



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

Minutes of Special City Council meeting held in the Council Chambers, 1109 Bayou Road, La Marque, Texas as well as via teleconference - ZOOM on Monday, August 23, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m.:

(1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the Special meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

Keith Bell	Mayor
Kimberley Yancy	Councilmember district A (joined at 6:12 p.m. via ZOOM)
Joe Compian	Mayor-Pro-Tem District B
Michael Carlson	Councilmember District C
Casey Mc Auliffe	Councilmember District D (via ZOOM)

OTHER STAFF

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

(3) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no citizens Participation

(4) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Conduct **SECOND** Public Hearing to hear public input regarding the FY 2021-2022 Proposed Tax Rate of **.550764**

Mayor Bell recessed the Special meeting at 6:10 p.m. and opened the Public Hearing

No one spoke

Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Special meeting at 6:10 p.m.

(5) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Bell recessed the Special Meeting at 6:11 p.m. and went into Executive Session

1. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
 - a. Discuss Pending Litigation related to *La Marque Economic Development Corporation vs Texas City Terminal Railway Company*; Cause Number 20-CV-0633 in the 122nd District Court of Galveston County Texas.
 - b. Discuss employee discipline policies and potential litigation.
 - c. Consultation with Attorney regarding a matter which the Attorney's duty requires to be discussed in closed session.

Mayor Bell reconvened into the Special Meeting at 8:46 p.m.

No action was taken from the Executive Session Councilmember Yancy had another meeting to attend and was not at this portion

(6) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Carlson asked why the flags were flying at half-mast. Then thanked all for working so hard.

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian echoed Mr. Carlson in thanking the staff for working so hard. Brought up the fact that the City Clerk's office was having an extreme amount of open records requests and assured that the department is making efforts to respond as quickly as possible, and that not only is it involving this department but other departments as well. "We are not hiding anything folks, if we have the information, we will produce it when asked. People get off this idea that we are corrupt. That is crazy." Asked that all open records requests be posted on the city's website, in order to allow all citizens to see the numbers, the names of the persons asking for information and when the information is being disclosed. Then he added that on the future agendas, all members of Council would have his support on any item that they wish to add to any agenda then asked about a future discussion to adopt a Whistleblower statute. Finally added information he previously learned while attending the Newly Elected Officials Orientation that cities are under state mandates passed down from legislation. Over 200 laws in this last legislation involved and has an impact on the municipalities. In his short time on Council, he is learning every day about his restrictions, responsibilities and more importantly that every day is an opportunity to grow and come together as a community.

Mayor Bell began by stating that a few months ago there were no words about corruption directed towards this Council of any allegations being lodged on this council, "but since this Council is moving forward with a new direction, there are

words like corruption being lodged, without any proof or evidence of any wrongdoing, corrupt, or illegal things going on. Proof isn't found in a blast of open records requests. In order to have corruption, you have to have proof. So, we need to be careful about lodging words about corruption without any proof, this could be considered slander and that is a liability. You are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts. If there was corruption previously, it should have been brought to this to Council, by administration.

In January I said, if we are not safe, then we are not a city. I, along with all members of City Council have been moving forward to make sure that the City is a safe City and have identified twelve or thirteen bullet points of those directives, to implement these to make this city safe, but under a previous administration were never acted on. This is a fact, I heard that the "operation washout" was a product and brainchild of the La Marque Police Department, but in fact it was the Galveston Police Department spearheading this. This is not to disparage our Police Department, and you don't get to have your own facts. Encouraged those to do a little research to find facts instead of opinions. He intends to continue working with the Council and the Interim City Manager to make this City a safe City, there is a lot of work to do. Invited all to work together and make the city a safe city.

Then Mayor Bell added that on September 18, 2021 there will be a BBQ benefit from 11a.m. until 3 p.m. supporting Jesse Turrubiatte and his family.

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian said that for the next few months, he would be giving his \$50.00 a month to go towards the Turrubiatte family, then after that he would contribute this money towards churches and other non-profit organizations.

Councilmember Carlson added until the end of the year, he wants his \$50.00 as a contribution to the Turrubiatte family.

(7) ADJOURNMENT

****** Mayor Pro-Tem Compian made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 10:05 p.m.

****** Councilmember Carlson 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
