

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
TONKA BAY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 25, 2017**

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. OATH OF OFFICE

Crawford administered the Oath of Office to newly-appointed City Councilmember Bill LaBelle.

3. ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor De La Vega, Councilmembers Anderson, Ansari, Jennings, and LaBelle. Also present were City Administrator Crawford and City Attorney Biggerstaff.

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 following consent agenda items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2017**
- B. Financial Report**
- C. Building Activity Report**
- D. Special Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2017**
- E. Board of Appeal Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2017**
- F. 2017 Excelsior Park and Dock Patrol Services**

Jennings seconded the motion. Ayes 4-0-1. LaBelle abstained from voting. Motion carried.

5. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

- A. LMCD Update
Gregg Thomas, LMCD Representative and Vicki Schleuning, Executive Director were present to discuss recent LMCD activities since their last visit. Thomas discussed these activities which included recodification, denial of a request in Manitou Harbor for more docks than were allowed by ordinance, election of new officers, and review of Hennepin County Sheriff's Office 2016 Lake Minnetonka stats.

Schleuning presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the amenities of Lake Minnetonka, and explaining what the LMCD does. She also discussed the 2017 initiatives. Thomas stated recruiting Schleuning was one of the year's greatest accomplishments.

B. Birch Bluff Rd/ Pleasant Ave Traffic Task Force

Crawford stated residents from Pleasant Avenue and Birch Bluff Road were present tonight to discuss volume and speed.

Eric Lindquist, 120 Birch Bluff Road introduced members of the task force and distributed copies of the presentation. He stated this is an important issue to the residents. He discussed the two streets which are the only through streets in Tonka Bay aside from County Road 19. He discussed traffic studies done of the two streets. Per SLMPD Chief Meehan, the intersection of Pleasant Avenue and Manitou Road is one of the most dangerous. Lindquist believed streets in Tonka Bay are not designed for emergency response vehicles. He discussed the objectives of the task force and discussed the history of review of this issue at the City Council level.

Lindquist discussed the results of speed studies done in 2016. Since that time, the task force has met to discuss the issue. They discussed traffic calming options, such as speed bumps and traffic circles, were discussed and considered. The task force recommended creating a pinch point where Pleasant Avenue and Birch Bluff Road intersect. A pillar post would be installed that could be removed by emergency services only in the case of an emergency. He discussed travel options for vehicles from other cities and emergency response times.

Lindquist discussed how neighboring communities have addressed similar traffic issues by adding speed bumps, installing traffic circles, or closing streets. He reviewed three cost estimates and discussed the benefits to Tonka Bay. Lindquist asked that their plan be approved to address this continuing issue. De La Vega thanked them for their efforts.

Jennings asked how many signed the earlier petition. Lindquist noted that 37 signed it.

De La Vega asked how comfortable the committee was that the data collected was from two different kind of collection techniques. Kristin Viger, 45 Pleasant Avenue stated what was recorded is probably lower volumes than what exists.

De La Vega stated the proposal would impact residents of Shorewood.

Dave Soltau, 60 Birch Bluff Road discussed stopping distances for vehicles.

Kathy Ottum, 30 Lilah Lane was concerned about how many times emergency vehicle access was an issue. She stated the Birch Bluff Road residents who live in Shorewood will be severely impacted.

John Becker, 160 Birch Bluff Road discussed the increase in traffic since the traffic signal was added near the shopping center. He suggested residents help pay for the improvements.

Stacy Mann, 25545 Birch Bluff Road, Shorewood stated closing the road has upset her more than anything in her community. She stated this is not the time to be building walls between communities. She stated she drives the speed limit and still gets “barked” at. This is not a Tonka Bay problem but a community problem. The problem stems from far away. She asked what studies have been done to evaluate the impacts on other communities. She is all for slowing down traffic.

Kristin Viger, 45 Pleasant Avenue discussed safety concerns with speeding traffic on Pleasant Avenue.

