

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
5:15 p.m.Tomahawk City Hall
23 N 2nd Street**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS****JEFF KAHLE**
CHAIRPERSON
TERM EXP 2027**MICKEY LOKA**
TERM EXP 2026**STEVE BARTZ**
TERM EXP 2027**MELISSA NIEMAN**
TERM EXP 2028**DAN SCHULLER**
TERM EXP 2028**JUSTIN LUND**
TERM EXP 2026**JIM DAENICKE**
TERM EXP 2027

The Committee meeting will be held both in person and virtually. If you are attending remotely, you can do so by either of the following ways:

US Toll Free

1-888-475-4499

Access Code:

903 385 0484

Password: 54487**-OR-**

Via a smart device or computer:

www.zoom.com**AGENDA**

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Public Comments** (During this item on the agenda the Committee listens to oral comments from members of the public on non-agenda items. When speaking please state your name and limit your time to five minutes.)
- C. **Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**
 - 1. January 13, 2026
- D. **Other Business**
 - 1. An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk (Wakesurfing)
- E. **Park Leadsperson Report**
- F. **Set Time and Date of Next Meeting**
 - 1. March 10, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- G. **Adjournment**

Any additions to this agenda will be added to the original posted at City Hall. Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format must contact the Clerk-Treasurer at City Hall, 453-4040, at least three days prior to the meeting so any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request.

1 **Park and Recreations Committee**
2 **City of Tomahawk, City Council Chambers**
3 **23 N 2nd St, Tomahawk, WI 54487**
4 **January 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

5
6 **Call to Order:** Jeff Kahle called the Park and Recreations Committee to order at 5:02 p.m.

7
8 **Roll Call:** Committee members present were Jeff Kahle, Mickey Loka, Steve “Ding” Bartz, Dan
9 Schuller, and Jusin Lund. Absent was Jim Daenicke and Melissa Nieman.

10
11 Also present was Clerk/Treasurer Amanda L. Bartz, Park Leadsperson Steve Borem, Kathy Tobin,
12 Pat Pietila, Jeff Koth, Dan Rickel, Dennis Dietz, Mike “Hob” Habeck, Michele Wingate, Roger
13 Glocke, Kurt Beutel, Laura Beutel, Cathy Gogich, Rick Gogich, Ron Fait, Sally Wever, Mitch
14 Montgomery, Bill Sparr, and Ed Steigerwaldt. In attendance virtually was Barbara ?, David
15 Soderberg, Richard Phillips, Samantha Colburn, and Jalen Maki.

16
17 **Public comments:** There were no public comments.

18
19 **Minutes:** Mickey LOKA MOVED to approve the meeting minutes from September 9, 2025 and
20 SCHULLER seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.

21
22 **Other Business**

23 Tomahawk Boat Museum – Update and Site Requirements

24 Bill Sparr stated that they have reviewed multiple location options for the boat museum, and they
25 prefer the option with the new building situated closer to Washington Ave. SCHULLER asked is this
26 would be in addition to boat case that is by the Chamber and Playground. Sparr confirmed that
27 that existing boat would remain.

28
29 KAHLE stated that the trees in the proposed location have reached their life span and should be
30 taken out soon whether the building is placed there or not. BARTZ asked if the garage would still be
31 used for the printing museum. Kathy Tobin stated that it will the printing museum.

32
33 BARTZ MOVED to approve the proposed location for the boat museum and LUND seconded. The
34 VOTE was unanimous.

35
36 A proposed Ordinance Restricting Certain Artificial Wake Enhancement (Wake surfing)

37 KAHLE stated that the Committee has a copy of the summary of wake surfing ordinance status in
38 the surrounding communities.

39
40 David Soderberg stated that there was a meeting in August and September and they voted to move
41 forward with drafting and ordinance. He stated that the city’s attorney review was concerned with
42 the possible litigation with the lawsuit filed in Burnett County. He stated that there 76
43 municipalities in Wisconsin that have wake ordinance and only one lawsuit has been filed.
44 Soderberg reviewed the status of surrounding communities and their wake ordinances. He voiced
45 concern with all the surrounding communities enacting wake enhancement ordinance and Lake
46 Mohawksin not have any regulations. He stated that we need to keep moving forward with identical

1 ordinances with Town of Bradley. He stated that Friends of Lake Mohawksin has written the
2 conditional report to be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

3
4 Richard Phillips stated that State Statutes does not have any requirements for ordinance format,
5 the City of Tomahawk may have their own requirements. He reiterated that 76 communities have
6 passed wake enhancements ordinance with only one lawsuit. He encouraged the Committee to
7 use the template ordinance.

8
9 Roger Glocke and Mitch Montgomery spoke in favor of a wake enhancement ordinance.

10
11 Michele Wingate stated that she lives on Lake Mohawksin within the City and that she supports and
12 ordinance regulating wake enhancement. She wanted to make sure that the regulations would not
13 apply to water skiing and tubing. Soderberg stated that there is a carve out for those activities.

14
15 Soderberg argued that there would be a greater risk of concern if an ordinance is not passed and
16 someone is injured due to wake enhancement.

17
18 Mickey LOKA stated that the Kwahamot Water Ski Club has been using ballast tank for 20 years
19 during the show and is worried about the negative effect this would have on the Ski Show. He
20 asked how this ordinance would be enforced. BARTZ stated that the Town of Bradley will be able to
21 enforce the ordinance by the Town Constable but also wondered how the City would enforce such
22 an ordinance.

23
24 Soderberg stated that 98% of people will obey something when they are told not to do it.

