. City Attorney Precour requests designation to authorize the City Administrator to make those decisions in consultation with the Mayor and the City Council so that things can be done in real time. Things are changing and proclamations and policies may need to be modified as time goes on.

Motion by Kiefer, second by Cram to designate the City Administrator as the Emergency Management Director and to work in conjunction with Council President Scholze and Mayor Murray making decisions so that things can be done in real time. Motion passed without negative vote.

Council members were encouraged to get questions to the City Administrator regarding items they are being asked about and they do not know the answers to. Alderperson Yarrington had a concern regarding the garbage pickup changes and Public Works is addressing this problem. The Chamber and CVB have invested in an interviewing system that can be used in multiple locations to talk to the community about the different changes that are going on. This would also be a way to get the information out. It was also suggested to put a small ad in the Foxy Shopper.

City Administrator Gorius will update the Council as needed. It was the consensus to provide an updated report to the Council daily. April 30th as another option.

Amb. Director Dunford read a news release regarding Monroe County's News Release confirming a COVID-19 case in Monroe County. The Health Department is actively identifying contacts that the individual may have had and will contact those individuals. Monroe County Health Dept. wants everyone to know that they do not need a test to know what to do to take the appropriate steps to avoid COVID-19. Contact the Monroe County Health Dept. at 608-269-8666 with questions or concerns.

Adjourn. Motion by Kiefer, second by Evans to adjourn. Motion passed without negative vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Approved:

Michael Murray, Mayor

ATTEST:

JoAnn M. Cram, City Clerk
Minutes to be approved on April 14, 2020