

MINUTES
TONKA BAY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 25, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Tonka Bay City Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Jennings, Council Members Anderson, Eckland, and Ottum. Also present were City Administrator Holl, City Engineer Bradford, and City Attorney Weir.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of 9C. Council Member Ottum seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from March 11, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. Minutes from March 11, 2025 City Council Work Session Meeting
- C. March 2025 Claims: E-check numbers 25759-25764, 25772-25778; check numbers 28171-28252; bank check numbers 501980-501992
- D. Escrow Refund – 95 Crabapple Lane
- E. Escrow Refund – 40 Lilah Lane
- F. Escrow Refund – 436 Lakeview Avenue

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with discussed corrections. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

5. SPECIAL BUSINESS

Hennepin County Commissioner Heather Edelson's Presentation was moved to the end of agenda.

6. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Juan Lopez Martinez, Graduate Engineer for WSB, introduced himself to Council. Mr. Lopez Martinez is a member of WSB Young Engineers Program and here to observe a City Council Meeting.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consider Quote for Lighting City Sign along Highway 19: City Administrator Holl proposed adding lighting to the City sign, which is currently not visible at night. The project would be low-cost, requiring only a photocell, bringing the total expense to approximately \$318.00.

Holl explained that power is already available nearby at a lift station, eliminating the need for extensive wiring. Since trenching equipment would already be on-site for the parking lot lights, he suggested completing the additional work at the same time to efficiently run power to the sign. The discussion centered on whether to proceed with this cost-effective addition. City Administrator Holl provided an update on the parking lot lighting project, noting that the light posts had been ordered and would be installed soon.

A motion to approve the quote from Terradek Lighting Inc in the amount of \$318.00 (excluding plug in photocell) was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review 2026 Watermain Replacement Project Estimate: City Engineer Bradford provided an update on the 2026 street project, explaining that a request from a state legislator prompted the mayor to submit a potential project for inclusion in the bonding bill. In response, Bradford quickly assembled a summary highlighting the next priority project.

Originally planned for the Lakeview neighborhood, the project scope was adjusted to include the Wildhurst neighborhood. Bradford emphasized that this submission was preliminary and had not yet been discussed by the Council. He recommended scheduling a work session to review the city's five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to strategically plan future projects and budgets.

Mayor Jennings provided additional context, explaining that during a conversation with a state senator regarding Tonka Bay's stance on various legislative bills—particularly one about state-mandated parking volumes—an opportunity arose to submit a project for potential inclusion in the bonding bill. The senator requested a one-page summary within a few days due to a legislative deadline.

As a result, the proposed project remains consistent with previous plans, originally focused on the Lakeview neighborhood. However, due to recent water main breaks in the Wildhurst neighborhood, that area was added to the scope to address urgent infrastructure needs.

Mayor Jennings reiterated the city's stance on maintaining local control over zoning and parking regulations. He noted that while last year's legislative efforts were grouped under the "Missing Middle" initiative, several new, related bills are now moving through the legislature under different titles. The Council had previously discussed the parking mandate issue and unanimously opposed state-level control. Jennings communicated this position to Representative Myers, who later voted against the related bills in committee.

Additionally, local mayors from Senate District 45 met with Senator Johnson Stewart to discuss zoning concerns. Jennings emphasized that the group collectively opposed centralized state control over these issues, ensuring that the Senate was also aware of their position.

City Administrator Holl informed the Council that the Shorewood City Council had recently passed a resolution opposing certain legislative bills. He offered to prepare a similar resolution for Tonka Bay if the Council wished to take formal action. The Council agreed that this would be a good approach and directed Holl to draft a resolution for approval at the next regular meeting.

- B. Consider Heater Quotes for Water Treatment Plant: City Administrator Holl asked the Council to consider heater replacement quotes for the water treatment plant. The facility is currently heated by nine ceiling-mounted units, but only four are operational, with the newest dating back to 2002. Public Works Supervisor Schallberg recommended replacing one unit on the lower level to ensure all heaters at that level are functioning, with plans to budget for additional replacements in the coming years. The lowest bid for the replacement came from Able Heating and Cooling Experts at \$4,800.00, which falls within the city's \$5,000 budget for this expense.

A motion to approve the quote from Able Heating and Cooling Experts in the amount of \$4,800.00 for the replacement of one unit was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

C. No Fishing Signage: City Administrator Holl presented a discussion on updating and replacing "No Fishing" signage around the dock area. The Parks and Docks Committee identified the need for additional signage and replacement of existing faded signs. They proposed adding a small square sign with a graphic indicating no fishing and replacing a deteriorated sign as a reminder to visitors. The estimated cost is approximately \$40.00 per sign, plus shipping, totaling around \$150.00 to \$200.00. The funding would come from the Parks and Docks fund, which is supported by slip rental fees. Mayor Jennings explained that despite existing "No Fishing" signs, people continue to fish from the launch and shore, leading to issues such as lures getting stuck in boat covers and seats. Holl stated that the Parks and Docks also suggested using pictorial signs instead of text-based ones to ensure better understanding, especially for non-English speakers.

A motion to authorize Parks and Docks Commission to replace the old signage with new No Fishing signs (including a graphic) was made by Council Member Eckland. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

10. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR
None

11. REPORTS

City Administrator Holl reported that nearly all dock rentals were renewed, except for two intentional non-renewals due to residents moving out of town. Holl provided updates on the new copier installation, plans to repurpose the old copier, and efforts to promote National Kids to Parks Day on May 17. The finance update included hope for HUD funding to avoid gap financing, the successful integration of the 2025 budget into the financial system, a pending review of financial service proposals from Abdo, and an audit timeline extension to June per state guidelines.

City Engineer Bradford reported that construction on Birch Bluff Road will begin on April 7, with an expected timeline of about three months. Work will start with pavement removal, followed by pipe installation. The project includes storm sewer work, and both pavement layers may be completed this year. Water and sanitary sewer work have already finished, so no further shut offs are expected. Bradford reported that a minor design question remains after meeting with MIAC and tribal representatives, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for next week Wednesday. Another key update is on the federal process. The final submission has been made to HUD, allowing them to proceed with the next steps. Bradford

noted that they are nearing the finish line with hopes of having the design ready to present to residents within the next month. Bradford mentioned having a discussion with MIAC about the level of detail that can be shared, noting that a significant amount will be available. He also stated that he will work with MIAC on the presentation to ensure compliance with all non-public data requirements.

Mayor Jennings asked Council Member Ottum to report on the New Council Orientation through the League of Minnesota Cities. Ottum shared that the orientation was okay but did not offer added information for her. She was hoping for more practical training on everyday council procedures but found the Saturday panel informative.

Mayor Jennings reported on the Parks and Docks meeting recapping the discussion about signage, particularly related to improvements and replacements. Jennings noted that the meeting was primarily a level-setting session, focused on reviewing the current CIP numbers to ensure they were accurate and in good shape. Gerry de la Vega, the chair, is taking a detailed, methodical approach to assessing the financial information. This review will help guide the discussion on which large projects will be prioritized in the future.

The Council decided to recess until Commissioner Edelson arrived.

A motion to recess the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:42 p.m. was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Ottum seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

The City Council Meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENTATION


Hennepin County Commissioner Heather Edelson presented an update on the state of Hennepin County. (March 25, 2025 City Council Meeting video Part 2, www.cityoftonkabay.net)

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. Councilmember Ottum seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

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Jennings, Mayor

Attest:



Gildemeister, City Clerk