



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
November 18, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Keith Bell

Joe Compian

Kimberley Yancy

Joseph Lowry

James Ross

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem / District B

District A

District C

District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Paster Jervie of Resonate Church gave the invocation and Councilmember Ross led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Re'Chard Loftis (309 Johnson) thanked the citizens, staff, and volunteers who participated in the Fall Sweep. He recommended that in the city's search for a new Public Works Director the city ensures that they hire someone who understands all aspects of Public Works, not just one area. The City is working on a 2050 plan, but needs a 2025 plan for both Public Works and Code Enforcement. He asked that the city strongly considers the equipment needs of departments.
- Robert Harvey ***declined to give address*** He shared the results of an Open Records Request including texts and emails to and from a sitting Councilmember whom he claims has stated he is receiving death threats from him.
- Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) hopes that the ethics complaints received are resolved tonight.
- James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) spoke regarding Resolution No. R-2024-0054, he shared that in the packet there is an agreement from 2013 and on pages 2-7 it states "City of Galveston. He asked if this is included with the next agreement, it needs to be corrected.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Special Meeting and entered into Public Hearings at 6:16 p.m.*

5.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0021
There was no public comment.

6. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m. and reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:17 p.m.*

6.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0021
Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2024-0021.
Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6.II. Resolution No. R-2024-0049
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to submit all votes for Matt Doyle.
Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0022
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-0022.
Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.II. Resolution No. R-2024-0054
City Manager Garcia shared that the backup documentation referenced in Citizen's Participation is just for historical reference.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that there is an error in the application in one area. It states that the city does not have a disadvantaged community designation. However, in another space it shares that it does have the designation. This needs to be corrected. He also noticed the heading concern during his review, but the body of the letter states the City of La Marque.
Councilmember Ross asked for someone to ensure that the manholes say "GATEWAY to the Gulf" and are spelled appropriately.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0054.
Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (BELL)**

7.III. Resolution No. R-2024-0055
Mayor Bell questioned if the city has a match for this grant. Superintendent of Utilities Operations Shannon Breau shared that it could be up to 15% for a maximum of \$112,500. It was determined that these funds would be used to strengthen the city's sewer system with the team looking at specific storm water projects on Ashley Drive and Westward Avenue.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0055.
Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.IV. Resolution No. R-2024-0056
City Manager Garcia announced that this is a no match grant and the city would like to move forward.
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0056.
Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.V. Resolution No. R-2024-0057

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0057.
Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.VI. Resolution No. R-2024-0058

City Manager Garcia shared that this funding would possibly be used for the repair of roofs and air conditioning units throughout the city.
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0058.
Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.VII. Resolution No. R-2024-0059

Fire Chief David Merryman shared that the city is looking to apply for Air Packs, Radios, and Bunker Gear with a city contribution of approximately \$35,000.
Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0059.
Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.VIII. Grant Award: Coca-Cola and Keep Texas Beautiful

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to accept a no-match grant award from Coca-Cola and Keep Texas Beautiful in the amount of \$10,000. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.IX. Texas General Land Office Grant Funding Opportunity

Per the City Manager, the city has currently received three (3) grants funding through this program. The agency has additional funds and the city is looking to apply for an amount between 5 and 8 million dollars. This grant has a 10% match, which would be approximately \$500,000-\$800,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize an application submission to the Texas General Land Office for the Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program. Councilmember Yancy questioned where the funding for the City's matching funds would come from. The City Manager recommended applying for additional grants to cover the matching portion or possibly using utility funding and/or reserves. She also questioned what work would be covered by this grant. City Manager Garcia gave a list of prospective projects, including increasing the number of manholes replaced and lift station repair.

Mayor Bell feels that it is a good thing that the city would leverage financial resources to assist the residents. His concern is the amount of grants applied for that require matching funds, coupled with rising employee costs. He fears the possibility of potentially bankrupting municipal dollars by trying to leverage federal dollars.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian expressed that he does not share the concerns of the Mayor, but he does want to see a financing plan.