Danny Quam, 5295 Lee Circle, Shorewood stated she didn’t want to take a 2-mile loop to get where she wants to go. Traffic will be diverted to Shorewood. She asked if there are any records of citations issued. Lindquist provided anecdotal information from the SLMPD showing fifty percent are from other areas like St. Bonifacius. Quam stated there isn’t a police presence like there needs to be.

Stacy Mann stated blocking the road isn’t the answer. She was also concerned how it would impacted her property value.

Dave Vossen, Shorewood resident was concerned about Tonka Bay wanting to be a private utopia.

Chris Lizee, 5705 Brentridge Drive, Shorewood stated traffic is a problem we all deal with, and we need to work together to make the roads safer. She was surprised that there weren’t any Shorewood councilmembers at the meeting tonight or that anything has even been presented. De La Vega agreed our community is larger than just Tonka Bay.

Lizee was concerned about the access and egress to County Road 19 and that Smithtown Road would be the only access to Shorewood residents. She

stated we all need more information before anything happens.

Larry Muehlberg, Shorewood resident discussed traffic light options on Eureka Road and safety concerns once the development along Country Club Road is finished.

Jim Price, 190 Birch Bluff Road discussed his concerns about traffic.

De La Vega discussed the need to find out what the entirety of the problem is before a solution can be determined. He stated there is no simple solution to this issue, and it will take time to resolve it.

Lindquist urged the City Council to not confuse convenience with safety. De La Vega stated safety has always been a major belief of the City Council. He believed there is an issue but was unsure how to resolve it now. He thanked everyone for attending.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Zoning Ordinance Amendments, Sections 1002 and 1011

Crawford stated staff has made all requested changes to Sections 1002 and 1011. There are two outstanding issues in Section 1011 relating to naturally-occurring or privately-planted vegetation and wind energy.

De La Vega stated one of the main areas we have been discussing is the fence ordinance. We've decided to discuss visually-impairing elements as they deal with landscape walls. He discussed the ordinance language to be added. He stated he would like the visually-impairing elements to have the same limits as a fence would. He stated he didn't want to regulate naturally-occurring elements unless it is intentionally planted. He suggested edits relating to intentionally planted elements.

Councilmembers discussed natural vegetation vs. intentional vegetation.

Crawford stated the public hearing for these ordinance amendments will be held on May 9.

Councilmembers reviewed the proposed amendment relating to wind energy. De La Vega stated following the expert's presentation, it was determined Tonka Bay would not be a good location for wind energy.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Jeff Wingfield, 205 West Point Road asked when the Board of Appeal meeting would begin. De La Vega stated it was held at 6:30 p.m. Crawford stated there was no change recommended for his property. De La Vega stated he has the right to go to the County to appeal the decision.

11. REPORTS

- A. Administrator's Report – Crawford stated the first quarter revenue and expenditure reports have been provided. There were no questions. Street sweeping will begin on Thursday. Celebrate Wekota Park will be Saturday at 1 p.m.
- B. Jeff Anderson – Finance, Fire Lanes and Public Access, Technology – no report.
- C. Elli Ansari – Parks and Playgrounds, LMCD, Sanitation and Recycling, Southshore Community Center – Ansari suggested an e-mail be sent as a reminder for Celebrate Wekota.
- D. Adam Jennings – EFD, Commercial Marinas, Municipal Docks – Jennings asked if the sweeper comes back if vehicles are parked in the street. Crawford stated they do circle back later. Crawford stated Bowman is looking at lock prices for the gates again. Councilmembers discussed locking mechanism options.
- E. Bill LaBelle – Building Inspection, Municipal Buildings and Grounds – LaBelle thanked for the Council for allowing him to serve again.
- F. Attorney's Report – Biggerstaff reviewed the history of the antenna tower lease. He reviewed an updated letter received from Sprint Nextel with another counter-offer of \$65,000. **LaBelle moved to extend an offer of \$75,000. Jennings seconded the motion. Ayes 5. Motion carried.**
- G. Gerry De La Vega –SLMPD, Administration, Public Works – De La Vega stated the SLMPD Coordinating Council has approved a pay increase for 2018 for Chief Meehan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Jennings seconded the motion. Ayes 5. Motion carried.

Attest:

Clerk