

MINUTES
TONKA BAY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Tonka Bay City Council was called to order at 7:02 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 Nason.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of 4. H. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from July 8, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. June 2025 Claims
- C. 2024 SUIP Construction Meeting Notes July 2, 2025
- D. Landi & Gyr Lease Cancellation/Tower Equipment
- E. Public Hearing Notice August 12, 2025 at 7 p.m. for Cable Franchise Communication Systems Applications
- F. SLMPD June Statistics
- G. Summer 2025 Tonka Bay Connections City Newsletter
- H. Expenditure Guidelines

Mayor Jennings pulled items 4.B and 4.H for further discussion. Jennings inquired about a \$22,950 payment to Bergeson Caswell for Well No. 1 rehabilitation, noting it stood out in the claims. City Administrator Holl confirmed this was a planned and budgeted expense, with \$62,000 allocated for the year. The cost was confirmed to be within budget.

Concern was raised about engineering fees at 87% and planning consultant fees at 149% of the annual budget. While it is understood that revenue offsets these expenditures (particularly through escrows), Jennings requested to show the revenue components alongside expenses in future reports. Holl agreed to incorporate this detail in the next budget cycle, as they have done previously for planning.

Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the consent agenda, 4.A through 4.H. Council Member Ottum seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.

5. SPECIAL BUSINESS
None

6. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Susan Fuhr, 20 Lilah Lane, expressed concerns to the Council regarding contractors from 55 Pleasant Avenue parking on the right-of-way of her property and tracking mud and rocks onto the street. Although the property owner initially denied the activity, Fuhr provided photo evidence confirming it was his contractor. While the parking issue has since been resolved, she noted that mud remains a problem. Fuhr also pointed out that although the City re-seeded the area at 55 Pleasant, similar damage to her lawn was not addressed. She attempted to speak with the City Administrator but spoke with Janell in his absence. Janell offered to have the Building Inspector contact the property owner and asked if Fuhr wished to file a formal complaint. Fuhr initially agreed but later chose not to pursue it. Additionally, Fuhr raised concerns about a visibly sunken water main on her property. City Engineer Bradford stated he would follow up with the contractor to ensure these issues are addressed and necessary repairs are completed.

Fuhr also expressed frustration with the extended timeline for soil hauling, noting residents were originally told it would take three weeks, but now she read in the newsletter that it would be August. Mayor Jennings clarified that the newsletter mentioned an August timeline for the overall project, not the hauling of the soils. Bradford further clarified that hauling at City Hall began the week of July 7, and this is week three. Bradford noted that there will be 2 days of hauling for the remaining soils at City Hall, with an additional two to three days of hauling soils at Manitou Park.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
None

8. OLD BUSINESS
None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2025-16 Accept Resignation of Council Member Wischmeier and Declaring Vacancy on the City Council: The Council acknowledged the resignation of Council Member Wischmeier, who is no longer eligible to serve after moving out of Tonka Bay. A resolution was presented for approval, formally accepting her resignation effective July 22.

City Attorney Nason advised that a special election is not required due to the limited time remaining in the term. However, the Council is required to fill the vacancy and must provide direction on the process, including whether to solicit applications, set a timeline, and determine the selection method.

Council agreed to follow past practice by notifying the community through all electronic channels (website, email blast, and Facebook), as well as mailing a letter to all households. Interested residents will be invited to apply for the open seat, with a deadline for application set for August 8, 2025.

A motion to approve Resolution 2025-16 accepting Council Member Wischmeier's resignation as of July 22, 2025, officially declaring the vacancy on the Council was made by Council Member Anderson. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion.

Roll call:	Anderson	Aye
	Eckland	Aye
	Ottum	Aye
	Jennings	Aye

The motion carried.

