



**CITY OF LA MARQUE  
SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
of  
NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

**Minutes of Special Meeting of City Council held in the Council Chambers, 1109 Bayou Road, La Marque, Texas as well as via teleconference - ZOOM on Monday, November 1, 2021, beginning at 5:00 p.m.:**

**(1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Bell called the Special Meeting to order at 5:03 p.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 - ABSENT |

**(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Yancy delivered the Invocation and Councilmember Carlson led the Pledge of Allegiance

**(4) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

No one spoke

**(5) NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding appointing an Interim City Manager

Interim City Manager Chaise Cary spoke and informed all that he had accepted a position with the City of Dickinson as an Assistant City Manager, "This decision was not made lightly. Having the conversation with Mayor Bell last month was one of the most difficult of my life, because I care deeply for this community. I appreciate this city for accepting me and my family and trusting in me in this challenging time. I did my best to hold this city together in getting through some very challenging times, which we are still facing. I believe we did some great things here many thanks to the hardworking staff members we have. I appreciate all of you." He mentioned the late Mac Mc Gaffey, who he formed a special

friendship with over the years. “I will miss these life-long friendships I have made over the years. I have nothing but respect for you Mayor Bell and this Council and most importantly you the citizens. I want great things for this City, and I believe this city will do great things and prosper. I believe that the City of La Marque needs an experienced, strong willed City Manager to achieve these goals. I want to thank my wife for putting up with me these last few months, you and Carly mean the world to me.

I believe Chief Randall Aragon is here for a reason. I believe he was sent here to obviously help the Police Department. He has been throughout this country, and he has been an Interim before, he knows how to hold things down and keep things moving forward. My recommendation would be to promote and move Chief Aragon as the Interim City Manager until “bakertilley” goes through their search and finds the right person permanently for this City.”

Mayor Bell stated to Council that there had been a recommendation from the outgoing City Manager. “We can move to nominate Chief or anybody that we choose that meets the qualifications.”

Councilmember Carlson asked if Chief Aragon would be holding both roles as the Police Chief and Interim City Manager.

Chief Aragon approached the podium, “Both roles, I can multi-task very well, and I can do a good job, Chaise kept us on track, and I can continue to do that. I don’t need two pays; I am going to save you a bunch of money. I have served as Mayor when Mayor left town, under a Mayor form of government with no City Manager. I have served for over thirty years, six states and eight cities, and I have a good idea of and know what needs to be done. A leader is someone who is going someplace and can persuade others to go with him. I don’t want to be the City Manager; my role is public safety, but I will keep the ship afloat until we hire a competent person.”

Mayor Pro-Tem asked for clarification and what were the two roles he was referring to. Mr. Aragon responded that he had been appointed as the Chief of Police and the possibility of Interim City Manager. On October 20, 2021, he was named Chief of Police in a press release. An email was sent out to all of staff and each member of City Council and Mayor. The City Manager hires those positions under his supervision. The previous Interim City Manager Mr. Cary had appointed him as the Police Chief. It was asked that an email with the video be sent out again.

It was asked when the deadline was for applications to be received for the City Manager position. City Clerk would find out and let Council know.

Councilmember Yancy made a nomination to allow Randall Aragon to fill the position of the Interim City Manager position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian asked if there were any other candidates, Mr. Cary answered that there were no other candidates. There were no other nominations.

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to appoint Randall Aragon as he Interim City Manager to be effective November 5, 2021. Councilmember Yancy seconded.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Bell added that an agenda item relating to his salary package would be on the next meeting (the following Monday).

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding bringing Girls' Softball Association into the City

Councilmember M. Carlson began the discussion by stating that during the summer he and the late Mr. Mc Gaffey were discussing the Master Parks Plan and spoke of bringing Mahan Park up to standard to possibly bring in a baseball or softball association into the city to provide youth and teens an opportunity to get involved in sports.

Rachelle Davila, lives in La Marque and is currently the Texas City Youth Girls Softball President. After moving to this community four years ago, and because of their strong passion for helping kids, and since she herself played softball and her daughter played, she became president of the Association. At that time, the league consisted of only 66 players, and now the league has over 236 players. "We are a league through USA Softball, a nationalized organization. We started a co-ed league, and we have players ranging from age three to fourteen years of age. We try to encourage the players that have reached the phased-out stage (14 years of age) to coach teams and/or work in the concession stands.

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian asked for specifics, what does it mean by bringing the Association back to La Marque?

Currently there is no practicing on the fields in La Marque, once upon a time, they held practices, and games at Mahan Park. But since that time, the fields have deteriorated and need quite a bit of work to get them back in shape.

