



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
November 21, 2022**

Minutes of a **Special Meeting** held in the **Council Chambers** at **1109-B Bayou Road La Marque, Texas** **as well as via videoconference hosted through Zoom** on **November 21, 2022**, beginning at **6:00 PM** :

11/21/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of the Council were present with Councilmember Casey McAuliffe attending via Zoom from 4101 Main St La Marque, TX 77568.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Yancy gave the invocation and City Manager Cesar Garcia led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

James Ross (414 Ave D), spoke regarding the water rates. He recommended a "meter rate" instead of a "base rate".

David Pennington (924 Cypress), spoke regarding item 9.II, Revising Ordinance No. O-2022-0004, Establishing a policy for appointments to boards, commissions, and committees of the City of La Marque Code of Ordinances and providing an effective date. He asked the council to review this item carefully and be considerate of who is being appointed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.I. Mayor Recap

Mayor Bell gave a brief recap of the state of the City over recent months and shared his focus for the future which largely includes continuing infrastructure improvement. He encouraged the community to move forward in positivity and to work together to correct the challenges that face us all. He requested that the community refrain from personal attacks and allow the family members and key personnel in the city to have a personal life.

He apologized to anyone who voted "for" the recall for not better speaking towards his plan and showing his passion for the community.

6. ORDINANCES

6.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0018

Staff brought item back to the council with changes suggested at the last meeting, primarily reducing the suggested increase amount by 50%. Mayor Pro Tem Compian addressed that there is no language regarding the secondary increase expected in year 2. Mayor Pro Tem Compian also shared his concerns with the accuracy of some of the information presented in the 2018 Water Study, on which this ordinance is in part based. Questions regarding the number of utility accounts were raised.

Councilmember Carlson again questioned the exclusion of language regarding subsequent increases. City Attorney Gus Knebel clarified that the council is free to review the ordinance at any time, and explained the nuances of adding rate increase language without having a definitive understanding of how much the rates will increase, whereas the solid waste ordinance can include the rate increase language as the contract with that provider specifies what the increase amount will be.

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to table this item. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0019

Discussions regarding reducing the annual increase percentage in Section 2. from 3.5% to 3% ensued followed by a discussion regarding the total number of utility billing accounts in the city.

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Carlson made a motion to table Ordinance No. O-2022-0019, until the discrepancies in the account total can be resolved. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0099

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the amount of grant funding; initially, the Parks Board was presented with a \$100,000 grant opportunity but the presented item shows significantly less.

After a discussion with City Manager Garcia and Public Works Director Rick Sailer, it was determined that while the grant is not as significant as initially led to believe, the project is aligned with the Parks Master Plan and is a reasonable rate.

***Councilmember McAuliffe exited the meeting at 7:01 p.m.*

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0099. Councilmember Yancy seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.II. Resolution No. R-2022-0100

***Mayor Pro Tem presided over this item.*

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0100. Councilmember Yancy seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.III. Resolution No. R-2022-0101

Councilmember Carlson questioned if this agreement would be impeded any infrastructure improvements needed by the City. It was clarified that waterline improvements would need to be included in that area as well.

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0101. Councilmember Yancy seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.IV. Resolution No. R-2022-0102

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0102. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.V. Resolution No. R-2022-0103

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0103. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. APPOINTMENTS

Councilmember McAuliffe recommended Mary Limones for appointment to the Parks Board. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Yancy recommended Tonia Griffin and Valry Allen for appointment to the Parks Board. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. 113 Union Street

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation of Option 4, at a rate of \$17,032.31. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.II. Boards And Commissions

Councilmember Carlson spoke regarding his observation of struggles with participation for boards and commission members and recommended that the council revise the ordinance to allow for potential members to serve on multiple boards.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave a brief background on how the current ordinance was drafted and pointed out some areas of the current ordinance that the city has been more relaxed on but should be addressed.

Councilmember Yancy shared her concerns regarding attendance and accountability but does not want to allow citizens to participate in more than (2) boards.

Mayor Bell requested that Councilmember Carlson, as he was the Councilmember who brought this item to the agenda, collaborate with Councilmember McAuliffe, City Attorney, and City Clerk to amend the ordinance.

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to table this item. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Items For The Good Of The Order

Councilmember Yancy wished Mayor Bell a happy belated birthday and thanked Amazon for all they are doing to hire our residents. "Gulfway Plaza" has an HEB "gift card giveaway" on November 22, 2022. Praise & Pies will be held at Abundant Life on Wednesday, November 23, 2022. She also shared her excitement for the Christmas Parade on December 6, 2022. She wanted to acknowledge that there was an ad hoc committee that worked on the utility rates before they were brought to the council.

Councilmember Carlson, asked for everyone to be safe, don't drink and drive, and enjoy themselves on Thanksgiving. He also shared sentiments of giving and sharing with those less fortunate or military members at this time. Thank you, boards, commissions, and staff. Thank you to all first responders who have to work on Thanksgiving, and asked City Manager Garcia to look into the Presidential Award for volunteerism.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared appreciation for Mayor's comments earlier in the meeting, "the past is behind us". Volunteerism is important, it is the soul of our community. Please reach out to a council member or fill out an application online if you would like to donate your time, also, other organizations would love to have additional help this time of year. He sent his condolences to those who were affected by the tragedy in Colorado Springs and requested that the council revisit the traffic study for the Amazon facility.

Mayor Bell wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade on December 6, 2022.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Yancy seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Keith Bell

Mayor

Kierra K. Nance, TRMC

City Clerk

