



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
March 25, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Keith Bell

Mayor

Joe Compian

Mayor Pro Tem/District B

Kimberley Yancy

District A

Melanie Leyva Allred

District C

James Ross

District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Ingrid Clark gave the invocation and City Manager Garcia led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Introducing the "LMPD Chaplain Care Program" Participants

Police Chief Randall Aragon introduced members of the LMPD Chaplain Care Program. He shared that there are approximately 10 members of the Chaplain Care Program. This team offers services to the department, city staff, partner first responder organizations, and the community.

4.II. Proclamation - Child Abuse Prevention Month

Rose Lazo and Aly Hines of the CASA of Galveston County received a proclamation to honor Child Abuse Prevention Month.

4.III. Proclamation - James E. Klyng Sr.

Mayor Bell acknowledged the life and legacy of Mr. James E. Klyng Sr., a retired La Marque Police officer, former Mayor Pro Tem, and City Council Member.

4.IV. Proclamation - Eligh Johnson

Mayor Bell acknowledged the life and legacy of Rev. Eligh Johnson, a long term resident and Cemetery Board member.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Cory and Kadi Maxwell (1803 Cedar Dr) spoke regarding the drainage at the school property on Cedar Dr. Since the school was built it has created "Lake Cedar." The stagnant water has led to a myriad of problems, including mosquitoes, the rotting of their wooden fence, and problems with the ground.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the regular meeting and entered into public hearing at 6:37 p.m.*

6.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0004

There was no public participation.

6.II. Ordinance No. O-2024-0005

There was no public participation.

7. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:38 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0004

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2024-0004.

Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ross thanked the property owner for quickly providing the requested information.

MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (COMPIAN).

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2024-0005

Mayor Bell shared that he would be voting no tonight due to his belief that adding staff positions should occur during budget cycles.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2024-0005.

Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion.

MOTION FAILED 2 AYES (COMPIAN/ YANCY) AND 3 NAYS (BELL/ LEYVA ALLRED/ ROSS).

Councilmember Leyva Allred and Councilmember Ross both shared sentiments of heartburn around the grant administrator position.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-0005 with the removal of the grant administrator position.

Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (YANCY).**

7.III. Proposed Ordinance

Mayor Pro Tem Compian led a discussion regarding allocations, such as facilities, water and sewer allocations, and micro-business loans. He shared his sentiments that major infrastructure improvements, such as the police station and public safety building should be voter-approved.

Councilmember Ross led a discussion sharing his support for finance software, water usage client software, thermal imagers, and streetlight conversions. He requested that equipment allocations be done as there is personnel to utilize it, and water and sewer repairs be done before streets to prevent disturbing newly laid streets.

Councilmember Yancy questioned the removal of the Stonewall ground water tank. It was clarified that the item is not listed on the current allocation list.

Mayor Bell agreed that street repair should absorb the \$1 million allocation from water and sewer line repairs if the water and sewer line projects are covered by

other means, as stated by the City Manager previously. Mayor Bell also shared his support for taking major items to the voters. During discussions it was noted that almost everything related to the fire department, with the exception of the ambulance remounts. Mayor Bell shared that he is willing to let most of the items wait except of the Life Pak/ City Facility AEDs and Thermal Imagers. Those should be purchased sooner rather than later.

Discussions related to the need of a bond recommendation for some of the items being removed from consideration ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to move the one million dollar allocation of water and sewer to street repair. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Councilmember Ross questioned how the 1 million dollars would be replaced in that area, to which it was determined that it would be replaced through other funding sources. He shared that he is a firm believer that the lines underground should be replaced or repaired prior to the streets, to prevent additional expenses. It was also clarified that the majority of the work specified is in relation to the Waste Water Treatment Plant and is not a direct waterline replacement project. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Bell made a motion to reallocate the Life Pak AED, and Thermal Imagers from FY25 expenses to FY24 expenses. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to reallocate the \$500,000 from Police Station Construction to Street Repair. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Councilmember Yancy shared heartburn, questioning why a General Obligation bond was necessary for a new police station but not the fire station built a few short years ago. Mayor Bell answered that it is due to the cost of a new police station. A new police station costs between 13 and 17 million dollars, according to the previous reports presented to the council, whereas the fire station costs approximately 6 million. Mayor Bell also shared concerns regarding the desire for a General Obligation bond, as none have been passed for the City of La Marque since his time here. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (BELL).**

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to amend the ordinance stating that the ordinance would become effective immediately upon passing. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance with amendments. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Proposed Ordinance

A property owner representative spoke regarding this item, requesting a variance from the 60-foot lot requirement to 50-foot lots. This development is expected to have 128 homes, with amenities such as a fishing pier and parkland to be maintained by the Homeowners Association.