Mayor Bell clarified that a partnership would need to be created between the City and this organization. (A contract or an Agreement of Understanding). He continued to explain the process, beginning with the Parks Board agenda.

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian suggested other fields or parks that may be able to be utilized (Bobby Beech Park) and Lagana Park- through Queen of Peace Church, a current agreement between the City and the church.

\*\* Councilmember Carlson directed Mayor Pro-Tem Compian to bring this item to the Parks Board at their next meeting. ( He is the ex-officio member to the Parks Board)

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

c. Discussion/possible action regarding the overpayment of customers on their utility bills

Councilmember M. Carlson asked for the progress of the above agenda item.

Finance Director Ms. Kou explained that she recollected that this item would be reviewed, and that this was brought up by the auditors in their annual audit. There was a difference in the interpretation of the current ordinance as it pertains to the certain tiers concerning the water usage. She said that approximately 7,000 accounts would need to be reviewed each individually, and that multiple staff members have been out sick and or vacancies within the department. Legal opinion was also asked from the City Attorney. Simplicity was asked for (one-time adjustment of \$10.00 per account it was his suggestion back when it was officially brought up and is still Mayor Pro-Tem Compian's suggestion still, and that the money is available through the Utility Fund.

Mr. Kou said she would do whatever the Council's wished if it was legal and doable and is asking for a legal opinion from the City Attorney. Mr. Knebel said he would need more information on the over-billing and will need to get some numbers together and also meet with the auditors.

Ms. Kou added, "We are searching for the most logical and fair way to pay back anything we would need to refund the customers that were over billed."

It was clarified, when brought to the attention by the auditors, the City Staff began immediately using the standard practice.

Motion to get this information to council as soon as possible, hopefully for the December meeting, maybe as soon as the following week in the form of a report.

No further action was taken on this item.

## **(6) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) - regarding potential legal action against Charles Jackson

Mayor Bell recessed the Special Meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Mayor Bell reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:56 p.m.

**(7) ACTION TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Discussion and provide possible direction to the City Attorney regarding instituting legal action against Charles Jackson

\*\* Councilmember Yancy made a motion to table the legal action that was being considered against Charles Jackson and asked that it be table until the next regularly scheduled meeting in December.

\*\* Councilmember Carlson seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(8) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember sent thoughts and prayers to the Louis “Mac” Mc Gaffey family - that it is a big loss this city and community. Reported that he would be out of net for following days after the regular meeting next Monday night. Then added that he appreciated the way that Chaise has grown since his stepping up into the Interim City Manager position and thanked him for time and service.

Councilmember Yancy - also sent condolences for the Mc Gaffey family- November 10, 2021, she will be hosting at the La Marque High School the first 100 days in office Community Resource Fair. Texas Work Services, Amazon will be in attendance, it’s purpose is to empower the community and to show that this city is moving forward to make good things happen in spite of those who love to dance in negativity. Said she was excited about Mr. Aragon’s safety initiative meeting. “I will miss you Chaise you are an incredible young man. You remained positive this entire time. I am proud of you and am proud to call you my friend.”

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian sent condolences to the Mc Gaffey family. Congratulated Chaise Cary and described him as another high-energy person and committed to standards of conduct, then he wished he and his family good luck and for him to continue his growth in Dickinson. “I will be attending the HGAC meeting and will miss the next council meeting, then I will be out for about seven days or so.” Then added condolences to Charlie Werdlow, an employee of the Water Treatment Plant for the recent loss of his son.

Mayor Bell said it was a sad day in the city, that Mac Mc Gaffey was a true public servant. “I will be attending his visitation this evening to offer my encouragement and that the city owes the Mc Gaffey family a dept of gratitude. Mac was not a person who tried to undermine our government, he is one who did everything in his power to move this city forward. They don’t make him like that anymore. Men fight the good fight and at the end they shake hands and pick each other up they don’t seek to damage and destroy.”

“Chaise, you are a bright young man with an incredible future, it will be exciting to see how your life and career unfolds and know that I will be there cheering you on. I am proud of you for stepping up when this city needed you to. You took a lot of hits for it. Thank you for everything that you did for this city. Chief Aragon we have fought many wars together and will fight many more, but you are tough as nails. We have one goal in common we will make this city the safest city in Texas.”

Colleen Martin was thanked by all for her service in public relations and for being classy young lady.

Mayor gave his new city phone 409-257-6259 and added “La Marque’s future is brighter than it’s ever been, I encourage you all to go and pay respects to Louis Mc Gaffey’s family.

**(9) ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*** Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adjourn the Special meeting at 7:13 p.m.

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

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*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.*

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