



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
January 8, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were physically present.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chaplain Care Team member Rev. Otis Lane gave the invocation and City Manager Garcia led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Water & Wastewater Impact Fee Analysis

Brent Berthier, Senior Project Manager of consulting engineering firm ADICO Consulting Engineers, gave an overview of the Water and Wastewater Impact Fee Analysis focusing on the Land Use Assumption Report.

Councilmember Ross questioned financial figures in the presentation, clarifying if the amount was an annual rate or across the 10-year period; it is the 10-year period.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian challenged the assumption of additional commercial connections on certain sites and requested clarification on some items in the documentation.

Mayor Bell clarified that the purpose of an Impact Fee is to ensure that the property developer pays "their share" and alleviates the burden on the taxpayers for certain capital improvements. He also questioned how some of the projects listed qualify as Impact Fee projects, and a lengthy discussion ensued. He also requested additional clarifying information to be provided by the City Attorney. Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested additional clarifications regarding the formulas used for the study and best practices as shown by other cities.

4.II. Communication Update - Website

Public Relations Officer Joshua Pritchett gave the council and public a first look at the City's redesigned website.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Richard Holcolm (2708 Magnolia Dr) spoke to congratulate Councilmember Allred, and shared concerns regarding dirt being spread over the soccer field near his home and the impact it has had on drainage in the area.
- Greg Cornett (1310 Cedar Dr) spoke to invite council to the Impact Fee Review Committee meeting at 3:30 on January 23, 2024, and shared concerns of citizens regarding the Heavy Industrial Zone, the need for a cleanup of Cedar Street, and the standing water in the field near Hayley Elementary.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.I. Resolution No. R-2023-0071

Finance Director Christine Turner gave a brief overview of the item. Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that the summary letter was not included. Mike Brooks of Brookswatson & Co. PLLC shared that this item was initially included in the first presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2023-0071 including the summary letter and findings previously provided by Brookswatson & Co. PLLC. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Bell requested an agenda item at the next meeting to provide solutions to Brookswatson & Co. PLLC's material findings.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.I. Proposed Ordinance

City Attorney Knebel gave a brief overview of the history of this item and the land it will likely relate to.

Mayor Bell recalled events and his time on the negotiation committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his experience as a negotiation team member and identified the anticipated land as being within the opportunity zone.

Councilmember Allred questioned the additional public safety needs.

Mayor Bell stated that the item before tonight's council creates a new zoning category.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the ability of other properties to request this zone and asked for clarity regarding certain terminology.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-0001. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.II. Proposed Resolution

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2024-0001.

Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Stood as submitted.

8.I. La Marque Public Library November Statistics

8.II. La Marque Police Department New Year's Eve Activity Report

8.III. La Marque Fire Marshal's New Year's Eve Statistics

8.IV. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) submission

Public Works Director Sailer gave a brief overview of this item, relaying to council that while the City was not selected to apply in the current cycle the city's intended use form could be considered for the next cycle in 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his displeasure with the requested funding amount and asked clarifying questions regarding calculations.

9. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Allred declined to share any requests or announcements.

Councilmember Ross requested a review of game room ordinances to include additional facilities that may have underage persons occupying. He gave a brief warning to the public regarding a current impersonation issue relating to properties surrounding the railroad properties.

Councilmember Yancy requested additional enforcement of the fireworks ordinance during holiday season. She also requested updates regarding the Churches Chicken property, updates on the street sweeper as reported by a resident, street project updates, and updates on ARPA funds. She looks forward to the Community Fair to be held on January 13, 2024 and the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade on January 15, 2024, in conjunction with the City of Texas City. She loves the new sidewalks. She encouraged everyone to shop local and keep our businesses here. Thank you staff for everything that you do.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian wished everyone a dynamic New Year and looks forward to another prosperous year in the city. He announced that there is a shortage of blood and encouraged everyone not to be afraid to donate. He also acknowledged the New Year's Eve report.

Mayor Bell reiterated a citizen's request for increased usage of the street sweeper. He requested a workshop by the end of the month with Public Works and their leadership team regarding the department's services. He also requested an updated street maintenance program and funding for this program. He directed the City Manager to provide updates for the La Marque 2050 Plan and move it forward, the issuance of the Third and Fourth Quarter Progress Reports, and updates on all Certificate of Obligations funds. He also reiterated Volunteer Appreciation Day on January 13, 2024.

9.I. Upcoming Events

Stood as submitted.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell entered into Executive Session at 8:51 p.m.*

10.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)

11. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell reconvened the Regular meeting at 9:06 p.m.*

11.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)

Councilmember Ross made a motion to authorize the attorney to file a summary motion. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

***Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.*