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

7.X. General Consulting Services - Adico Engineers, LLC

City Manager Garcia announced that this is for the city's annual engineering services.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$50,000 for General Consulting Services by Adico Engineers, LLC for FY25.

Councilmember Ross seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian reiterated that this is for standard engineering work, but there are other projects that the firm bids on that are apart and separate.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.XI. Newman Road Sanitary Sewer Project

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the design and construction of a sanitary sewer pipeline on Newman Road from Main Street to Strawn Road.

Councilmember Yancy seconded.

City Manager Garcia shared that this item is in response to a citizen concern regarding services in the area. This would be paid for with impact fees. There are fifty (50) lots that this would benefit as well as other residents that could possibly transition from septic into our sewer system.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Pro Tem asked for information regarding how many other properties are not in the city's sewer system.

7.XII. Traffic Study

***Councilmember Lowry exited at 6:44 p.m.*

Councilmember Yancy shared that this request was made by the residents of Delany Cove, but she received communication from the City Manager that the City Engineer recommended that the City postpone this exercise until the construction in the area is complete.

City Manager Garcia shared that this item is in reference of two different points on Delany which are the intersections of Delany and Hallam as well as Delany and Texas Ave. There was a traffic study completed at Delany and Hallam in 2022 and the traffic patterns at that time did not warrant a stop light. However, he has been in communication with the Texas Department of Transportation and, due to the extensive work being done in the area, there is a possibility of converting the area into a stoplight-controlled area. It is the recommendation of the City Engineer that a traffic study not be completed until the road construction in the area is complete. Therefore, the study produces true and accurate data.

***Councilmember Lowry returned at 6:46 p.m.*

Mayor Bell requested cost estimates of a traffic study in this location, as the previous study was not commissioned by the city but by a business in that area.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian reminded the council that in the initial presentation, the company agreed to a particular traffic pattern that they are currently not utilizing.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

7.XIII. Cell Phone Policy

Councilmember Ross shared that he has been receiving complaints from constituents regarding cell phone usage during council meetings. Residents do not believe the council is engaged during the meetings. He asked that the council refrain from speaking to their constituents during the meeting and speak to them either before or after.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian felt that he could go either way on this item.

Councilmember Lowry questioned how Councilmember Ross knew that the

council was texting constituents during the meeting.

Councilmember Ross shared that he, himself, has been guilty of communicating with constituents throughout meetings in the past.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that there are other cities in the state that have a similar policy, such as the City of Abilene.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to establish a cell phone policy.

Councilmember Lowry seconded.

Councilmember Yancy shared the sentiment of Mayor Pro Tem Compian. While she "likes" to have her phone with her as a mother and grandmother, she understands why this could be needed.

Councilmember Lowry questioned if this policy would be in reference to personal or city cell phones. Councilmember Ross stated that it would cover both.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.XIV. Naming Policy

City Clerk Nance shared that this policy was presented to the council in late 2022 or early 2023 but was tabled. Since the city is seeing an uptick in questions regarding naming facilities and spaces, she felt it would be a good time to bring this item back to council for staff feedback.

Councilmember Ross liked the way it was written.

Councilmember Yancy questioned if any changes had been made since the last presentation. City Clerk Nance shared that there had been some changes based on the previous feedback, such as applications being reviewed by a committee consisting of the chairperson or their designee of each board or commission. She also mentioned that there would need to be an update to the schedule of fees to address the associated costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned how this relates to streets, and recommended additional language to include that there could be a fee associated. He requested that submission of requests for naming be received by the Council.

Councilmember Lowry felt that this will open up a can of worms.

Mayor Bell asked for this to be brought back to council for review and comments.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

7.XV. District A

Councilmember Yancy asked that the council take into consideration the area between Bayou Road and Brown St., as this area is one of the oldest in the county and has never been named. She would like to include the residents in the naming of the area. She would like to bring recognition to some of the historical and sacred spaces in the community.

Councilmember Ross supported the creation of a historic district in La Marque, but he asked to include other areas, such as the oldest home in the city on Cedar Drive, and the area that housed the original Buttermilk Junction train stop.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian felt that this was not the right time for this. There needs to be more work done and many areas to consider.