25
26 SCHUELLER stated that this is quite a dilemma when it pertains to water skiing. Mickey LOKA
27 suggested exempting water ski shows/teams authorized by the City of Tomahawk.

28
29 Soderberg stated that the ordinance between the City and the Town needs to be very consistent.
30 Clerk BARTZ reviewed the Water Ski Area as defined by City Code.

31
32 BARTZ MOVED to continue to pursue an ordinance regulating wake enhancement equipment that
33 works with Town of Bradley as well. SCHULLER seconded.

34
35 SCHULLER asked that the signage should be standard between the jurisdictions. He also stated
36 that signs are not always effective. He stated that there are “No Power Loading” signs at all the
37 boat landings and they are very ineffective and not enforced.

38
39 The VOTE was unanimous.

40
41 **Park Leadsperson Report:** BOREM reported that they continue to work on building maintenance
42 throughout the winter. He stated that both rinks at Pride Park are open.

43
44 **Next meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Park and Recreations Committee is scheduled for
45 February 10, 2026 at City Hall, Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m.

46
47 **Adjourn:** SCHULLER MOVED to adjourn the meeting of Park and Recreations Committee and
48 Mickey LOKA seconded. The VOTE was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

**CITY OF TOMAHAWK
ORDINANCE 2026-**

**An ordinance of the City of Tomahawk to amend the Municipal Code, Chapter 66 Park and Recreations
by adding Article V. Artificial Wake Enhancement**

**An ordinance to regulate wake enhancement on Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk and
prescribing penalties for violations thereof.**

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health, safety, and/or welfare, including the public's interest in preserving natural resources, the City of Tomahawk ("City") has the authority to enact ordinances covering waters within its jurisdiction if the ordinances are not contrary to or inconsistent with Chapter 30, Wis. Stats., and they relate to the equipment, use, or operation of boats or to any activity regulated by Sections. 30.60 to 30.71, Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, Lake Mohawksin is a lake with shoreline in Tomahawk; and

WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can cause environmental damage to lakes and lakeshore, including resuspension of sediment adding nutrients to the water and increased risk of algal blooms, turbidity, shoreline erosion, and threats to aquatic life and waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, boats with ballast systems increase the likelihood of aquatic invasive species being introduced and spread on lakes; and

WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can damage shoreline, lake bottom, moored boats, and shoreline structures including docks; and

WHEREAS, operating boats in a stern down manner creates downward prop wash, disturbing the lake bottom far below the wave zone, more than 25 feet below the surface; and
WHEREAS, artificially enhanced wakes can endanger swimmers, anglers, and other watercraft;
and

WHEREAS, the use of ballast and wake enhancing fins can cause unsafe operation by causing the bow to rise obscuring vision forward; and

WHEREAS, the City submitted a draft of this ordinance to the Wisconsin DNR for advisory review at least 60 days prior to passage, pursuant to 30.77(3)(d), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council, after considering public comments and any DNR suggestions, determines that adopting this Ordinance is consistent with all other ordinances of the City and would promote the public health, safety and welfare, including the public's interest in preserving natural resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Common Council of the City of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

CITY OF TOMAHAWK

ORDINANCE 2026-

Section 66-92. Applicability and Enforcement.

1. The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the water of Lake Mohawksin in the City of Tomahawk.
2. This Chapter shall be enforced by the Officers of the City of Tomahawk or individuals appointed by the City and/or Lincoln County Sheriff's department as requested along with any and all other State and County officers authorized by law to enforce the same.

Section 66-93. Prohibited Operation.

1. Prohibited Equipment. No person may use or employ ballast tanks, ballast bags or fins to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner, or which increases or enhances a boat's wake.
2. Prohibited Operation. No person may operate a boat in an artificially bow-high manner having the effect of increasing the boat's wake. Such prohibited operation shall include wake enhancement by use of ballast tanks, or ballast bags or fins, or continuous operation at transition speed (the speed below planing speed in which a boat is operating in plowing mode). For the purpose of this provision, "continuous operation" shall mean operation that is not acceleration for the purpose of achieving a state of planning."
3. Certain Operations Excluded. In no event shall any of the following operations be deemed a violation of this Ordinance, provided such operations do not use or employ ballast tanks, ballast bags or wake enhancing fins:
 - a. water skiing,
 - b. tubing,
 - c. wake boarding employing a tow rope;
 - d. brief transition operation to empty a boat of bilge water, or
 - e. brief transition operation of a boat accelerating into a planing condition.

Section 66-98. Penalties.

1. Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in Wis. Stats. § 30.80 and deposits as established by the Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule established by the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, are hereby adopted by reference and all references to fines amended to forfeitures and all references to imprisonment deleted.
2. To the extent that the penalty for any violation of this Ordinance is not provided under Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in s. 30.80, Wis. Stats., any person violating this Ordinance shall forfeit \$500 for the first offense and shall forfeit \$1000 for the second and subsequent offenses within one year. Deposits established in the WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT FEE, FORFEITURE, FINE AND SURCHARGE TABLES shall also apply to any violation.

Section 66-99. Severability.

Severability. Should any portion of this Ordinance or the affected Code Section(s) be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected.

**CITY OF TOMAHAWK
ORDINANCE 2026-**

Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon the date on which the City of Tomahawk and the Town of Bradley have both enacted ordinances, being substantively identical as regards sections 66-92 through 66-99 above.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

PASSED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Moved: _____

Mayor Steve Taskay

Second: _____

Passed: _____

Clerk-Treasurer Amanda L. Bartz