



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
of
July 23, 2021**

Minutes of Special City Council meeting held in the Council Chambers, 1109-B Bayou Road, La Marque, Texas as well as via teleconference - ZOOM on Friday, July 23, 2021, beginning at 11:00 a.m.:

(1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the Special Meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

Keith Bell	Mayor
Kimberley Yancy	Councilmember- District A
Joe Compian	Mayor Pro-Tem - District B
Michael Carlson	Councilmember - District C
Casey Mc Auliffe	Councilmember- District D

OTHER STAFF

Chaise Cary	Interim City Manager
Gus Knebel	Interim City Attorney - (MillsShirley)
Robin Eldridge	City Clerk

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Mayor Bell provided the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance followed

(4) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Bobby Merida introduced himself as a resident of District C, his mother, also a La Marque resident and lives in District A. "I take La Marque as my home, all districts. So, if I ride somewhere and I see something I am going to report it, whether anyone likes it or not." He then stated that a person who is affiliated with the City, (Ms. Brown) in some way, has been posting things about him on social media and that she should be reprimanded.

Asked that Mr. Merida put his concerns in writing to the Interim City Manager.

(5) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action relating to City Manager to present the Proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget of the City of La Marque

Interim City Manager Mr. Cary introduced Finance Director Suzy Kou, who presented the budget binders for the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget to all members of Council, (which included an agenda, the Interim city Manager 's letter, and General Fund and Utility Funds charts, and other useful information for the following week when the actual Budget Workshops begin)

Ms. Kou explained that the audit journal entries have not been included or tied into certain columns in the reports, but once the budget is adopted, they will all tie in together. Reminded all that the proposed budget binder is a working draft and that there will be mistakes in the binder, but that this will be worked out during the budget process. "We still do not have the certified tax rolls, and since property taxes set the tone for the budget, we have used the best estimate at this time, once we have those numbers, they will be brought to you next week."

Further discussed the detail pages that follow each departments budget, explaining what is behind the numbers presented for that department.

"The normal budget process normally takes 3-4 months, this has not been a normal year, so we didn't begin the actual process until the 3rd of July, so there will be mistakes."

Ms. Kou further encouraged Council to look at the back of the binder where the debt and capital projects were located. Some capital projects may qualify for grants.

Mayor Bell asked if any of the newer members of Council had questions about how information is arranged and how to go about reading the material in front of them.

It was clarified that several different things including the most recent winter storm Uri, and other rain events were a few of the issues that contributed to the length of time that staff had to prepare the proposed budget document.

It was asked that a speaker be added to the agenda next week to speak before Council: Mark Ciavaglia (Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLC), one of the city's outside tax advisors.

Mayor asked the Finance Director to explain a little about the tax rolls and the significance to the budget. Ms. Kou explained that the Chief Appraiser of the County will send to each entity within their jurisdiction, the preliminary tax rolls around late May which includes all of the property accounts with their estimated appraised values of those properties. A homeowner has a right to protest these appraisals, and these that are protested are also included in these preliminary rolls. "Around late July, we will received a certified roll, so we can levy taxes on.

We have seen a significant increase in the numbers, mainly because of new properties (2% growth), which is normal growth. I have requested for information from last years certified rolls to this years' preliminary rolls (top ten increases). These value effect the tax levy in our budget."

Mayor added and reminded all to find any irregularities that may be included in the proposed budget so that they can be corrected, and other housekeeping issues (lunches, snacks, personal items at each of their places on the dais etc.); and portraits at 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2021.

(6) EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

(7) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none

(8) ADJOURNMENT

** Councilmember Mc Auliffe made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 11:33 a.m.

** Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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.
