CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
August 28, 2023

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
   Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL
   All members of Council were physically present with the exception of Councilmember Carlson.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave the invocation and Councilmember Ross led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

   4.I. Introduction - Aaron Hoosier, Human Resource Coordinator
   New Human Resource Coordinator Hooser was introduced to the council and community.

   4.II. Updated Citywide Agenda Platform for Council, Boards, and Commissions
   Public Relations Officer Pritchett briefly overviewed the updated agendas and minutes page on the city website and shared navigation tips regarding the new interface.

   James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) asked if there could be an update to the software to make the previous meetings calendar easier to view in the mobile version, to which City Clerk Nance clarified that this concern has been noted and a request to the developer has been made.

   Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) shared that some individuals were not getting notifications from the software. Public Relations Officer Pritchett shared that this is due to the update, and we are not legally allowed to transition everyone into the new software, so please sign up for new alerts if you notice that you have not been receiving the same level of communication as before.

   Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he wished the rollout of this update had been handled differently.

   Mayor Bell asked clarifying questions regarding the software.

4.III. Certificates of Obligation - Stifel

Brad Angst and David Webb of Stifel Public Finance attended virtually, informing the public that no new obligations are being considered. They have reviewed the worksheet submitted by the City, as created by the Council during budget workshops, and have concluded the the projects as presented do qualify for their prospective funding sources as indicated.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned if any expenditures in the FY2023-2024 budget could be covered through the Certificates of Obligations or if the general fund could potentially be reimbursed if any expenditures are found that do qualify. While City Manager Garcia did not believe that there was any that would qualify, Mr. Angst stated that under certain circumstances, if that were to arise, there could potentially be an avenue to reimburse the general fund.

Councilmember Yancy clarified that this presentation covers all of the project allocation requests that the council presented during the budget workshops.

Mayor Bell shared his sentiments that while the documents presented are great for accounting purposes, a narrative of the actions taken by the council be presented at a future date.

4.IV. Presentation - Gulf Coast Center

Jerry Freshour, Gulf Coast Center Representative, spoke about the Gulf Coast Center and the origin of the Memorandum of Understanding on the agenda, sharing that the city is partnering with the Gulf Coast Center for one year to assist with telecommunication training, crisis intervention and other possible partnership avenues for the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned if there are personnel designated for individuals who are Spanish-speaking. It was clarified that Gulf Coast Center has a team of translators for Spanish speakers and sign language.

Councilmember Yancy and Councilmember Ross shared their enthusiasm for this program.

Mayor Bell asked for the Gulf Coast Center's helpline number. The representative shared that 988 is the nationwide hotline number, but the local mental health hotline is 866-729-3848.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Joseph Lowry (2503 Cedar Dr) spoke to say that he takes issue with a conversation he had with City Hall earlier in the day and concerns regarding Mayor Bell's residency. Cecily Henderson (Resource Crisis Center of Galveston County) shared that the organization is excited to partner with the City in relation to the Safe City Initiative. Robert Michetich (34 N Curlew) spoke to thank the City Manager for the addition of the La Marque Fire Station as a polling location. He agreed that a councilmember's living situation, should it change, should be made public, and he would like the City Manager to be involved in the expeditious rescheduling of the TIRZ Board meeting as the Omega

Bay HOA has some important decisions that need to be made reliant on their input.
James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) spoke regarding Resolution No. R-2023-0053, he feels that the inclusion of the City Manager's authorization to sign for payments in this project conflicts with the City Charter.
Re'Chard Loftis (309 Johnson) spoke to thank Public Works for the abatement of certain opportunity areas at city parks.

6. PUBLIC HEARING
***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular meeting and entered into Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.*

6.I. Proposed Tax Rate FY 2023-2024
Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) spoke regarding the ethics of how the I&S budget is prepared. He believes that it is unethical.
James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) spoke to say that he believes the citizens appreciate the tax reduction this year, it has been spoken about for years however this council made it happen.