Mayor Pro Tem stated, "Welcome to District B".

Mayor Bell questioned staff on the concerns of citizens included in the agenda packet supporting documents. It was determined that additional drainage had been included in the development's drainage plan and the discharge point does not

affect the current neighborhood as it goes directly to a different line. After much discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance as Ordinance No. O-2024-0006. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.II. Proposed Resolution

City Manager Garcia shared that this item would be related to creating a walking trail by MLK Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0020. Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.III. Proposed Resolution

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0021. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IV. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

City Manager Garcia shared that the new contract includes collecting unpaid utility fees and continuing collection of court costs and fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared concerns about not knowing the amount of unpaid utility fees. He is unsure if that is necessary because the council has not been provided that information. City Manager Garcia estimated roughly \$33,500 in delinquent utility fees.

Mayor Bell questioned if parameters can be implemented to protect those in need.

Councilmembers Ross and Yancy also shared their heartburn regarding moving forward with the utility collections at this time.

Discussions regarding account cutoff procedures ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve a Professional Collection Services Agreement with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP with the exclusion of delinquent utility service. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.V. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

City Manager Garcia summarized that this item represents the service that the city has historically partnered with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP about which would be delinquent tax collections.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the professional services agreement with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for delinquent tax collection. Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The representatives of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP shared that the current collection rate for the City of La Marque is 99.45% from 2005-2022.

8.VI. Proposed Resolution

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution. Councilmember Leyva Allred seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VII. Water Service Agreement

***This item was taken prior to Public Hearings*

Michelle Sanders, Michael Bell, and Dennis Sanders, who represent CRV Development, spoke about this property and the agreement before the council. This development is approximately 62 acres and will include retail, an RV resort, a hotel, a convention center, dining options, and a boardwalk tourist destination.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his feelings that La Marque has been just a means to get to Galveston for too long and thanked the developer for their foresight.

Mayor Bell shared that this is a great day for La Marque because the city's economic prowess is showing. This development is poised to provide jobs, sales tax, hotel occupancy, and property tax without any incentives from the City of La Marque.

City Manager Garcia shared that in order to run a facility such as this, underground utilities need to be in place. The agreement before the council is for the council to agree to the development paying for the infrastructure improvements.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a water service agreement with CRV Development, LLC. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VIII. Memorandum of Understanding

City Manager Garcia shared that this was a request by the community in conjunction with the desire for summer camp programming throughout the city. The city already has a partnership through the La Marque Chargers and he feels this agreement would articulate the fact that the city and Culture Corporation would work together to offer those summer camp services for residents.

Mayor Bell asked that the record reflect that this is the first summer that the City of La Marque would have "a Parks and Recreation program for our young people" and he acknowledged that Library Director Amy Miller would be leading the charge.

Director Miller stated that this is a wonderful idea that has been worked on diligently. This would be adding a recreational component to the large summer reading program that the library has offered each year.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the organization's nonprofit status, which was confirmed by City Manager Garcia.

Councilmember Ross shared the cost estimate provided to him by Culture Corporation for providing two meals a day would equate to about \$700 per week. City Manager Garcia shared that this is the first step and a full package would be put together and presented to the council at a later date to include a full breakdown of costs. He anticipates a significant reduction, or complete elimination of costs for the children participating.

It was determined that the library would have staff onsite and would provide Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) based learning activities at least three times a week.

Councilmember Yancy called the idea "amazing".

