



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
February 26, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were physically present with Mayor Pro Tem Compian arriving at 6:09 p.m.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Yancy gave the invocation and City Manager Garcia led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Proclamation - Black History Month

Tracy Prior of HCA Healthcare received the proclamation celebrating Black History Month.

4.II. Proclamation - Mainland Pawn Shop

Mike Holcolmb and a representative of Mainland Pawn & Jewelry received a proclamation celebrating 50 years of service to the community.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Joseph Lowry (2305 Cedar) questioned figures presented by the La Marque Police Department, sharing his belief that the crime rate has not been reduced it has been reclassified. He also shared his belief that inaccuracies are reported in a candidate's application for council.

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) requested a boundary on the I-3 Heavy Industrial Zone.

6. MINUTES

6.I. Special City Council Minutes 02.06.2024

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearing at 6:22 p.m.*

7.I. 2023 Land Use Assumption and Capital Improvements Plan
There were no public comments.

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2024-0003
There were no public comments.

8. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:23 p.m.*

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0003
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2024-0003.
Councilmember Ross seconded the motion.
Mayor Pro Tem thanked the staff for making the change that the board size reduction will happen by attrition.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.II. Proposed Ordinance
Councilmember Ross thanked the developer for the information requested regarding the fluids being used. His questions were answered.
Igor Lee, a board member for the development, was present to answer any questions.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the ordinance and application, sharing that the Conditional Use Permit Ordinance references the landowner. However, the application is under a different entity. It was clarified that FM1764 LLC, the entity on the application, is owned by Data & Energy Inc.
Mayor Bell shared his support for allowing economic development in the city, especially in this corridor surrounded by battery storage and self-storage, improving the land valuation from approximately \$64,000 to over \$20 million.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he intends to protect the interests of the planned developments in the area.
Mayor Bell rebutted, stating that the city's residents were hurting and that bringing in businesses was the only way to provide tax relief. The residents are requesting additional services and a reduction in taxes. Businesses such as this development are the way to improve those conditions.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian raised concerns about the figures represented in the presentation.
Mayor Bell requested information regarding the tax projections shown in their initial application. It was clarified that the number in question references both state and local taxes. The presentation provided shows the breakdown, which reflects approximately \$300,000 in annual tax projections for the city.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED 4 AYES and 1 NAY (COMPIAN)**

8.III. 2023 Land Use Assumptions and Capital Improvement Plans

Consulting Engineer Dinh Ho of ADICO Engineering gave a brief overview of the document before the council.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned some of the terminology and figures shown in the plan, sharing his concerns with some projections. He shared that he did not feel comfortable with the figures shown.

Councilmember Yancy asked the Consulting Engineer to explain the importance of impact fees to the public. It is representative of the needed infrastructure improvements required to support new development. This is a means to recoup some of the investment needed to support these improvements.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he supports moving forward. However, he would like to see accurate financials in the next presentation.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to accept the 2023 Land Use Assumptions and Capital Improvement Plans. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Proposed Resolution

Mayor Bell clarified that the mosquito truck the city purchased is to augment the Galveston County aerial spray program. The City will continue to participate as the newest initiative is not set to replace the county assistance.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0011.

Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.II. Proposed Resolution

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0013.

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

9.III. Proposed Resolution

***This item was taken first*

Belle Gonzalez, a Texas Water Development Board representative, gave a brief presentation regarding the role of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This is a voluntary program that the city participates in by creating ordinances and regulations to reduce flood risks.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked for the location of the flood maps, to which Ms. Gonzalez shared that they could be found on the FEMA website. He also asked about the "CAV" list referenced in the FEMA letter in the supporting documents. Attorney Knebel shared that documents were signed by city staff, ensuring that the addresses included in the CAV list remained confidential at the direction of FEMA as a means to protect the property owners.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0010.

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

9.IV. Proposed Resolution

Mayor Bell shared that grants relating to the police department can be very specific; these funds cannot be used for any purpose other than the requested

body cameras.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0014.

Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to table this item at the request of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. SETH Grant Appropriations

City Manager Garcia requested that disbursements be allocated for utility assistance, as it is a qualified expense under the grant.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian clarified that the intent is for utility bill assistance, not for deposits.