7. MINUTES
***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular meeting at 7:20 p.m.*
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.I. Special City Council Minutes 08.10.2023

7.II. Special City Council Minutes 08.08.2023

7.III. Special City Council Minutes 08.01.2023

7.IV. Special City Council Minutes 07.25.2023

7.V. Special City Council Minutes 07.24.2023

7.VI. Regular City Council Minutes 07.24.2023

8. ORDINANCES

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2023-0008
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2023-0008. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.II. Ordinance No. O-2023-0009
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2023-0009. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked for clarification regarding the use of term "23 tax year"

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.III. Ordinance No. O-2023-0010

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2023-0010. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he has heartburn with the uniform hours, which prevents the community from gathering and questioning the enforcement. City Attorney Knebel shared that the current Code of Ordinances states that there are uniform operating hours with the exclusion of Mahan Park. This is a request to remove that exclusion.

MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES AND 1 NAY (COMPIAN).

9. RESOLUTIONS

9.I. Resolution No. R-2023-0051

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-0051. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.II. Resolution No. R-2023-0052

Discussions relating to the funding source, and severity of this opportunity area ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-0052. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.III. Resolution No. R-2023-0053

Discussions regarding pricing, the location of this project, and the project's purpose ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-0053. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.IV. Resolution No. R-2023-0054

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked for clarification on which entities the city uses for investments. Finance Director Kou shared that the city has not been utilizing brokerages in recent years and has been investing through investment pools such as TEXPOOL.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-0053. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Resolution No. R-2023-0055

Fire Chief Merryman clarified that this is an addendum to the Emergicon contract. City Attorney Kneble shared that the addendum includes "excluded duties" to prevent billing to residents of La Marque.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-0055. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. Resolution No. R-2023-0056

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-0056. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the meeting at 7:52 p.m.*

There was no report.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.I. Memorandum of Understanding

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of La Marque and Gulf Coast Center. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Compian Absent for Vote).**

11.II. Memorandum of Understanding

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of La Marque and the Resource Crisis Center. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Compian Absent for Vote).**

11.III. Request For Proposal

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to authorize the Issuance of a Request for Proposal for Municipal Court Associate Judge and request for qualifications (RFQs) for professional services for the Municipal Court Associate Judge. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Compian Absent for Vote).**

11.IV. Investment Quarterly Report

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian returned at 7:46 p.m.*

Mayor Bell questioned an observed 2.2 million dollar reduction shown in the report and requested that this question be answered in the next council meeting.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the Investment Quarterly Report. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11.V. Galveston County Mutual Aid Contract 2023-2024

Discussions relating to call volume, and mutual aid revenue ensued.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the Galveston County Mutual Aid Contract for the 2023-2024 year. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

13. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION
No action was taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT
Councilmember Ross thanked the Parks Board for the volunteer event, painting the H Frames at city parks. He also reminded the community of the POW/MIA Remembrance Day event at the VFW. He also shared that there will be a clean-up event in District D on the following Saturday.

Councilmember Yancy shared that she had the pleasure of attending Justin Williams, a local resident's movie premiere, celebrating his project as it was filmed in our City. She asked the community to pray for the victims of violence around the country, asking the nation to remember what we have in common. She is praying for the Mayor and his family. This Council and staff have worked very hard to make La Marque shine. To the community, "Hold on, better days are coming." Happy Labor Day, and be safe.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave a shutout to the La Marque High School class of 1973 for their 50th anniversary, the first class to complete a full high school term at the current high school site. Thank you to Mr. Tony Padua and his family, the developers of the Trails at Woodhaven Lakes development, which is one of the few areas that will have amenities for active seniors. La Marque will be featured in a film highlighting development in small communities to be shown nationally by the Houston Galveston Area Council. He hopes everyone has a safe Labor Day.

Mayor Bell requested a true amount of revenue from the permitting department for the 22-23 fiscal year be included in the next meeting. He also would like to hear recommendations for senior programming at the next meeting. He shared his appreciation for the work being done by the Parks Board this season, and looks forward to their continued work. Kudos to the La Marque Police Department for solving another cold case, another step towards the goal of becoming the Safest City in Texas, and requested a safe city update at the next meeting. Happy Labor Day.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.*

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Kierra K. Nance, TRMC
City Clerk

Keith Bell
Mayor