



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
RETREAT MINUTES
of
June 25, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were present except for Councilmember Lowry of District C.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.I. Mayor/ Council Expectations

The Council discussed the difference between a council inquiry and a Public Information Request. The Council discussed processes for making Council inquiries; all Council inquiries moving forward are to be in writing, and the results of said inquiry are to be distributed to all Councilmembers.

The process for adding an item to the council agenda must be verbal in a council meeting or in writing, and the second councilmember endorsement or support must also be either verbal in a council meeting or in writing as well.

A discussion regarding agendas and processes ensued, and the Council requested that the City Clerk present a formal policy at a future Council Meeting.

A lengthy discussion regarding the Council's need to govern themselves ensued.

***Mayor Bell called for a break at 11:42 a.m., and the meeting resumed at 11:55 a.m.*

A discussion ensued regarding Council Ethics and concerns regarding Councilmembers interacting with one another on social media.

3.II. Council Priorities

Council discussed sending each councilmember's top 3 priorities to the City Clerk's Office.

3.III. Administrative Forecast

***Mayor Bell called for a break at 4:58 p.m., and the meeting resumed at 5:07 p.m.*

City Manager Garcia shared that this year's administrative focus was personnel and policy. The two biggest opportunities for growth are Public Works and Code Enforcement. He gave a brief update on each department's projections for both the remainder of the current fiscal year and the projected needs for the next fiscal year.

Discussions related to researching infrastructure and public safety bonds ensued.

3.IV. Budget Forecast

***This item was taken before the Administrative Forecast*

Finance Director Turner gave an update regarding the current Council budget. The Council clarified with Finance Director Turner what was allowed in terms of mode of travel, per diem, mileage, and lodging. Clarifications regarding the purpose of travel and travel funding ensued. This was also followed by a discussion regarding council apparel and discretionary funds. Discussions regarding Hotel Occupancy Tax and the allowable uses ensued.

***Mayor Bell called for a break at 1:52 p.m., and the meeting resumed at 2:01 p.m.*

The Finance Director expressed her concerns about some budgetary issues, focusing on unfunded liabilities such as back pay, overtime, sick time, and vacation time. This led to a lengthy conversation about possible ways to remedy the concerns.

She shared the current health of the general and utility fund, which shows that the city is trending positively.

3.V. Roundtable Discussion

No discussion.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

5. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

6. ADJOURNMENT

***Meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.*