



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
May 12, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Keith Bell

Joe Compian

Kimberley Yancy

Joseph Lowry

James Ross

Mayor

District B/ Mayor Pro Tem

District A

District C

District D

3. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mike "Rock" Bock (106 Longridge) voiced his opinion against the Interim City Manager, stating that he believes that he is anti-Parks Board. He speaks on behalf of the Parks Board, stating that there has been a lack of communication, and he is upset that 8 months into the fiscal year, there is still no clarification on the parks board budget. He understands that Parks Board attendance is not mandatory, but he does not understand why the Interim City Manager would not want to attend the Parks Board meetings. He would rather have a City Manager that is open to everyone.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the special meeting and entered into executive session at 1:16 p.m.*

4.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

5. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Special Meeting at 5:43 p.m.*

5.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Bell shared that the council interviewed each candidate for approximately 45 minutes and opened the floor for discussion and/or a motion.

Councilmember Yancy requested that the council move forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian thanked the residents who reached out to him, that is what he is there for, and he listened to what they had to say. He believed that the council had some outstanding finalists, and each one presented a different perspective than what he believed from the initial interview. He is looking for a

person that is going to demand respect, is confident, and will join the council ready to work and expand the network, as that is something that is very important in these times. He was most impressed, although they were all impressive, with Marco Villarreal and Fidencio Leija.

Councilmember Lowry agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Compian and shared his support for Marco Villarreal, citing his support for the Police Department.

Councilmember Ross shared that he thought Mr. Villarreal was a great candidate but shared concerns regarding his required delayed start date. He shared his support for J.B. Pritchett and Fidencio Leija, citing their preparedness, Mr. Pritchett's current service, and the recommendations of staff.

Councilmember Yancy shared that Mr. Pritchett is the only one with municipal experience and is the most qualified.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to appoint Mr. Joshua Pritchett as City Manager. Councilmember Ross seconded.

Councilmember Lowry shared that he feels the council is doing a disservice by not hiring Mr. Villarreal as the city manager, as he has 26 years of government experience and a global network.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he is withholding his support as he has not had any one-on-one engagement with Mr. Pritchett.

Councilmember Lowry shared that there has been a massive lack of communication citywide since he was appointed as Interim and "that is his job". He felt that appointing Mr. Pritchett would be a disservice to the community.

Mayor Bell shared that Mr. Pritchett stated in his interview that he did reach out to each Councilmember for an invitation to meet. It seems that he and Mayor Pro Tem Compian disagree. Mayor Bell believes that there are two candidates that he would be interested in J.B. Pritchett and Fidencio Leija. He believes that all the candidates were great and will do well in their endeavors. He cited the charter's requirements for a City Manager as that is how the city is governed. Mayor stated that Mr. Pritchett has the requirements of the charter. However, Mr. Leija has elected official experience. He believes that Mr. Villarreal has served this country with distinction, but his experience is in the federal government, which has unlimited resources. He also shared that Mr. Hueber, the fourth candidate, was actually the most delightful individual out of the candidates, but he is an academic without any municipal experience. He again reiterated the charter qualifications of a City Manager.

MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES (BELL/ ROSS/ YANCY) AND 2 NAYS (COMPIAN/ LOWRY)

6. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no requests or announcements.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

*****Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.***