

MINUTES
TONKA BAY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 27, 2025

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

VISITORS

Dennis Richards

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from May 13, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. Minutes from May 19, 2025 Special City Council Meeting
- C. Escrow Fund – 55 Pleasant Avenue
- D. April 2025 Expenditure Guideline
- E. SLMPD April Stats and Update
- F. 2025 Street Project Construction Meeting Notes for May 14, 2025
- G. Escrow Refund Letter – 10 Pearl Street
- H. Three Rivers Park District Update
- I. LMCD 2026 Proposed Budget

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with edits to May 13, 2025 minutes. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, Wischmeier, and Jennings. The motion carried.

5. SPECIAL BUSINESS

None

6. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Dennis Richards, 5100 Manitou Road, expressed concern that the City spent over \$2,700, primarily paid to outside consultants, to deny his \$15 home occupation permit application. He also raised issues about a denial and appeal process allegedly conducted without his

knowledge or consent. He noted a lack of response to a data request submitted April 24 and called for scrutiny into potential misuse of public funds and conflicts of interest.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2025-14 Adopting the 2024 Hennepin County Hazard Mitigation Plan – City Administrator Holl informed Council on the Hennepin County hazard mitigation plan involving all local authorities, outlining responses to emergencies. Emergency managers collaborated on the plan, and now cities are being asked to formally acknowledge or approve it. Holl noted that it is a routine step, with no immediate obligations for the City beyond acknowledgment. If activated, the City Administrator or Mayor would serve as the Public Information Officers (PIO).

A motion to approve Resolution 2025-14 Adopting the 2024 Hennepin County Hazard Mitigation Plan was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Wischmeier seconded the motion.

Roll call: Anderson Aye
 Eckland Aye
 Ottum Aye
 Wischmeier Aye
 Jennings Aye

The motion carried.

- B. County Aid to Municipalities (CAM) Reimbursement for 2024/2025 - City Administrator Holl reported the City was allotted \$17,870 in Hennepin County aid for 2025. Holl noted that the funds can be used now or used within the next three years. Previously the funds have been used for seal coating. City Engineer Bradford recommended the funds be used to reimburse recent road reconstruction costs. Holl requested that, if used this year, a motion be made to allocate the funds and authorize him to work with Bradford to apply them to eligible street and utility project expenses.

A motion to apply the County Aid to Municipality (CAD) reimbursement funds in the amount of \$17,870 to the 2024 SUIP with Staff discretion was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Wischmeier seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, Wischmeier, and Jennings. The motion carried.

- C. On-Call Rate Change for Greg Fasching – City Administrator Holl stated the City maintains on-call Public Works coverage to oversee essential duties outside of regular hours, including weekends and evenings. These responsibilities can include emergency responses, such as addressing water main breaks or sewer issues, as well as routine tasks like monitoring lift stations or managing stormwater systems. Currently, the City has three full-time Public Works employees. In the past, two supplemental staff members rotated through on-call duty, sharing the responsibility of being available during off-hours. Holl noted that one of those staff members recently stepped away from the on-call role, leaving Greg Fasching as the only supplemental on-call employee. Greg has been serving in this capacity since 2022 at an hourly rate of \$25.18. The staff member who left earned \$31.64 per hour. Holl recommended a \$2 per hour increase, bringing his rate to \$27.18. This proposed raise acknowledges his continued service and the increased responsibility, and it aims to compensate him fairly for the essential role he plays in maintaining City operations during non-standard hours.

A motion to increase the on-call rate for Greg Fasching to \$27.18 was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Wischmeier seconded the motion.

Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, Wischmeier, and Jennings. The motion carried.

- D. HVAC “Chiller” Update SLMPD/EFD – City Administrator Holl informed the Council that the “Chiller” system at the shared police and fire department building needs major repairs, with one of the two main chillers failing. Replacement costs are estimated at around \$35,000 for each department. Mayor Jennings added context, noting the failure occurred after City budgets were finalized last fall, making this an unplanned expense. The cost will be allocated according to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Holl further explained that, based on the installation timeline (October or November), the payment will likely be required this year rather than being included in next year’s budget.
- E. Pay Request #9 for 2024 SUIP - City Engineer stated, the pay voucher covers street and utility work that was completed in April 2025. Bradford shared that the work was tree removals and prepping for the street construction work currently taking place. The amount requested is \$189,746.40. Bradford noted that the project is still under budget, and these were anticipated costs as part of the project.