Mayor Bell requested a framework for a historical district to include all historical

areas of the city at the next meeting.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

7.XVI. Affidavit Request

Councilmember Yancy stated that at a previous meeting, Councilmember Lowry stated that he would provide documentation that he was not affiliated with the Lowry News Network, and she wanted to know when the city would receive that information.

Councilmember Lowry responded that he never agreed to that, and she would not be receiving "anything from Lowry News Network, period".

Councilmember Yancy believed that it was important to have full transparency at this moment, and Councilmember Lowry's refusal to deny or admit his affiliation to the entity that bares his name "tells it all".

Councilmember Ross stated that he remembers Councilmember Lowry and shared that he would provide a document stating he was not Michelle Smith.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian agreed that while he did not recall Councilmember Lowry stating he was not affiliated with the organization, he did remember that the Councilmember stated he would provide an affidavit stating that he was not Michelle Smith, although he believes that discussion happened in an Executive Session.

Councilmember Yancy stated that this particular news site has been very defamatory to the council and the city, and she would hope that no one on the council is affiliated.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

7.XVII. Council Qualifications

Councilmember Yancy began by asking Councilmember Lowry to confirm that he is not a convicted felon - to which he did.

Councilmember Yancy requested that Councilmember Lowry provide documentation to prove that he has been discharged for any criminal history in Washington State or Oregon.

Councilmember Lowry responded that he is not a convicted felon, and shame on both Councilmember Yancy and Councilmember Ross for bringing this up. He has a success story that very limited people would have been able to survive. He shared that this is a political talking point, and it is "disgusting". He has changed his life and moved forward, and both council members are aware.

Councilmember Ross shared that he gave a "blanket second" to every item that requested a second. He did not take anything out. He has no shame.

Councilmember Lowry stated that he is a perfectly legal candidate and everyone on the dias knows that.

Councilmember Yancy clarified that "while we all love a comeback story, and believe in redemption, we are asking for proof". She believes that the people of La Marque deserve proof. She requests that the city subpoena records to verify his eligibility, and she does not understand why he won't provide the documents to "put this all to rest". She stated that the behavior he has been exhibiting is not that of a councilperson. She congratulated Councilmember Lowry on his success.

***Councilmember Lowry made an outburst regarding alleged misconduct and*

Mayor Bell called for order on the dias.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to subpoena records.

City Attorney Knebel interjected as the meeting is not noticed for this. He stated that anyone can submit an open records request; there is nothing preventing them from doing so.

City Clerk Nance clarified that while any individual may make an open records request, the City of La Marque is not in possession of the requested documents and therefore would not be able to provide them. She also stated that neither the Texas Public Information Act nor the Freedom of Information Act require or allocate for her department to retrieve documents from other jurisdictions. Councilmember Lowry questioned City Clerk Nance regarding the verification process of candidates for the council.

City Clerk Nance stated that there is an affidavit provided with the candidate's application. It is not her role to verify the accuracy or truthfulness of the information provided in the affidavit and acknowledged that the city does not perform background checks on councilmembers.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

7.XVIII. Cancellation of Meeting

Councilmember Ross made a motion to cancel the Regular City Council Meeting scheduled for December 23, 2024. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. CITY MANAGER REPORT

8.I. Items for the Good of the Order

City Manager Garcia shared a list of upcoming events.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he will not be attending Doorstep Democracy due to prior commitments.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Items 9.III and 9.IV were pulled to discuss publicly prior to convening the executive session.

***Mayor Bell entered into executive session at 9:24 p.m.*

9.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)

9.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

9.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Complaints were received from Robert Michetich, Katherine Herrin Keith, Larinda Essary, and Sarah Dougherty-Lowry.

The complaints regarding Robert Michetich and Katherine Herrin-Keith relate to the same issue - an incident that occurred on March 19, 2024.

City Attorney Knebel read into the record the complaint of Robert Michetich.

