



**CITY OF LA MARQUE  
CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MINUTES  
of  
September 3, 2024**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:**

Keith Bell	Mayor
Joe Compian	Mayor Pro Tem/ District B
Kimberley Yancy	District A
Joseph Lowry	District C
James Ross	District D

**3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave the invocation and Councilmember Yancy led the pledge.

**4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

There was no citizen's participation.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1. Ordinance No. O-2024-0016**

Mayor Bell clarified that this is the first reading of this ordinance. City Manager Garcia gave a brief overview of the reallocation of funds that was previously discussed during budget workshops.

Mayor Bell identified that some of the needs of the utility divisions are proposed by the city manager, to be met through the utility fund due to the increase in revenue from the Republic Waste agreement. He and City Manager Garcia reminded the public that the city has a deadline of December 2024 to allocate and procure the items to be purchased through the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Mayor Bell asked questions regarding the asphalt zipper, citing previous statements by the Public Works Department that this item could potentially be more of a hassle than a help.

City Manager Garcia shared that removal is the will of the council. However, the current school of thought is that this particular item would be used for "prep work" for rebuilding streets.

Councilmember Lowry questioned what the solar-powered trailer sign was. Once clarified, he shared his thought that this particular item serves no purpose. He also shared various items listed for procurement that he did not feel were necessary,

such as sidewalk repairs and a concrete saw. He was opposed to any software changes until after an audit is done. He also spoke about allocations for roof and A/C repairs, questioning additional funding sources for these items. He again, reiterated his opposition of any software changes until the forensic audit was completed.

Councilmember Ross disagreed with Councilmember Lowry's assertions regarding software allocations. He shared that he cannot sit through another budget cycle like this one and the current software is less than a year away from ceasing to be serviced. He believes that IT has the capability to store all the necessary data. He also hoped that the water usage software would be completed in FY25.

Councilmember Yancy asked for clarity regarding how much the city has made from the Republic Waste agreement. Finance Director Turner shared that the city has realized approximately \$600,000 in revenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the LED light allocation. He also asked for a needs assessment regarding sidewalk planning, sharing his concerns regarding sections of Lake Road that are missing sidewalks.

Mayor Bell questioned the number of Heavy Equipment Operators in the city. City Manager Garcia shared that there are approximately five with two assigned to streets. This led to a brief discussion regarding the history and level of operation in the streets division.

Discussions regarding the need for the asphalt zipper ensued.

Councilmember Lowry identified an approximate \$80,000 difference between the fire department and police department allocations.

James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) shared his thoughts of a potential warranty issue regarding street work.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to amend the ordinance to reallocate \$50,000 from the asphalt zipper allocation for mobile commend terminals for the police department. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-0016.

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

#### 5.II. Ordinance No. O-2024-0017

Councilmember Lowry made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-0017.

Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE: FOR (KEITH BELL, JOE COMPIAN, KIMBERLEY YANCY, JOSEPH LOWRY, AND JAMES ROSS).**

#### 5.III. Ordinance No. O-2024-0018

Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-0018 with the statement "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of .398501, which is effectively a zero percent increase in the tax rate".

Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE: FOR (KEITH BELL, JOE COMPIAN, JOSEPH LOWRY, JAMES ROSS, KIMBERLEY YANCY).**

#### 5.IV. Citywide Solid Waste Collection

City Manager Garcia reviewed the three plan options presented by Waste Management, the city's current service provider.

Mayor Bell reminded the council that there are actually five options available to the council, the three presented by Waste Management, bidding the service, or providing the service in house.

*\*\*Councilmember Lowry exited the room at 7:05 p.m. and returned at 7:06 p.m.*

Mayor Bell opened the floor to anyone who wanted to entertain any other options outside of those presented by Waste Management. There was no discussion from council regarding those options.

Councilmember Yancy shared her support for Waste Management option 1.

Councilmember Lowry questioned how the city would know if they are getting a good deal. He asserts that the service should go to bid.

Shanna Lopez, of Waste Management, shared that the contract expires on September 30, 2024, and there are currently no provisions for short-term extension.

Councilmember Ross questioned additional cost saving initiatives that could be considered, such as alternating bulk service and recycling week.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he has received many calls regarding this topic and the consensus has been "don't change companies". He is not interested in changing. He questioned if the franchise fee can be used to cover the difference in residential rates.

Councilmember Ross shared his support for moving to biweekly bulk pickup.

Councilmember Lowry shared his support.

Discussions regarding utility billing personnel ensued.

Councilmember Yancy again reaffirmed her support for option 1, sharing that it could be confusing for residents to reduce to biweekly.

Mayor Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Compian both supported Councilmember Ross' call for cost reduction, but also understood the residents' desire to maintain levels of service.

Councilmember Yancy questioned if the annual donation is still in the renewed contract. Ms. Lopez confirmed that it is still in effect.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked that in the interest of planning that the franchise fee be adjusted each year.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to assess a franchise fee of 10% on all commercial accounts. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to direct the City Manager to prepare a contract with Waste Management for billing of all commercial accounts including the collection of franchise fee. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve option 1 presented by Waste Management. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (ROSS).**

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

7. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy shared that she recently celebrated 30 years of marriage. Councilmember Ross made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*\*\*Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.*