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to enact a Memorandum of Understanding

between the City of La Marque and Culture Corporation. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IX. Emergency Sanitary Sewer Pipeline Replacement

Public Works Director Rick Sailer spoke of a catastrophic line failure at Shady Lane and the needed replacement.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to ratify the expenditure of \$84,677.50 for an emergency pipeline replacement completed by Ram Rod Utilities.

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

8.X. Approve Work Order from Adico Engineers, LLC for GIS Mapping for Public Works Infrastructure

Public Works Director Rick Sailer shared that the fiscal impact included in the agenda form should say \$74,555.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the work order submitted by Adico Engineers, LLC for Phase 2 implementation of Geographical Information System for Water and Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XI. 2024 City of La Marque Roadway Pavement Assessment Study

Engineer Dinh Ho shared that this assessment will categorize all the roads in the city by need. Public Works Director Sailer shared that the last pavement assessment was completed in 2005.

Councilmember Yancy shared that items such as this are why she supported a grant administrator. There are funds available for this type of project, but we need the manpower to apply.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the addition of Omega Bay streets in the quote.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to authorize ADICO LLC to perform professional engineering services for the 2024 City of La Marque Roadway Pavement Assessment Study. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***Items 9.IV, 9.VI, 9.XI, and 9.XII were pulled for discussion.*

9.I. February 2024 Public Library Statistics

Stood as submitted.

9.II. February 2024 Municipal Court Statistics

Stood as submitted.

9.III. February 2024 Crime Statistics

Stood as submitted.

9.IV. February 2024 Financial Report

Councilmember Ross asked when it would be easier to see expenses.

Finance Director Turner shared that there is a template for a new report, although still manual, for the next council meeting.

9.V. February 2024 Permit Stats

Stood as submitted.

9.VI. March 2024 Sales Tax Report

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned how many months behind the sales tax reports are.

Finance Director Turner clarified that the report is two months behind. The report before the council is reflective of January.

Mayor Bell requested a report of all impacting factors to reflect the decrease in sales tax and the promotion of a "Shop Local" campaign.

9.VII. March 2024 Employee Diversity Report

Stood as submitted.

9.VIII. The Five Pillars of Customer Service Training Plan

Stood as submitted.

9.IX. Public Notice Memo

Stood as submitted.

9.X. Public Works Structure & Responsibilities

Stood as submitted.

9.XI. Status relating to Implementation of a "Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer" Program

Mayor Bell shared that there are five major thoroughfares within the city, and asked for clarity on the memo presented.

9.XII. Uniform Development Guide

Mayor Bell requested additional documents sharing the process for additional development or incentive agreements beginning with the Economic Development Corporation, with the Council being the last body to weigh in.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he appreciated the document presented.

9.XIII. Items for the Good of the Order

City Manager Garcia recognized former Councilmember McAuliffe and Stephanie Aldrich for their inclusion in Women in Influence. He recapped the Easter Egg Hunt event from the previous Saturday. He announced the Annual Spring Clean Up and Great American Clean Up events. He closed with the Eyes on La Marque Camera Grant Program registration opening.

10. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Leyva Allred wished everyone a happy and safe Easter.

Councilmember Ross announced the spring cleanup on April 13, and asked for ordinances related to construction requirements to be reviewed, requested lot sizes to be reviewed and standardized, and requested a review of zoning ordinances.

Councilmember Yancy announced that the 3rd Annual Stop The Violence Week is April 14-20. She shared that she has never seen so much positive progress in the city so fast. Today was a good day, and "we are" the talk of the county. She thanked the staff for all that they had accomplished. Have a great weekend and Good Friday.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian started his remarks by wishing all a great Easter. He attended the mid-year TML conference, and it was exciting to see the new faces that attended. Mayor Bell shared best wishes for the holidays. Tonight was three hours worth of progress, welcoming 8-10 multilevel restaurants, a hotel and convention center, a 20 million dollar battery storage, 592 jobs, 39 million in CRV revenue, 128 new homes, a new summer youth program, the first pavement study in over 20 years, and 1.5 million dollars into streets. He is excited about the future. He thanked the Council for their no-nonsense approach, and the staff for rolling with the requests of the council. Happy Easter to all.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

***Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.*