***City Manager Garcia exited the room at 7:40 p.m. and returned at 7:43 p.m.*

Councilmember Yancy gave her account of the events of that night, addressing areas in the complaint that she believes are untruthful. Her account is that the reason that she was denied participation is that she previously participated in a

march against a police officer.

She called Police Chief Randall Aragon to share his account of the event as he was present. He recalled the denial of her membership dues as well as a discussion regarding protests, and a previous vote to have her removed.

She said that there was a pattern to present her as an angry black female for entertainment purposes.

She asked for the record to reflect that when she tried to pay her dues again, they were again rejected, which sets a bad precedence.

She reiterated her statement that the information provided is not true.

Councilmember Lowry shared that he believes the statements that were written, as the comments that are quoted are statements that he has heard from her in the past. He believes that the council should follow the recommendation of Mr. Michetich and censure. He found it highly inappropriate that the Chief was asked to comment on this issue.

Councilmember Ross asked for a copy of the receipts of the letters that were mailed. He also shared that interpretation matters. A resident's opinion of a "full-frontal assault" and the Police Chief's differ, and that is human nature. The First Amendment is important, and if you don't like what someone has to say, then just don't be around them.

Mayor Bell shared that the chair has the authority to recognize whomever he chooses to recognize as long as it is legal. He shared that his number one role as a presiding officer was to maintain order in the meeting. He also reminded the council and the public that there are a lot of ethics complaints that the council has not taken action on, not just against Councilmember Yancy but other members, including Councilmember Lowry, as well.

Councilmember Lowry made a motion to censure following the recommendation for written apologies to the officer that was present at the meeting and the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association Members as requested by the complainant.

***Motion dies due to lack of second.*

Councilmember Ross made a motion to move to the next complaint.

Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

City Attorney Knebel read the complaint by Larinda Essary where she states that she sent a trespass letter to a Councilmember, and acknowledged there were two previous complaints that the council decided to take no action on.

Councilmember Yancy shared that she went to the complainant's home as the complainant stated that she had not been able to get in contact with the council member. She stated that to this date, she had not received any other emails from Ms. Essary other than her complaints. Per Councilmember Yancy, Ms. Essary said that she could not reach the councilmember. She tried to reach out to her, and now this has happened. She believes that this is a setup. The statements say the council member has been "harassing" her. The complainant lives on a thoroughfare that she drives every day as a means to get to work. She feels that this is another example of the pattern of lies and emotional abuse.

Councilmember Ross said that in the first complaint it was stated that the complainant could not reach the Councilmember. He would be guilty of the same

thing as he had done similarly to reach out to his constituents.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that this complaint does not meet his standard.

Councilmember Lowry asked a lengthy series of questions and felt that

Councilmember Yancy was not having a very honest discussion regarding the event. He found it ironic that there had been 8 or 9 complaints against Ms. Yancy and her position is that everyone lies, but she tells the truth.

Mayor Bell shared that this has been going on for too long. This war is holding the city back. The council should be working on infrastructure and solving problems.

This does nothing for the constituents but make them want to find five new people; this is utterly ridiculous. It is time to move forward with policies and processes to make this city better.

Councilmember Yancy apologized.

Councilmember Lowry made a motion to censure.

***Motion dies due to lack of a second.*

Councilmember Ross made a motion to move on to the next complaint.

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

***Councilmember Ross exited the meeting at 8:27 p.m. and returned at 8:29 p.m.*

City Attorney Knebel read the complaint by Sarah Dougherty - Lowry with allegations that Councilmember Yancy was making defamatory statements made about her family, primarily her husband.

Councilmember Yancy gave her account of the incident in question. She shared that her students asked a question and she answered.

Councilmember Ross does not agree with talking about what goes on in his personal life with individuals under 18. He feels that the school district will handle it, and he would like to see the results of their investigation.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian believed that this was not a subject matter for this council, and it did not meet his standards.

Councilmember Lowry shared that statements such as this are not the first time this has happened and this is how his children ended up in private school. He believes that issues such as this do not belong in schools and do not "taint the innocent minds of children." He will, again, ask for a censure of the councilmember. A lot of people have a distrust of public schools, partially because of "stuff like this".