- B. Consider Quotes for Shoreline Repairs Lakeview Avenue/Hazel Street: Council reviewed quotes for shoreline repairs at the Lakeview Avenue and Hazel Street fire lane, where significant ice damage over the winter had displaced riprap and disrupted drainage infrastructure. Three repair options were presented: \$8,000 – Basic riprap restoration and drain repair, \$11,600 – Enhanced repair matching neighboring properties, including a “toe-in” riprap design to reduce future ice damage, \$1,500 – Minimal option involving grading and reseeding, which would not address underlying issues. Holl noted funding is available within the Public Works repairs and maintenance budget. Council discussed the possibility of filing an insurance claim and requested staff to investigate that option. The item will be revisited at a future meeting after additional information is gathered.

- C. Approve Change Orders #7 – 2024 SUIP: City Engineer Bradford presented Change Order No. 7 for the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project for Council approval. Bradford noted that Met Council requested a small parking area near their metering station off Brentwood Avenue be paved as part of the project. They have agreed to fully reimburse the City for the cost. The change order totals \$38,722.47.

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve Change Order #7 for \$38,722.47 to be reimbursed to the City. Council Member Eckland seconded the motion.

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

10. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

11. REPORTS

- A. City Administrator Holl reported that meetings with the fire and police departments will take place in the coming days to finalize their respective budgets. These two departments make up approximately 50% of the City's overall budget, so securing those figures is a key step in moving forward with budget planning. Once finalized, the Administrator will begin drafting the City's 2026 budget.

Holl also reminded the Council that his performance review is due. A performance evaluation form was distributed, and an email was sent with additional details. Council Members are encouraged to submit their feedback, either using the form or via email, to the Mayor by August 1. To assist with the review, Holl provided a summary of recent activities and accomplishments from the past six months, organized into categories including finance management, construction projects, communications, and general City operations.

- B. City Engineer Bradford reported that soil restoration work is progressing slowly, primarily due to continued rain delays. As a result, the project timeline has been pushed back, and completion, including the second layer of asphalt, tree planting, soil hauling, and other restoration tasks, is expected to be completed in mid-to-late August.

Additionally, in response to a request from Mayor Jennings, Bradford has begun preparing a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the remainder of the City. This draft plan will be presented at an upcoming Council Work Session and integrated into the broader budgeting process.

- C. City Attorney Nason reported that she attended the League of Minnesota Cities Legislative Update, where key topics included evolving cannabis regulations and upcoming changes to state labor laws were discussed. At this time, there are no significant impacts to Tonka Bay related to cannabis legislation. Additionally, Nason noted that changes to paid leave requirements

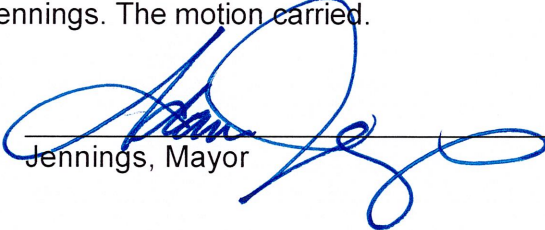
will take effect on January 1, 2026. Further information and guidance on implementation will be provided as it becomes available.

- D. Mayor Jennings provided an update on recent budget meetings related to public safety. Jennings noted that the police budget, originally showing an increase of around 15%, has been reduced to approximately 8% after a thorough review. While higher than preferred, much of the increase is tied to capital expenses, leaving limited flexibility for further cuts without impacting essential services. A follow-up budget meeting is scheduled for the following evening at 5:15 p.m., ahead of the Fire Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. All area mayors plan to attend the Fire Board meeting, as the fire budget is facing a significant increase of 33%, not including an additional cost for a chiller. Jennings described both the budget and the collaborative response as atypical, but necessary given the circumstances.

Lastly, Jennings reminded the Council that performance reviews have been distributed, and feedback should be submitted to him by August 1, 2025.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Councilmember Ottum seconded the motion. Ayes: Anderson, Eckland, Ottum, and Jennings. The motion carried.


Jennings, Mayor

Attest:


Gildemeister, City Clerk