



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
August 8, 2023**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of council were present except for Mayor Pro Tem Compian, with Councilmember Carlson attending via Zoom, arriving at 10:35 a.m. from 602 Washington St Mosier, OR.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and Public Relations Specialist Pritchett led the pledge.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Review and Discuss Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Departmental Budgets and All Funds

Corrections were made to page 8 of the proposed budget, correcting some clerical errors in the estimated expenditures for the current year.

Councilmember Ross asked for updated revenues to reflect the most up-to-date permitting fees.

Mayor Bell questioned the investment line item and the significant increase. City Manager Garcia clarified it resulted from the ARPA funds currently sitting in an investment account accruing interest. Mayor Bell questioned why those funds had not been expended. It was clarified that the administration felt completing the capital improvement plan and community input was imperative in choosing where to expend those monies.

Discussions related to clarifying updated projections and the nature and rationale of the projections ensued.

Discussions related to development service fees and increases ensued. It was clarified that the current fees are enough to support the development services and code enforcement departments as they do not rely on ad valorem tax rates.

James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) shared his disapproval of budget overages in line

items over the current year. He said a budget is useless if you don't go by it, and if a department hits its budget limits, then that item stops.

Discussions related to the current fiscal year projections ensued again.

City Manager Garcia presented updated statistics relating to rental registration participation, police contacts, and sales tax.

Mayor Bell stated that as it stands, he will be proposing a 41-cent tax rate equivalent to the no new revenue rate and recommending the city and council assess new and improved revenue sources. He believes that by trimming the budget and presenting realistic projections, the community can have everything they need while also receiving some tax relief.

James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) brought to the council's attention an error in the sales tax projections that shows the Economic Development Corporation receiving less than what they will receive.

Rose Lazo (1406 Lamar Dr) started by saying she has lived in the city for two years and has seen tremendous growth and activity. She asked for clarification regarding the sales tax numbers. City Manager Garcia shared that he has tasked staff to do a sales tax audit and verify that all businesses operating in the city contribute to the sales tax.

Joel Camacho (25 Borondo Stretch) asked to clarify the Economic Development Corporations abbreviation. He questioned the budget of the police department, which is over-budget but understaffed. He also questioned the overtime budget and the realization of those unfilled positions.

***Mayor Bell recessed the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:35 p.m.*

City Manager Garcia identified that if the Council proposed the no new revenue rate, it would mean an approximate budget reduction of \$651,000.

Mayor Bell reiterated his belief that through streamlining and additional revenue generation he believes that this would be able to be achieved.

Councilmember Yancy requested a list of the City Manager's "must haves" before the next meeting.

Councilmember Ross stated that he believes we are moving in the right direction and would support the no new revenue rate.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

6. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No actions were taken.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.*

Kierra K. Nance, TRMC
City Clerk

Keith Bell
Mayor