



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
February 13, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the Special Meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Keith Bell
Joe Compian
Kimberley Yancy
Joseph Lowry
James Ross

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem/District D
District A (arrived virtually at 4:36 p.m.
from 1200 Amburn, Texas City, TX 77591)
District C
District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and City Clerk Nance led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no citizen's participation.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update

Rick Garcia, Adurra, gave a brief history of the project, beginning with the project origination in 2019. After the original proposal, due to the post-COVID price hikes, a more economical plan was developed, that removed the onsite lift stations, operations building, and the watering building, which reduced the cost by approximately 2 million dollars, without affecting the effectiveness of the plant. He emphasized that this project is a result of a TCEQ decision that required the city to build a 2.2 million gallons per day (MGD) treatment plant. Interim Public Works Director Shannon Breau clarified that while it is not a current TCEQ mandate, the city is getting very close to that point. Alex Sievers, Grantworks, identified that the project is projected to be approximately 40 million dollars with about 3.5 to 4 million dollars already expended.

Mr. Garcia shared that in approximately March 2024 the Adurra team spoke with the previous administration to discuss restructuring the project due to the increased costs, reducing the footprint by approximately 17%. He continued that by using this new system, the project can be completed faster for approximately

\$35 million. He believes this new design can be completed by October 2027.

Mayor Pro Tem clarified that the General Land Office (GLO) initially approved approximately 48 million dollars for this project. He asked that if only approximately 4 million dollars was expended, and the current project proposal is only 40 million dollars, what will happen to the remainder of the funding?

Mr. Sievers clarified that 40,400,000 is the project's construction budget. The 48 million dollars also includes environmental and administrative costs as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding the December 31, 2027, deadline.

Mr. Sievers announced that November 30, 2027, is the true deadline because by December 31, 2027, all closing documents need to be submitted. There are limiting factors on the administrative side; most notably the timing, as there will not be any additional extensions, and the budget including "fee caps", which is the correlation of construction costs to administrative and engineering fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian reiterated that this entire project is in relation to TCEQ decisions regarding the city's sewer system.

Discussions regarding the timeliness of bringing this to the attention of council ensued.

Mayor Bell shared his discontent with the process of making significant changes to the project without consulting the council. He also questioned how Adurra was able to create estimates of the two different plans if, by his account, the conventional plan is only 90% complete and the new design is approximately 60-70% complete.

Mayor Bell questioned if the city could establish proposed working hours when the project is bid. It was determined that while the city cannot dictate how many hours the contractor works, a timeline can be established for completion, however. Additional discussions regarding personnel and receiving contractors ensued.

Mayor Bell requested a comparison of the two discussed plans.

Brent Berthier, ADICO, used the visual layouts presented by Adurra to point out the differences discussed earlier in the meeting. He clarified that while the science may be different, the result is the same. The main design difference is the lack of need for clarifiers.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he has been researching this new "SBR" process, and he identified that this is being used in China, and along the East Coast.

Interim Public Works Director Breaux stated that Galveston Island also has an SBR system at their largest treatment plant.

Discussions regarding the lifespan of the treatment plant ensued. It was determined that the lifespan is comparable to the traditional plant.

Councilmember Ross shared that he believes this SBR system is cheaper, faster to build, and more cost-effective in the long term.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to proceed with the bid process and design of the SBR system. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

Mayor Bell clarified with Mr. Garcia that Adurra is covering the cost of the redesign. Mr. Garcia agreed that the city is not financially responsible for the redesign.

When asked about the drawbacks of the SBR system, both Interim Director Breaux and Mr. Berthier, shared that their concerns are training personnel to utilize the new technology. Mr. Garcia announced that there is a 5-year support plan in place with the manufacturer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

7. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no actions taken.

8. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Ross thanked Public Works for their expedient response on Ave D earlier in the day. He also announced Trash Bash on March 29th.

Councilmember Lowry congratulated the police department for their efforts over the last year.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian congratulated the City and Parks Board on being recognized for the Mahan Boat Ramp expansion by the Houston Galveston Area Council.

Mayor Bell acknowledged Valentines Day and that the City Clerk would be available until 5 p.m. on Valentines Day to accommodate any late filers as required by state law.

Councilmember Yancy thanked Interim Director Breaux for stepping up to the plate and bringing this to the council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***Meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.*