

**APPROVED**

MINUTES  
TONKA BAY CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 28, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Tonka Bay City Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Jennings, Councilmembers Connelly, Eckland, Viger, and Wischmeier. Also present were City Administrator Tolsma, City Engineer Bradford, and City Attorney Weir.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Viger seconded the motion. Ayes: Connelly, Eckland, Viger, Wischmeier, Jennings. The motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from March 12, 2024 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Minutes from March 12, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- C. Manitou Park Trail Connection Pay Application #1

Councilmember Connelly made a motion approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Viger seconded the motion. Ayes: Connelly, Eckland, Viger, Wischmeier, Jennings. The motion carried.

5. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

None

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Lakeview Avenue Right of Way Vacation Request  
City Administrator Tolsma reviewed the location of the right of way area and provided Council and the audience a map indicating the area to be vacated. Tolsma stated the street width would remain consistent with the rest of Lakeview Avenue. As part of the vacation request, the City reserved the right to retain a permanent easement for drainage and utility purposes. Mayor Jennings discussed the procedure of the Public Hearing and emphasized the benefits to residents who currently live there. Council discussed the history of the area and the original.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:13 p.m.

Kathy Aanenson, 120 Lakeview Avenue, approached the podium with comments. Aanenson stated her intentions are to build and the additional land would greatly help moving forward. Aanenson commented that she is in favor of vacating the right of way and appreciated Council working with her on this request.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

A motion to direct Staff to draft a resolution approving Lakeview Avenue Right of Way Vacation Request was made by Councilmember Connelly. Councilmember Viger seconded the motion. Ayes: Connelly, Eckland, Viger, Wischmeier, and Jennings. The motion carried.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution 24-09: Opposing State Preemption of Local Zoning Authority and State Mandated Zoning Standards

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 24-08 Approving Plans and Specifications for 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project / Authorizing Advertisement for Bids

A motion to approve Resolution 24-08 Approving Plans and Specifications for the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project and Authorize Advertisement for Bids was made by Councilmember Viger. Councilmember Wischmeier seconded the motion.

Roll call:	Anderson	Aye
	Eckland	Aye
	Ottum	Aye
	Jennings	Aye

The motion carried.

B. State Legislature Proposals Affecting Local Zoning Controls

A motion to approve State Legislature Proposals Affecting Local Zoning Controls was made by Councilmember Viger. Councilmember Eckland seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

11. REPORTS

A. Administrator's Report – City Administrator Tolsma reported that LMCD is monitoring the lake levels and monitoring the dam.

C. Contract Staff Report(s) – City Engineer Bradford reported that services are being installed between Pleasant Avenue and Lilah Lane. The pavement is still down and the holes have been filled with class 5 rock. Councilmember Viger asked if the road would be constructed this year. Bradford stated that the road would be completed and the holes patched. Councilmember Eckland asked about the dirt piles. Bradford stated he continues to email HUD, however, has not been able to satisfy the requirements from HUD. Bradford stated there was an oversight during a four day period where holes were dug and HUD has not been satisfied with the reported timeline. Bradford said the next step is to set up a meeting with HUD. Eckland asked what was holding up the processing of the dirt. Bradford stated that there needs to be an agreement in place between HUD and the tribal units before a determination can be made.

Bradford reported that the Manitou Road Project was mostly completed except for restoration north of Crabapple Lane. Councilmember Connelly commented on the blacktop patches. Tolsma asked for clarification on whether the County was planning to mill and overlay Manitou Road. Bradford stated he was not aware of any County projects.

Councilmember Viger asked why ash trees would be taken down even though they were not marked. Bradford explained that the roots of trees within the project area get damaged and have the potential to die within five years. These trees are taken down as a cost saving measure and for the benefit of the residents. Ash trees are removed because of the presence Emerald Ash Borer within Tonka Bay and inevitably will become diseased and die. Viger shared that she has heard conflicting information from the contractors and residents are concerned that healthy trees are being removed. Connelly voiced that communication needs to continue to improve. Eckland and Mayor Jennings commented that they drove Brentwood and thought the tree contractors did a good job cleaning up. Jennings commented that the City is improving 18 percent of its roadways, waters, and sewers, and there are thousands of variables to contend with.

City Attorney Weir reported that he continues to work on the mandamus action from the Caribbean.

- D. Councilmember Rep – Finance, Fire Lanes and Public Access, Technology – Councilmember Eckland asked Staff for a list of Fire Lanes. Eckland had nothing to report.
- E. Councilmember Rep – Parks and Docks, Sanitation and Recycling – Councilmember Viger reported that there was a really good turnout at the Wekota Park Meeting. Viger said she will prepare the list of suggestions from residents and send to Tolsma. Viger shared that all the residents consider Wekota Park a “gem” and are looking forward to improvements. Jennings mentioned that the last posted Parks and Docks minutes are from May of 2023 and directed Staff to update them.
- F. Councilmember Rep – Building Inspection, Municipal Building and Grounds - None
- G. Councilmember Rep – EFD, Commercial Marinas, LMCD – Councilmember Connelly reported that the Excelsior Fire District Meeting on June 26, 2024 has been cancelled. Connelly reported that he talked to Shaun Wischmeier of the Caribbean.
- H. Mayor – SLMPD, Administration, Public Works, Employee Advisory Board - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Connelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. Councilmember Eckland seconded the motion. Ayes: Connelly, Eckland, Viger, Jennings. The motion carried.

---

Jennings, Mayor

Attest:

---

Gildemeister, City Clerk