

Tyndall City Council Special Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2026
Tyndall Auditorium

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was conducted.

Amanda Whittington, John Slama, Joel Humpal, Jamie Muller, Wendy Hicks, and Mike Cuka.
Casey Kostal entered AT 6:34 PM. Also in attendance was Teresa Holland, Kelly Young, Cole Humpal, Becky Tycz, Roger Bartlett, Kelly Dybdahl, and Beth Omanson.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to add the opening of bids for the train museum decking project after public comment. A motion by Hicks, seconded by Humpal to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried by voice vote, with no opposition noted.

Public Comment

A member of the public asked whether Council members receive additional compensation for attending special meetings. It was stated that members receive \$50.
No further public comments were recorded.

Train Museum Decking Project

Two labor bids were opened:

Branough Construction	\$21,000 Labor only; city responsible for excise tax if required.
Family Woodworks LLC	\$15,920 No exceptions

Council discussed the project's previous authorization, budget approval, design changes, material costs, and applicable bidding requirements. It was noted that: The project had previously been included in the budget. The Council had previously authorized moving forward with the bidding process. Materials and labor should be considered together when evaluating the anticipated cost of the public improvement. A motion was made by Slama, seconded by Humpal to accept the Family Woodworks LLC labor bid of \$15,920 and proceed with the project. A roll-call vote was taken. The motion carried. The transcript identifies affirmative votes from John, Joel, Jamie, Casey, Wendy all voted aye, Cuka voted nay.

New Business

Representatives of the city's wholesale power supplier, Kelly Dybdahl, Heartland Energy and the South Dakota Municipal Electric Association Beth Omanson addressed the Council. They explained that the city's power supply includes components associated with: Western Area Power Administration, including Missouri River hydropower Southwest Power Pool transmission, East River Electric transmission. Additional services available to the city include economic-development assistance, energy-efficiency grants, workforce-development programs, mutual aid, training, and utility recruitment support. The municipal electric association representative discussed the organization's role in representing approximately 35 municipal electric systems, providing legislative advocacy,

member communications, conferences, training events, wage studies, directories, and mutual-aid coordination. An updated mutual-aid directory and members-only website resources are being developed. The presenters reviewed the value of retaining local ownership of the municipal electric system. The presenters stated that the city's residential electric rate appears to be approximately 9 to 9.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared with an estimated statewide average of approximately 12 to 13 cents per kilowatt-hour. Benefits of continued municipal ownership were described as: Local control over rates and operations, continued retention of utility revenue, competitive customer rates, existing infrastructure owned by the community, access to mutual aid, training, grants, and recruitment support. Council discussed the potential financial effect of selling the system. The presenters cautioned that another utility might undervalue the city's infrastructure and that selling would eliminate the city's ongoing electric-system revenue. The wholesale power supplier described a workforce-development program that may provide a hiring incentive of up to \$5,000 for a qualified electric utility superintendent or lineworker, tuition reimbursement for lineworker education and support for apprentice recruitment. The presenters indicated that hiring incentives and tuition reimbursement may both be available, depending on qualifications and available program funding. The city's long-term wholesale power-supply contract was reported to continue through approximately 2041, subject to confirmation from the contract documents. Council discussed how the agreement could be handled if the electric system were ever transferred to another utility. No action was taken regarding the sale. The city currently relies on an outside utility for assistance when city personnel cannot perform certain line work. The city pays an annual amount to ensure availability and also pays applicable labor and service charges.

Park Fence Advertising Signs

The Baseball/Softball Association requested permission to place sponsor signs on the ballpark fence in connection with its golf tournament and fundraising activities. The association would install, maintain, and remove or manage the signs. A motion by Cuka, seconded by Muller to allow permission for the Baseball Association to place the signs. The motion carried.

Park Water Fountain

Council reviewed a proposal for a new outdoor drinking fountain and bottle-filling station near the concession area that was purchased earlier in the year. Council members expressed concern that the fountain purchase had not been presented to the full Council before moving forward.

Preliminary Budget Discussion

The Council reviewed preliminary budget items for the next budget year. The figures discussed were tentative and subject to revision. Council discussed creating a separate accounting code for donations, including purchases such as flags, so those expenditures are easier to identify and track. The VFW was notified of an approved \$5,000 contribution toward the purchase of higher-quality flags.

Adjournment

Motioned by Hicks, seconded by Kostal to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. All present voted aye. Motion carried.