CITY OF TONKA BAY
ITEM NO. 4A

MINUTES
TONKA BAY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 24, 2014

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Tonka Bay City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**
Members present: Mayor De La Vega, Councilmembers Anderson, Ansari, Clapp and Grothe. Also present were City Administrator Kohlmann and City Attorney Penberthy.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Anderson moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Ansari seconded the motion. Ayes 5. Motion carried.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented approving:
A. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2014 (Change to read "can't get out when the bog is next to his boat")
B. Financial Report
Clapp seconded the motion. Ayes 5. Motion carried.

5. **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**
None

6. **SPECIAL BUSINESS**
A. Tour de Tonka
Lynn Johnson, MCES Advisory Board gave a presentation on the Tour de Tonka event and discussed plans for this year's event on Saturday, August 2. She stated there is always a need for riders and volunteers.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
None

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution Appointing Terry Foster to the LMCD

De La Vega suggested this item be tabled until others are given the opportunity to volunteer.

Anderson moved to table this item. Clapp seconded the motion. Ayes 5. Motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fourth of July Policing Costs

Kohlmann reviewed a request from SLMPD for financial support for the Fourth of July policing costs. De La Vega stated this was spearheaded by Shorewood who is looking for more of a formalized policy to pay for the costs. He stated we would be invoiced by the SLMPD for our share. He stated it seems a little awkward as we are already paying for police services on a daily basis. He didn't understand the five percent surcharge that would be added. He stated the SLMPD is looking to not have the Chamber fund these costs. He believed there is a better way to do this, and there will be more discussions.

Grothe asked if there is a way the SLMPD could just increase their budget. De La Vega stated the SLMPD wants to show this separately and invoice for the expense. It was noted our fair share is less than what we are already giving every year.

Clapp stated he would like to know where the money goes that we do give every year. Penberthy stated we have asked for an accounting but have never received any such information.

Ansari asked if there is a timeline on this item. De La Vega stated they would like this to be in motion for 2015. He stated there is more to talk about with the SLMPD Coordinating Committee.

Kohlmann stated we may be the first city to consider this item.

Anderson moved to table discussion of this item. Clapp seconded the motion. Ayes 5. Motion carried.

B. Birch Bluff Road

Kohlmann stated staff has received some quotes from WSB for Birch Bluff Road. He reviewed costs associated with closing the road. After working

with the City Engineer, a traffic study would be included as part of Phase 1. Phase 2 would be closed off, and the road would be monitored.

De La Vega reviewed the history of this request. He stated residents have indicated their preference would be to close off Birch Bluff Road. He stated the City has decided to study this more before anything is done and review the impacts on the entire community and not just the residents of Birch Bluff Road. He stated part of the process is to not only look at the traffic but to look at these impacts. He stated we are taking this slow but sure. He stated we haven't spent any money yet. We realize there is an issue, and there could also be a significant impact on Pleasant Avenue.

De La Vega stated there is a significant change once school starts again. He believed the traffic study should begin later in September.

In response to a question from Grothe, Kohlmann stated the actual boundary line between Shorewood and Tonka Bay is unknown at this point. De La Vega stated that is something that needs to be determined.

Councilmembers discussed the speed study details.

Mike Shields, Pleasant Lane East stated the residents conducted a speed study with SLMPD for westbound Pleasant Avenue at no cost. De La Vega stated it is similar to what we have done for Birch Bluff Road. He stated we are unable to make determinations from this report. Local traffic is one determination. De La Vega stated we would like to use Engineering and SLMPD studies.

Virgil Fasching, Lilah Lane thanked the Mayor for backing up and really taking a look at this. He stated in 1965 Pleasant Avenue was built because of the traffic on Birch Bluff Road. He stated we need police out there with a radar gun to ticket the speeders.

Diane Hobot, 40 Pleasant Lane East agreed with Fasching's comments about the need for policing in the area. She stated she has yet to see any kind of police patrol. De La Vega stated it isn't all about speeding but the volume of traffic. He stated those roads weren't designed to be main arteries from east to west. He discussed the staffing issues SLMPD experiences.

David Glenn, 135 Pleasant Lane East stated he thinks speed bumps are a good thing and are cheaper than consulting fees. He didn't believe dead ending the road is a good idea as it would be a huge change to his neighborhood. He reminded Clapp he is a resident of Birch Bluff Road and should recuse himself from any decision.

Phil Roe, 85 Birch Bluff Road stated it was a unanimous decision by the Birch Bluff Road to get something done. They prefer to have it closed off. He stated the residents want a decision everyone can live with. He stated he is willing to help resolve this issue.

Grothe stated from what he sees, the very end where Birch Bluff Road hits the beach and Pleasant Avenue hits the stop sign is in Shorewood. If Birch Bluff Road is closed, it would be before the beach. We share the beach with Shorewood and cannot prevent them from having access to their own beach. He stated there are many options out there, and we haven't decided what to do yet.

Roe stated a two day traffic study is not long enough and believes it should be expanded.

Kristin Viger, 45 Pleasant Avenue stated we are in agreement that closing Birch Bluff Road is not a good idea for the Pleasant Avenue residents. She stated the traffic study should also include Pleasant Avenue.