A motion to approve Pay Voucher #9 to Geislinger & Sons in the amount of \$189,746.40 as part of the 2024 SUIP was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, Wischmeier, and Jennings.
The motion carried.

10. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

11. REPORTS

City Administrator Holl provided a written report highlighting several updates. Former employee Greg Kluver recently stopped by, having last been in the building in 2012. A letter was sent to HUD requesting reimbursement for soft costs like engineering, legal, and bonding expenses, with HUD indicating partial funding support is possible. Holl has been coordinating with other administrators and is also working on a contract for the new Police Chief, Justin Ballsrud, who has been with the department since 1994. The Parks and Docks Commission met recently with playground vendors and is collaborating with the City of Minnetonka on hockey nets and other items. A \$48,000 reimbursable grant from Hennepin County Youth Sports will help fund new playground equipment. The next Parks and Docks meeting is scheduled for June 23. Holl noted the installation of new curbs on Birch Bluff Road, pointing out their fresh, clean appearance. Lastly, Holl shared that he will be on vacation from June 2 to June 9, 2025.

Council Member Eckland requested an update on ABDO. City Administrator Holl responded that he has had an initial meeting with ABDO, and IT has set up their access to the City's financial system. Eckland then inquired about training for the City Treasurer, and Holl noted that the training has not yet occurred. When asked about ABDO's payment schedule, Holl stated they will be paid upon completion of the work.

Council Member Eckland asked about the MBA's \$10,000 annual donation for the ball field, specifically whether a contract exists and what the organization is requesting. City Administrator Holl explained that the MBA is interested in formalizing an agreement and would like a dedicated commitment for priority use of the southwest field. Council briefly discussed the next steps, beginning with a review by the Parks and Docks Commission before returning to the Council for further consideration.

City Engineer Bradford provided construction updates, noting that curb, gutter, and driveway apron work is underway on Birch Bluff Road between Manitou Road and Pleasant Avenue. This phase is particularly challenging due to limited access while concrete cures, though gravel will be placed over driveways to allow earlier access without damaging the concrete. In the Brentwood neighborhood, tree planting is progressing but has been delayed by recent rain. Similarly, rain has slowed work on the cemetery soil repatriation project, with tree removals expected to start by the end of the week or early next week, weather permitting.

Council Member Eckland reported that he is working on the fire lanes with 11 remaining and will present his information by the end of June.

Mayor Jennings asked Eckland to follow up with the EFD regarding a \$51,000 invoice dated

January 2025, which was mentioned by the chief at the last meeting but was not included on the agenda. Jennings requested a copy of the change orders associated with that invoice.


Council Member Wischmeier informed Council that the Fire Lane sign was knocked over during construction on the Caribbean deck. She noted that the sign will be fixed and directed Staff to pass along this information to Public Works.

Council Member Ottum raised concerns about the increasing presence of e-bikes on the trail, which is marked with "no motorized vehicles" signs, and asked whether their use is permitted and who is responsible for enforcement. Holl responded that the topic was discussed at the recent police meeting, where Chief Ballsrud has been developing an e-bike policy. Holl plans to share the policy by email and at the next Council meeting. The policy includes a flow chart to help determine vehicle classifications, and the South Lake Police Department is actively enforcing related regulations, with public awareness efforts already visible in neighboring areas like Excelsior.

Mayor Jennings reported that he had the honor of speaking at the Memorial Day program and parade in Excelsior yesterday. He added the event was very successful.

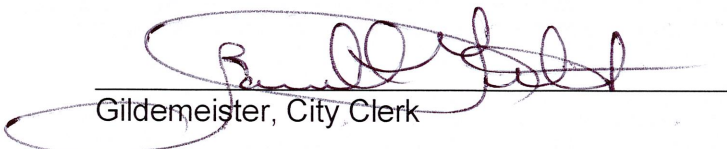
12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Councilmember Ottum seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.



Jennings, Mayor

Attest:



Gildemeister, City Clerk