**LA MARQUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
**REGULAR MEETING JOINTLY WITH LA MARQUE CITY COUNCIL**
**MINUTES**
**OCTOBER 18, 2018**

**AGENDA:**

1. CALL TO ORDER
President Ron Crowder called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:
Ron Crowder, President
Gene Smith, Secretary
Deanie Barrett
Bobby Hocking

ABSENT:
Louis "Mac" McGaffey

OTHER OFFICIALS:
Councilmember Michetich
Councilwoman Mc Auliffe

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. Regular Meeting of September 20, 2018
Board member Smith made a motion to approve. Board member Barrett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT
a. Presentation of Monthly Financial Report
Financial report stood as submitted.

5. PRESENTATION
a. Lesa Hughes; Chase Bank

Councilmember Michetich shared his concerns on several recognized, vacant properties (10-13) that are owned by the City, but not contributing to any tax revenue. He suggested that tax incentives or abatements be considered, when developing/building on them to get them back on the tax rolls. He outlined an available grant opportunity program through Chase Bank, then introduced Lesa Hughes, Senior Home Lender Advisor for Chase Bank. Mrs. Hughes outlined eligibility criteria for the Chase Home-buyer Grant (low to moderate) 1) Earn $2,500.00 to be used towards a down payment or closing costs; 2) Receive an additional $500.00 for completing a homebuyer education course; 3) Subject to a credit approval (income/debt ratio)

Further discussion included the introduction of Roger Dickinson of 3-D Home Builders who builds "spec" houses ranging from a minimum of 1200 to 1600 square feet, 3-2, with garages, high quality homes, pricing from $90 to $110, per square foot and includes a ten-year warranty. Houses are built to "fit in" with surrounding houses in their current locations, providing raised foundations due to existing drainage. Regional Manager Robert Alcala was introduced who elaborated on the program and other criteria for the program. Chairman Crowder asked for an informal meeting to be scheduled to discuss this program in more detail.

b. Mark Ciavaglia; Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson
Mr. Ciavaglia explained the process of securing foreclosed properties, which is what he specializes in. He helps locate, acquire and get foreclosed and vacant properties back on the tax rolls. He explained the process by which a person can obtain property and the process in which the minimum bids are reduced by fractions of the original cost, after the original sheriff sale.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action regarding the request from Mayor Bobby Hocking (authorized by City Council) to fund an I-45 enhancement study to address corridor branding and intersection improvements

Board member Hocking referred to a previous meeting with TxDOT and the discussion led to the number of entrances there actually are into the City (5); the extent of enhancements and their location (s); possibility of some grant money being available to help offset the price of these enhancements and intersection improvements. There is a commitment from the City to assist financially in this enhancement study which would address the corridor branding and intersection improvements. A letter of intent would be forthcoming within the next week or so.

Board member Smith made a motion to approve the funding ($60,000.00) for an enhancement study to address the corridor branding and intersection improvements. Board member Barrett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion/possible action regarding hiring an audit firm
After a brief discussion, Board member Hocking made a motion to award the RFQ #18-03 (hiring of an auditing firm) to Belt Harris and Pechachek, LLLP. Chairman Crowder seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action regarding the renovation of 401 Laurel - Mike Bricker & Associates Inc. as general contractor

Bob Randall provided an update of the preliminary costs ($887,849) involved in the renovation of 401 Laurel in the Renaissance District. After the initial "walk through" several issues surfaced, that couldn't be foreseen initially. The updated cost also included a $30,000.00 contingency for unknown conditions (structural, façade changes to the entrance and other repairs or additions). A time frame as to beginning and finished product, not including time for the two (2) businesses to set up was said to be seven to nine weeks. Board member Hocking made a motion to accept the new proposal and move forward with the renovations. Board member Barrett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION
   a. Director's Report - report may include past, present, or future projects
   Executive Director had one addition to his report that there were reservations from a prospective lessee at the Highway 3 location, due to the type of business that maybe moving in adjacent to the property.

   b. Public Relations Report – report to include an overview of efforts as it pertains public relations
   Public Relations Specialist provided her report and reminded all of the Fall Cleanup Event November 3rd; Bayou Fest and Christmas Parade

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   a. Section 551.072 of the Government Code - deliberations about real property - land acquisition and or sale
   There was no Executive Session

10. ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION
    a. Consider land acquisition and or sale

11. REQUESTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn at 9:55 a.m.

Ron Crowder, President

Robin Eldridge, TMRC
City Clerk