De La Vega agreed Pleasant Avenue should be included. He invited the residents to continue to stay involved in future discussions.

A member of the audience asked if Shorewood is aware of this issue. De La Vega stated we haven't formally opened discussions; however, they are aware of the issue indirectly.

Bill Jenson, 75 Pleasant Lane East stated there are 32 homes on Birch Bluff Road. Eight of them are so far off the road; they don't care what is going on. If there is a dead end at the end of Birch Bluff Road, who will pay for it and the loop around. De La Vega stated tax dollars could pay for this. We could use the reserves we have to fund these studies. He stated if there are road improvements done, the people who benefit pay for that.

Jenson asked if it is a dead end, it would become a private road. De La Vega stated a private road is a different definition. The City would have to give up ownership of the road, and we don't intend to do that.

Jenson stated Pleasant Avenue is a busy road. If Birch Bluff Road is closed, it will get even busier. He stated there will be traffic backed up. He stated we should look at accidents in the area now. De La Vega stated the entrance/exit at Birch Bluff Road is much safer

Marjean Jenson, 75 Pleasant Lane East asked why it was even being considered to close Birch Bluff Road and moving all the traffic to Pleasant Avenue. Clapp stated the residents on Birch Bluff Road came to the City Council and made this request.

De La Vega stated we haven't made any decisions yet to do anything. Any decision will have to be good for both roads. We are gathering information now in order to determine what is important to consider as we move forward.

Roe stated all the issues brought up tonight were brought up at the last meeting when this was discussed. He stated there needs to be one single focus on the issue as it moves forward. He stated it is important to really look at the issue and move slowly so the unintended consequences are also considered.

Grothe stated we also have an obligation to have roads connect.

Fasching stated there is a sign on 19 that is blocking sight lines from Pleasant Avenue that should be removed.

Paul Schilke, 25 Pleasant Lane East asked if there has been any outreach to SLMPD to help with the speeding issue. De La Vega stated there are annual discussions with SLMPD. He indicated streets are all marked 20 miles per hour, and everyone speeds. He stated it is clear after tonight that there needs to be more police involvement. A volume problem can only be resolved through volume solutions. There is a complicated problem without a clear solution yet.

Viger stated Pleasant Avenue already has 700 vehicles per day, and there is definitely a volume issue. De La Vega stated the problems aren't going to change on their own.

A member of the audience stated speed bumps are the only solution.

Tim McGlynn, Pleasant Lane East stated the roads are shared. There are shared speed and volume problems. To close one road off is not the solution.

De La Vega stated Birch Bluff Road and Pleasant Avenue have similar problems. Nothing has been adopted yet as we don't have enough information to proceed. We are not going to do anything that will hurt either street.

Hobot stated someone needs to look at what services SLMPD provides to the communities. De La Vega explained how the SLMPD budget is calculated. Hobot stated it is important to have police presence in the community.

John Richter, 50 Pleasant Lane West asked for a summary of where we stand right now. He wanted to make sure there is some procedural thing we aren't missing.

De La Vega stated we have information from Birch Bluff Road and new data. We are trying to define the problem and don't have enough information. The full picture before there is a move forward. He stated we will go back to WSB to request a boundary survey to determine where we have rights to do something. The next study would be a traffic study for sometime in September or October based on the related expense. That will help to define the seriousness and amount of the problems we are looking at. Finally, we need decisions. A committee could be formed as an opportunity for involvement from residents. He and Kohlmann would have talks with SLMPD for additional policing and traffic and speed control.

Grothe discussed problems associated with speed bumps. Drainage becomes an issue and they are difficult for snow plows to maneuver.

Penberthy stated the initial costs are General Fund expenses and are not a part of any special assessments. He stated there are historical surveys available that could identify the boundary before we incur additional costs from WSB.

It was noted the beach is a fire lane.

De La Vega thanked all those present for their time and effort. He stated we want to make the solution a complete solution.

Roe discussed his concerns about the deer herds in his yard. He asked that it be put back on the agenda. De La Vega stated there is a program in Shorewood for deer control that he has discussed with the Mayor of Shorewood in the past.

10. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

11. REPORTS

A. Administrator – Kohlmann stated Greenwood has written a letter of withdrawal from the Southshore Center. Revenue and expenditure reports for the first half of 2014 are also available for review showing we are at 47% of planned expenditures for 2014.

Fasching discussed his concerns about Shorewood's operation of the Southshore Center.

B. Anderson - Finance, Fire Lanes and Public Access, Technology – no report

C. Ansari – EFD, Sanitation and Recycling, Southshore Community Center – Ansari stated a letter has been prepared to invite members for the fishing issue. An EFD meeting is also scheduled.

D. Grothe – Building Inspection, Municipal Buildings and Grounds, LMCC – no report

E. Clapp - Parks and Playgrounds, LMCD, Commercial Marinas, Municipal Docks – Clapp stated there is an LMCD meeting on the 25th.

F. Attorney's Report – no report

G. De La Vega - Public Works, SLMPD, Administration – De La Vega stated there is a budget proposal from the SLMPD for the next meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Clapp seconded the motion. Ayes 5. Motion carried.

Attest:

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Clerk