



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
February 12, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of the Council were present, with Councilmember Yancy arriving at 4:16 p.m.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and Councilmember Ross led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1. La Marque Safe City Initiative Update

Police Chief Randall Aragon gave a relatively brief overview of the progress of the Safe City Initiative, including a brief history, the current status of the Community Oriented Policing Program, partnerships and programs, and improvements in crime rates.

Crime Analyst Shannon Davenport gave a thorough overview of the crime rates over the last three years, breaking down those statistics showing an 11% decrease in violent crime, a 20% decrease in property crime, and a decrease of 19% in the overall crime rate since the year 2021 when the Safe City Initiative began. Discussions regarding figures surrounding active gangs and gang members within the city ensued, questioning the criteria and seriousness of the reported number of each. Councilmembers requested a list of known gang organizations operating within the city.

Councilmember Yancy thanked the police department for all their progress over the last three years. She thanked them for their work and for making the city safer than it was five years ago.

Mayor Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the source of the statistics provided today. Police Chief Aragon shared that the League City Police Department provided the statistics as the City is a part of the League City Consortium and many surrounding cities.

Mayor Bell questioned the source of the city's crime. Lieutenant Gandy identified gang activity and drug transactions as the key crime indicators. These activities usually occur in rental properties, believed to be attributed to individuals that take advantage of the the transient nature of some of the residents. The police

department works in conjunction with the Texas City Housing Authority in order to investigate.

This led to a discussion correlating the Rental Registration Program and the Safe City Initiative.

Discussions regarding the addition of a Traffic Safety Division and "doing the job loudly" ensued.

4.II. ARPA Expenditures Presentation

City Manager Garcia gave a brief history of the ARPA (American Rescues Plan Act) funds. After multiple rounds of community-involved planning, four major areas were identified as items of community interest: waterlines, street lighting, stormwater repairs, and street repairs. In addition, some items are of necessity that were not known at the time of their original community assessments, such as a new pair of Jaws of Life and financial software. The initial proposal before the council allocates approximately \$498,000 to fire department needs, \$485,000 to administrative needs, \$620,000 to police department needs, and \$2,605,000 to public works and infrastructure needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he is unwilling to consider any of these items until an updated financial statement sheet is presented to the council. Finance Director Christine Turner shared that she is working on this, but the current finance software is very archaic, and most of the information is inputted manually.

Councilmember Yancy questioned a citizen's request for rental assistance programming, to which it was determined that this is an item being address through another funding source.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

6. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.*