***Councilmember Yancy attempted to interject, but Mayor Bell did not allow it.*

Mayor Bell stated that "we have to move forward, and we have to work together.

At some point, this is going to have to stop." He shared that he is appalled and embarrassed that since May this has happened repeatedly, problems are solved by compromise, not by fighting.

***City Manager Garcia exited the room at 8:35 p.m.*

Councilmember Yancy states that she did not go into detail she confirmed and moved on. She cannot control the actions of Councilmember Lowry, and she cannot ignore it all the time.

Councilmember Lowry made a motion to censure due to inappropriate conduct in front of students in a public school.

***Motion dies due to lack of second*

Councilmember Ross made a motion to move to the next topic. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.IV. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

***City Manager Garcia returned at 8:40 p.m.*

***Mayor Bell exited at 8:40 p.m. and returned at 8:43 p.m.*

City Attorney Knebel read the ethics complaint against Councilmember Lowry as proposed by Ms. Jackie Perrin to include a series of concerns regarding Councilmember Lowry such as his alleged criminal history, questioning his acceptance to the Citizens Police Academy, and a request to subpoena records.

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited at 8:44 p.m.*

Councilmember Lowry stated that there were a lot of opinions stated, not a complaint.

Councilmember Ross stated that "there is nothing to go on here."

Councilmember Yancy could see her concern, but not a complaint.

Mayor Bell shared his frustrations with the direction the meeting has taken, as "the council cannot continue to sit here until 8, 9, or 10:00 this needs to end."

Mayor Pro Tem Compian identified that while the statement references actions on the dias, it does not make a complaint.

Mayor Bell shared that it referenced an item that happened at the last meeting, and his position is, moving forward, if there is too much bickering and arguing, he will just move forward.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

City Attorney Knebel read the next complaint, stating that there was a screenshot included, of what appeared to be a post made by Lowry News Network depicting a less than flattering "photo" of the Mayor.

Councilmember Lowry did not understand what the complaint was, and he didn't care for the fact that no one had filed an ethics complaint on the city's contracted newspaper the "Galveston County Fake News" as he called it, for their "unethical one-sided bias stories".

Councilmember Ross restated that he believes in the First Amendment, and residents can either follow because you enjoy it or know where to stay away from.

Councilmember Yancy asked if Councilmember Lowry approved or posted the screenshots shown.

Councilmember Lowry declined to answer.

Councilmember Yancy asked if this would be a continued practice, disparaging members of the council.

Councilmember Lowry declined to answer, stating that it is "none of your business".

Councilmember Yancy begged Councilmember Lowry to stop these practices.

Councilmember Lowry stated that he would not answer any of the questions and what happens on Lowry News Network is "really none of your business".

Councilmember Yancy stated that she has received multiple screenshots about disparaging things that have been said about her and other councilmembers' families, businesses, and jobs. She stated that the reason she asked for this to be done in the open is so the people can see "what we are dealing with".

She pleaded with Councilmember Lowry to "just stop" and shared her frustrations stating she doesn't know what to do to "stop it".

Mayor Bell recommended that she just ignore it.

Mayor Bell spoke directly to Councilmember Lowry, stating that he is strong and the things Councilmember Lowry posts online do not bother him. However, he will demand respect on the dias and in his role as mayor, but the rest of it is just silly.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to taken no action. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

Councilmember Yancy asked the council if this was OK, since the council is choosing to take no action.

Councilmember Ross stated that people have the right to say what they want whether he agrees with it or not.

She asked the same question to Mayor Pro Tem Compian who stated that he was not here to be questioned.

Councilmember Yancy believes this is a very public statement that this type of behavior and disparagement is OK.

Councilmember Lowry thanked everyone who preserves the constitution.

NO ACTION TAKEN ON THIS COMPLAINT 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (YANCY).

City Attorney Knebel shared the final complaint received from Councilmember Yancy.

Councilmember Yancy shared a series of screenshots of posts made by Lowry News Network.

