



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
September 11, 2023**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were present except for 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. A Moment of Silence - Honoring 9/11

The City Council and all in attendance shared a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

4.II. Introduction - Christine Turner, Finance Director

City Manager Garcia introduced the City's new Finance Director, Christine Turner, and honored the previous Finance Director, Suzy Kou, for her many years of service.

Finance Director Turner gave a brief overview of her education and previous financial experience, sharing that it is a privilege to work for the citizens of La Marque.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) thanked City Manager Garcia and City Clerk Nance for scheduling the TIRZ Board meeting and called for the residents of District C to vote in the next election. He shared that the City Charter rules over state law. He recommended that the city contract repairs and preserve employees for other duties.

Cassandra Lafferty (1302 Ross) spoke regarding water leaks in the City. She shared a complaint regarding the water bill adjustment process.

Carol Johnson (2808 Fannin) spoke regarding the Westlawn Drainage project, questioning why a groundbreaking was held and work had yet to begin, citing the grant's timeline.

Eva Livy (2808 Fannin) spoke regarding waterline breaks, "Band-aids aren't working anymore."

Richard Holcomb (2708 Magnolia) spoke regarding water leaks at the corner of Magnolia and Lake. The ditches were full of water on the previous Friday evening. He shared his disapproval of the weekend work that was done.

Joel Newman (919 Kenneth) spoke regarding an illegal automotive repair facility near his home and harassment his community is receiving from a neighbor. He also shared his disapproval of the staff response.

Melanie Leyva Allred (1605 Hawthorne) spoke to introduce herself to the community as a candidate for District C.

Joseph Lowry (2503 Cedar) stated that he forgives the council for the actions of the past few years but will continue to hold them accountable. Asking the Mayor to step down or he will take the issue to court.

Yatisha Garder (226 Ruslee) spoke about water pressure in the community and an issue with the La Marque Police Department.

Tanya Bell (1915 Oaklawn) spoke as a concerned citizen, not the Mayor's wife, confirming that the Mayor does live at 1915 Oaklawn. She shared that her family has been harassed for 2 years, and her private business is being used publicly. She will take this issue to the state if anything happens to her family.

Keiona Bourgeois-Bell (1915 Oaklawn) spoke regarding an incident that happened to her sister regarding the accusations of the Mayor.

Erica Bourgeois (1915 Oaklawn) spoke to say that if anything happened to their family, she would contact the State of Texas.

Kim Phillips (2002 Oaklawn) said she has loved living here. She is mystified and embarrassed by the social media actions in the city. She feels that money is being wasted, and the behavior displayed is juvenile. She lives on Oaklawn and sees the Mayor frequently working out on his lawn. She asked the community, "Are we going to act like adults or juveniles"?

Mayor Bell called for recess at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

6. MINUTES

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6.I. Regular City Council Minutes 08.28.2023

6.II. Regular City Council Minutes 08.14.2023

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Bell recessed the regular meeting and entered into Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2023-0008

There were no public comments.

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2023-0009

James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) asked for the Council to confirm the tax rate. It was confirmed that the tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year is \$0.418058.

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

John Kent (157 Lower Borondo) questioned if the council would be open to amending the hours at a later date.

8. ORDINANCES

Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular meeting at 7:22 p.m.

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2023-0008

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2023-0008.
Councilmember Ross seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he will be voting against this item because he feels that this budget and tax reduction is so significant it interferes with long-term financial planning. Previous councils have made promises to the community that have not been acted upon, and this reduction prevents those actions from happening.

For: Keith Bell, Kimberley Yancy, James Ross

Against: Joe Compian

Absent: Michael Carlson

8.II. Ordinance No. O-2023-0009

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2023-0009.
Councilmember Ross seconded the motion.

FOR: Keith Bell, Kimberley Yancy, James Ross

AGAINST: Joe Compian

ABSENT: Michael Carlson

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 this ordinance is too stringent. He feels that there should be flexibility in park hours. He feels this is better suited to the city's larger parks, but the smaller parks should not be included.

City Manager Garcia shared that currently, the uniform hours apply to all parks except Mahan Park.

Councilmember Yancy shared that uniformed park hours are considered the best practice for safe cities.

After a brief discussion, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IV. Ordinance No. O-2023-0011

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the allocations in the supporting document spreadsheet.

Mayor Bell clarified to the community that this document reflects the Council directing the City Manager to expend the Certificates of Obligation funds.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2023-0011. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt all resolutions as submitted. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.I. Resolution No. R-2023-0057

9.II. Resolution No. R-2023-0058

9.III. Resolution No. R-2023-0059

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.I. Public Works Annual Bid - Chemicals

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the Public Works annual bid for Chemicals. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.II. Public Works Annual Bid - Biosolids Processing

After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the Public Works annual bid for Biosolids Processing. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.III. Public Works Annual Bid - Pipeline Repair Materials

After a lengthy discussion regarding the purpose of these materials, Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the Public Works annual bid for Pipeline Repair Materials. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.IV. Items for the Good of the Order

Mayor Pro Tem Compian feels that the community needs to come together fundamentally, and he is willing to be a mediator if the parties are open to it. He loves this community, and seeing the community at odds hurts him. He encouraged everyone to patronize the businesses in La Marque. He took a moment to reflect on the impact of those who lost their lives in the line of duty on 9/11.

Councilmember Ross reflected on where he was on the day of September 11, 2001, as an enlisted member of the Navy. He asked the community to let the service members know they are loved. POW/MIA Day events have been moved from Saturday to Friday at the VFW. He apologized for tonight's events. Sometimes, families have issues, and La Marque is a family. He asked for thoughts and prayers for the Mayor and his family.

Councilmember Yancy shared that today is a memorable day, and we should have a standard of excellence. She asked for the city, those who believe in the power of prayer, to pray. These are strange times in America, but we are an amazing city with amazing things coming. Many things are being done that have nothing to do with our city. Let's do what needs to be done to come together. This is too much. She apologized to the Mayor, his family, and to staff members for the climate, but let's focus on the good things.

Mayor Bell confirmed his residency at 1915 Oaklawn and thanked his colleagues for supporting his family. He shares the pain of the community regarding infrastructure concerns; the city did not get here overnight, and it will not be corrected overnight. He reminded those listening that the city is a small community with a paid fire department and two fire stations, and public safety is costly, which diverts funds from infrastructure. He does not want the fact that this council reduced taxes by over 3 cents for the upcoming year to be overlooked due to the distractions of tonight. The amount of the budget funded by property tax has been reduced, even though the budget overall has increased, due to property tax and other fee-based assessments; statistics show that crime has been reduced, the downtown area is being restored, an event center is in progress, several new developments, and more. The City of La Marque is moving forward. He stated that all allegations against him were false and that he would not resign.

City Manager Garcia shared the flyer for Bayou Fest on October 21, 2023.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Yancy seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.*