



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
December 12, 2022**

Minutes of a **Regular Meeting** held in the **Council Chambers** at **1109-B Bayou Road La Marque, Texas as well as via videoconference hosted through Zoom** on **December 12, 2022**, beginning at **6:00 PM** :

12/12/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were present.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and City Manager Garcia led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Proclamations

Mayor Bell presented a proclamation to Rodney Gamble honoring his service to the City.

Mayor Bell also presented a proclamation celebrating the Meals on Wheels program hosted by Interfaith Ministries.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Cynthia Riojas (2429 Williams Dr) spoke regarding a sewer backup that she and her family experienced on Thanksgiving and the history of backups in the area, and a giant pothole on her street.
- Deborah Salas (2420 Newman Rd) spoke regarding multiple potholes on her street and water and sewer issues.
- Bill Pritchard (2416 Newman Rd) spoke regarding sewer issues in the area that has been present since he moved into the area in 2002.
- Mary Limones (2709 John St.) spoke to invite the Council to a Toy Drive being held at the La Marque VFW on Saturday, December 24, 2022, requesting financial assistance from the Council, and asking for permission to set up a donation box at City Hall.
- Clarence Caldwell (3603 Prairie St) spoke regarding concerns with mosquitos, the efforts of the Galveston County Mosquito Control District, clearing ditches, and overhanging trees on Newman

Road, and requesting a conversation with the City Manager.

- Re'Chard Loftis (309 Johnson) spoke to commend City Manager Cesar Garcia for being responsive to issues that he has presented for other citizens.

6. MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearings at 7:06 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0016

No citizen's participation.

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0017

No citizen's participation.

8. ORDINANCES

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:07 p.m.*

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0016

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-0016. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0017

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0017. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.III. Ordinance No. O-2022-0018

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he is prepared to move forward tonight, and gave a brief history of the sewer system in the city.

Councilmember Yancy requested that the City provide access to resources to assist residents.

Councilmember McAuliffe asked for the City Manager to show the community the changes that were made to the rate structure. City Manager Garcia shared a brief presentation with the updated rate structure.

Councilmember Carlson clarified that this is only 50% of the proposed rate increase and the second increase is scheduled to be reviewed during the next fiscal year's budget workshops.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that the City of Pearland increased utility rates by 13.1%, with incremental increases to come in future years.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0018. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IV. Ordinance No. O-2022-0019

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0019. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.V. Ordinance No. O-2022-0020

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared concerns regarding the appropriateness of rezoning this location, as the front of the property is commercial. However, behind the property is strictly residential.

Councilmember McAuliffe, Councilmember Yancy, and Mayor Bell also shared Mayor Pro Tem's concerns regarding the appropriateness of the rezone.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to deny Ordinance No. O-2022-0020. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED 4 AYES (BELL, COMPIAN, YANCY, MCAULIFFE) TO 1 NAY (CARLSON).**

8.VI. Ordinance No. O-2022-0021

Mayor Pro Tem questioned if language regarding pickup requirements was to be included in the ordinance presented. Development Services Director Kathleen VanStavern suggested a permit requirement for applicants to submit a pickup schedule.

Councilmember McAuliffe questioned the ability of the City to remove boxes if no contact information is provided for current box owners. City Attorney Knebel clarified that while there is no explicit language in the ordinance presented, Texas Law and other nuisance abatement ordinances speak to the process of removing a nuisance.

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0021. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VII. Ordinance No. O-2022-0022

The Council reviewed each proposed amendment allowing for questions if clarifications were needed. Charter Review Chairman James Osteen clarified questions regarding language in Amendment Ten after Council shared concerns regarding "shall" language and the recommendation of the City Manager.

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0022 amending the language in Amendment Ten to remove the requirement of City Manager approval. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. RESOLUTIONS

9.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0104

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0104. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.II. Resolution No. R-2022-0105

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0105. Councilmember Yancy

seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested an updated project schedule.

9.III. Resolution No. R-2022-0106

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0106 appointing Grantworks as the Grant Administrator for the Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant Program. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.IV. Resolution No. R-2022-0107

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0107 appointing LJA Engineering as the engineering services firm for the Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant Program. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Resolution No. R-2022-0108

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0108. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

10.I. 2023 Holiday Schedule

Stood as submitted.

10.II. Fire Report

mc- asked for an update on the "reboxing" of ambulances. Fire Chief Merryman agreed to update the Council once an estimated arrival time has been obtained.

Stood as submitted.

10.III. SETH GRANT AWARD

Stood as submitted.

11. APPOINTMENTS

No appointments.

12. NEW BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell recessed the regular meeting at 8:31 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:46 p.m.*

12.I. Issuance Of RFP

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to approve issuing a Request For Proposal for the lease/sale/development of city-owned property identified by Galveston County Property Tax ID# 311687. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12.II. Upcoming Events

Mayor Pro Tem clarified to the community that even during closures, staff would answer for emergencies; please call the nonemergency dispatch line to report any water and sewer issues.

No action was taken on this item.

12.III. Items For The Good Of The Order

Mayor Pro Tem Compian thanked the "dynamic folks" at the Painted Meadows HOA for their Holiday party. He got the opportunity to meet some new neighbors from Guam and is always delighted to visit with neighbors. He gave a quick public service announcement for residents to be aware of overloading electrical outlets in their home, as many home fires are started this time of year. He is grateful to be a part of this community. He announced that he had been selected as an alternate delegate for the Board of Directors of the Houston- Galveston Area Council.

Councilmember McAuliffe loves the holiday season and hopes everyone can be with others and do what they love. She gave a special thank you to the staff and volunteers who "make it all work".

Councilmember Carlson asked everyone to remember what the season is for and to celebrate with family and friends. He also reminded the community not to forget about the homeless and servicemembers. He congratulated Captain Briggs for graduating from the police academy. He requested that boards and commissions give council reports at council meetings and that he be notified if there is a fire incident in his district. He also thanked the staff for all that they have done and continue to do for the community.

Councilmember Yancy shared that she attended the dedication of Giles Middle School and Delany Cove HOA meeting. She gave a Happy Birthday to all of the December birthdays and thanked her family and friends for being so supportive this past year. She will be representing the City of La Marque at the Mistletoe Gala on December 24, 2022 and shared what a wonderful time she had at the La Marque Christmas Parade. She closed by announcing that Mandy's Consignment Shop is now taking clothes and handbags. Consignment is a great way to clean out your closets and help the community at the same time. She looks forward to all the growth that continues to come to the City.

Mayor Bell stated that it has been a "wonderfully long year in our city, but we have persevered" and have passed all of the difficulties. He shared some of the positive achievements of this year, Bayou Road has been repaired, Downtown is being revitalized, violent crime is down, and economic development is up, all a testament to the resilience of the people of the City of La Marque. He is excited to serve the citizens alongside this council and administration, and wonderful things are coming to La Marque if we continue to move forward together. He reminded the community of the inaugural Clent Brown Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, and Wreaths Across America.

City Manager Garcia thanked everyone who participated in the Blue Santa event as well as the Painted Meadows event last week.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

14. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. **MOTION**

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.*

Keith Bell

Mayor

Kierra K. Nance, TRMC

City Clerk