Mayor Bell reminded the public that the \$50,000 grant was issued by the South East Texas Housing Authority to help those in need in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to allow for utility assistance in the SETH Grant appropriations. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Items 10.I, 10.VII, 10.VIII, 10.IX and 10.X were pulled for discussion.

10.I. 2023 Code Enforcement Updates and Statistics

Councilmember Ross questioned the city's green tags. It was clarified that these are not city tags; Waste Management places them. He requested discussions with commercial properties to inform them that they do not have the same bulk trash schedule as residential residents.

Councilmember Yancy requested a waste management manual. She intends to educate the public on the processes.

Fire Chief Merryman shared some of the education initiatives that are being worked on to assist the public.

10.II. 2023 Fire Prevention Statistics

No discussion on this item.

10.III. 2023 Fire Operations Statistics

No discussion on this item.

10.IV. Sales Tax Report

No discussion on this item.

10.V. La Marque Public Library January 2024 Report

No discussion on this item.

10.VI. Municipal Court January 2024 Report

No discussion on this item.

10.VII. Eyes on La Marque Program

Mayor Bell shared that a press conference was held earlier in the afternoon to initiate the Eyes on La Marque Program as an extension of the Safe City Initiative. This is a technological component of the La Marque Police Department to assist with solving crime, calling for additional flock cameras, camera systems on commercial buildings, and Ring Doorbell cameras for seniors.

Mayor Bell shared his desire to spend discretionary funds to support 10 additional Ring Doorbell cameras.

Councilmember Ross pledged discretionary funds to support 5 additional Ring Doorbell cameras.

With these additions, this program allocates approximately 55 doorbell cameras for seniors.

Lieutenant Forest Gandy spoke about the flock camera system, sharing how it has assisted in solving crimes within the city both proactively and reactively.

***Councilmember Ross exited the room at 8:12 p.m. and returned at 8:14 p.m.*

10.VIII. LMPD Memo #35: Partnership Actions with Texas City Housing Authority

Discussions regarding the benefits of this partnership, becoming more aggressive in crime prevention and eradication.

10.IX. City of La Marque Customer Service Training Program 2024

No discussion on this item.

10.X. BAYTRAN Membership

No discussion on this item.

10.XI. Citizens Police Academy Class #13

Councilmember Yancy encouraged the Police Department to meet with La Marque High School administration to see if any qualifying seniors would like to participate.

10.XII. Internship Program: High School and College

No discussion on this item.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Leyva Allred encouraged everyone to reach out to the council with any questions or concerns.

Councilmember Ross hopes that some of the grant allocations discussed earlier in the meeting make it to Prune Street.

Councilmember Yancy thanked the La Marque Public Library for a fantastic event hosting author Shirley Harrington the previous week. She also thanked the City for their choice to have Tracy Prior, the Chief Operating Officer of HCA Healthcare receive the

Black History Month proclamation and closed by sharing her support for the Eyes on La Marque program.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian addressed the apartment fire that affected 15 apartments and asked the community to keep stress levels down this season.

Mayor Bell shared that although sometimes the council engages in passionate debate, everyone is supportive of each other. He shared citizen concerns citing Cora St. potholes, striping on Cedar St., and a need for children at play signs to be erected on Cora. He shared that there was a focus group meeting about crime statistics, and reporting of streetlights to TNMP and Centerpoint, reiterating a previous council recommendation that the night shift officers report streetlight outages to the respective companies. He asked for the council to receive a better understanding of how this process is completed and a live tracking system. Violent crime is a stubborn number, and the police department is doing a fabulous job, but since it has been traced back to organized crime, this provides for a resolution to all of the cities within the county requesting that they participate on a greater scale in the organized crime task force to assist. He requested a unified development code, a Public Works efficiency report, a report on drainage issues around Lassiter Park, and an update on Certificates of Obligations. He announced the annual State of the Cities event on March 6 by the Chamber of Commerce that would be focused on the City of La Marque and the City of Texas City. He encouraged the youth in the community to apply for internships and reminded everyone that the city is 70 years old, and some of the infrastructure is as well. He shared that he is inclined to at some point take the infrastructure issue to the voters and let them decide which capital improvement and infrastructure projects they would like to support. He does not support any debt that is not voter approved.

City Manager Garcia shared that the city is one of Amoco Federal Credit Union's longest-standing partners and received a Partner of the Year award at its annual meeting.

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

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P.M.*