



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL
MINUTES
of
MAY 11, 2020**

City Council Special Minutes of a Special Called Meeting via telephone/video conference hosted through Zoom on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present:

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hocking called the Emergency Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

Bobby Hocking	Mayor
Keith Bell	Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilmember District A
Chris Lane	Councilmember, District B
Robert Michetich	Councilmember, District C
Casey Mc Auliffe	Councilwoman, District D

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Charles "Tink" Jackson	City Manager
Derra Purnell	Acting City Attorney
Robin Eldridge	City Clerk
Kierra Nance	Deputy City Clerk

(3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. "Regina" thanked all that the City has been doing.

(4) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding postponement of a public hearing on and the final passage on first and final reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of the City of La Marque, Texas, Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2020; Levying a Tax and Providing for the Security and Payment Thereof; and Enacting Other provisions Relating Thereto and authorize appropriate action

** Councilmember Michetich made a motion to postpone the public hearing on and the final passage on first and final reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of the City of La Marque, Texas, Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2020; Levying a Tax and Providing for the Security and Payment Thereof; and Enacting Other provisions Relating Thereto and authorize appropriate action

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe seconded. After a roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding an ordinance extending the local state of disaster due to public health emergency pursuant to Governor's Order GA-18 until May 15 or the date the statewide disaster declaration expires or is terminated by the Governor

City Manager Charles "Tink" Jackson explained the need for the extension of the disaster declaration. "In order for the city to be able to recover costs associated with this disaster, we have to have a Declaration Disaster in place. Some of the provisions that the Governor put in the statewide order have significantly limited what we can do on a local level. The wording in this order depending on what the Governor does once this declaration expires, will extend with this order also."

Derra Purnell added, "Basically, what we are doing in an abundance of caution, we are extending the existing Disaster Declaration to line up with the Governor's Orders, at the point in which his order expires, if the city needed to issue a new disaster declaration, the city would go ahead and issue a new one."

Further discussion included clarification that by extending this declaration, it will not diminish the council's capacity to regain control of the city once the disaster is over.

Ms. Purnell further explained that under Chapter 418, the Mayor has limited authority, he issued the original declaration and had only seven days in which he did, and Council approved and extended the declaration for an additional thirty days, so Council has always had control and will continue to do so. "The Governor's order has suspended certain sections of Chapter 418, he is not allowing County Judges or Mayors to make decisions at that are inconsistent with his orders. We have very little control over what businesses can be opened at this point. This will continue until the Governor releases those sections or terminates his disaster declaration or it is done by the legislatures."

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell wanted it made public that Council has resumed the ability to meet as a Council to make decisions for the citizens, although unique and different than the "normal" way, in public through these communication avenues currently through ZOOM meetings.

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe made a motion to adopt ordinance extending the local state of disaster due to public health emergency pursuant to Governor's Order GA-18 until May 15 or the date the statewide disaster declaration expires or is terminated by the Governor

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded. After a roll call vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

(5) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Michetich asked that a resolution be placed on the following council agenda to submit a letter to the Appraisal District that would support keeping the appraisals at the 2019 level, to provide citizens and businesses who have been hit by this economic downfall by having to close down their businesses.

Although the appraisals district really don't have the authority to do this, the letter maybe should be sent to the State (Governor, State Comptroller, and Attorney General) and copy the Appraisal District.

Mayor Hocking wished all the Mothers and Happy Mother's Day.

Councilwoman Mc Auliffe thanked all the members of staff and administration, "I am very grateful for the grace and forward thinking to each of you for keeping things running so smoothly."

City Manager reported of Director's daily meetings and said that staff would continue to stay on top of things and happenings.

Council was invited to attend a meeting of Director's or Emergency Management and County calls, keeping the open meetings act in mind. Posting notices of Possible Quorum were briefly discussed.

Council thanked the City Manager for his public updates on social media.

(6) ADJOURNMENT

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe made a motion to adjourn the Special meeting at 6:35 p.m.

** Councilmember Michetich seconded. **SPECIAL MEETING ADJOURNED.**

[This unofficial copy of the minutes from the above meeting are posted for convenience only. Executed or certified copies of the minutes can be requested by contacting the City Clerk.](#)