Councilmember Lowry thanked Michelle Smith, and gave a shout-out to Lowry News Network and shared that he believes other news agencies should also be receiving ethics complaints. Lowry News Network is an "in your face" news network and stood by Michelle Smith's opinion and right to publish the article.

Councilmember Ross had nothing to say.

Councilmember Yancy stated that it is important that the council models the expectation. The City Manager would not be allowed to act this way, nor the staff.

Mayor Bell said to just laugh at it and move on; the council just has to keep doing business.

Councilmember Yancy asked the public not to send her anything anymore because it is emotionally abusive.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked if Councilmember Lowry was supporting the statements being made or the right to state them.

Councilmember Lowry stated that he supports anyone's right to free speech, no matter if it is for him or against him.

Mayor Bell stated that Councilmember Lowry can do whatever he wants to do outside, but on the dias the council has to move forward.

Councilmember Yancy asked for an apology.

Councilmember Lowry refused to apologize for something someone else said.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to censure Councilmember Lowry for the blatant slander issued by his news outlet.

***Motion died due to lack of second.*

NO ACTION TAKEN.

10. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Special Meeting at 10:52 p.m.*

10.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

10.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Councilmember Ross proposed to call a Special Meeting to conduct evaluations. Councilmember Lowry shared that he will not be available on December 9th, due to a family emergency.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

10.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

10.IV. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

11. REQUESTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Lowry shared that at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 21st, at St. Michael's Church, there will be a community policing meeting for Cedar Drive Community Watch - the boundaries are Cedar, Magnolia, Howell, and Bowie. He asked for an updated ditch maintenance report.

Councilmember Ross thanked everyone who came out to the Veterans Day Breakfast last Sunday. He also formally announced his resignation from the City Council, citing infighting over personal matters and lack of concern for the city overall as the reasons. He hopes that before he leaves the council work can be done on the city's homestead exemption. He is hoping to be appointed to a board, namely the Ordinance Review Committee. He is over being lied about, and shared he has no issue with Michelle Smith's article about him, barring a false statement made regarding his campaign finance reports. He attempted to send a letter to Ms. Smith, however, the business address of 1111 Bayou Rd., La Marque, TX is not accurate, nor is the updated address. He identified this as mail fraud and has reported it to the authorities. He also shared his disapproval of statements made by Councilmember Lowry that are being sent to the Texas Ethics Commission.

Councilmember Yancy thanked Councilmember Ross for his service. It is unfortunate, but she looks forward to working with him until May. She also announced the 409 Awards that will be held at The Marquee. She looks forward to the Christmas Parade on December 3rd. She also stated that Thanksgiving is a time to reflect with family and friends. She believes that a lot of what is happening is done to distract from the gains that are being made. She apologized to the City of La Marque for the unprofessionalism that had been displayed. She commends the council for trying and hopes that personal issues will be handled in a personal manner. District A is still leading the way and asked everyone who is a praying person to continue in their prayer.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his condolences for the loss in Councilmember Lowry's family. He thanked all the enthusiastic volunteers for a successful Fall Clean Up. Happy Thanksgiving residents, and thank you to the committed individuals who sit through the

council meetings.

Mayor Bell shared his sadness and disappointment in light of Councilmember Ross' resignation. He shared that he met Councilmember Ross at a time when he was interested in revising the system's water billing practices. He will be missed, but he looks forward to the next six months working together. He again announced Doorstep Democracy, an outreach and engagement activity followed by a town hall on November 23rd. He also encouraged the community to come out and participate in the Christmas Parade on December 3rd. His prediction regarding the election came true. The day after the election, the city still had potholes that needed to be fixed. Partisan politics have no place in municipal government. Municipal government has the opportunity to heal the wounds of partisan politics. It is the solution. He is excited to be a small-town Councilmember with the power to heal.

City Manager Garcia announced that the city is accepting donations for blue Santa until December 5th. He also acknowledged IT Director Kyle Hunter, who gave his final parting words, as this would be his last council meeting as a staff member after 18 years.

Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Hunter for his years of service with the city.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 11:23 p.m.*