



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
February 3, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 10:18 am.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Keith Bell	Mayor
Joe Compian	Mayor Pro Tem/ District B
Kimberley Yancy	District A
Joseph Lowry	District C (Virtual from 2503 Cedar Dr La Marque TX 77568)
James Ross	District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and City Attorney Gus Knebel led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no citizen's participation.

5. NEW BUSINESS

***Items 5.I and 5.II. were addressed in the Actions taken from Executive Session.*

5.I. Interim City Manager

No action.

5.II. City Manager

No action.

5.III. Change Order #6: Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Interim Public Works Director Breaux stated that the increase reflected in the change order does not increase the original contract amount due to previous change orders that resulted in a price decrease.

Brent Berthier, a representative of ADICO, clarified that the original award was approximately \$5.3 million. The current project has approximately \$2.3 million in credits. The City is currently looking to allocate these credits to items that were initially listed as alternate projects.

Mayor Bell requested that the city be diligent in their reporting of the changes to these projects to keep the public informed.

Councilmember Yancy asked about previously reported spelling errors on

manholes.

Interim Public Works Director Breaux announced that this has been corrected by the contractor.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned if these changes were approved by the General Land Office (GLO), the agency who awarded the funding.

Mr. Berthier clarified that yes, the original approved documents included these items. However, the city initially did not believe that there would be enough funding, so the process included "alternate items", which are the items currently looking to be addressed.

Councilmember Ross thanked the department for getting the spelling issue corrected so quickly.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Change Order #6.

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

5.IV. Change Order #7: Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned if all change orders are in relation to the same project, why are they separate items?

Mr. Berthier shared that each change order is representative of different areas and scopes of work.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned which area is receiving the most rehabilitation.

Interim Public Works Director Breaux believed that most would be in District D. However, they are spread out across the city, so he would not say for certain that is accurate. That was just his observation. He also clarified that this project will prevent "inflow and infiltration" and prevent overflow.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve Change Order #7. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5.V. Change Order #8: Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Interim Public Works Director Breaux summarized that the change order is for an increase in repair work based on the ratings received in the assessment of the area. These are designated as "unable to open".

Councilmember Yancy asked the team to explain to the public what a manhole is.

Interim Public Works Director Breaux explained that a manhole is a holding basin as water moves downstream into treatment plants. There have been improvements in the system due to the work that has been done, as this project has helped to control the pressure on the system.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested photographs of the brick-lined manholes, to present a perspective of "before and after".

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Change Order #8.

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

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*****MAYOR BELL RECESSED AT 10:39 A.M.***

6.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

7. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the executive session at 12:53 p.m.*

7.1. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to accept a process regarding the hiring of a permanent city manager immediately setting forth qualifications of a masters' degree and/or 5 years' municipal experience opening February 3, 2025, to be available for 45 days with a goal of naming a new city manager by May 1, 2025, including the appointment of a 2 member council vetting committee consisting of Councilmember Joseph Lowry and Councilmember Kimberley Yancy, to present 10 candidates to council, so that the council can identify a final 3 candidates for interviews.

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

Councilmember Lowry made a motion to appoint Police Chief Randall Aragon as Interim City Manager, receiving the starting salary of former City Manager Cesar Garcia, along with the included benefits. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

MOTION FAILED 2 AYES 3 NAYS (BELL/ YANCY/ ROSS).

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to appoint Deputy City Manager Joshua Pritchett as Interim City Manager, receiving the starting salary of former City Manager Cesar Garcia, along with the included benefits. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED 3 AYES (BELL/ YANCY/ ROSS), 1 NAY (LOWRY) AND 1 ABSTENTION (COMPIAN).**

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to bring Mr. Pritchett current on any salary owed to him from January 13, 2025, the date he began the role as Acting City Manager. Councilmember Ross seconded.

Mayor Bell applauded Mayor Pro Tem Compian for bringing this item to the attention of the council.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was clarified that Mr. Pritchett is the interim City Manager. In the event that a permanent city manager is named and that is not Mr. Pritchett, he will resume his position as the Deputy City Manager.

8. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Ross requested a list of pay discrepancies in the city, as brought to the council's attention.

Councilmember Yancy congratulated Deputy City Manager Pritchett, and thanked him for accepting. A lot has been accomplished in the past few years, she hopes that continues. She encouraged the public to participate in the Black History Month celebrations.

Councilmember Lowry congratulated Deputy City Manager Pritchett on his new position. He also asked that the ditches in District C be cleared.

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian declined to speak*

Mayor Bell expressed his gratitude to Councilmembers Lowry and Yancy for agreeing to work together as the council's representatives to receive applications along with City Clerk Nance. This is a tremendous opportunity to move forward and heal the city. He requested that City Clerk Nance and Interim City Manager Pritchett find a way to list

the city charter's delineation of the duties of city manager and the roles and responsibilities of a city manager in the city handbook. He requested that the citizens are allowed to have the same information as the council in this regard in one area, so that the residents can become more educated on the workings of our government.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.*