



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
December 9, 2024**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:19 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Keith Bell

Mayor

Joe Compian

Mayor Pro Tem

Kimberley Yancy

District A

James Ross

District D

ABSENT:

Joseph Lowry

District C

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Richard Scott, Pastor of Family Unity Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Compian led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Proclamation - David Jimenez

Mayor Bell issued a proclamation to young resident David Jimenez, honoring him for his bravery in suppressing a trash can fire until emergency services could arrive. Fire Chief David Merryman and City Manager Cesar Garcia also shared their support and commendations for his actions.

4.II. Proclamation - Diane Merchant

Mayor Bell issued a proclamation to long-tenured community educator Ms. Diane Merchant and shared his words of acknowledgment and thanks for her service to the children in the community.

4.III. Presentation- Stephen Leacroy "Community Policing Officer of the Year"

Mayor Bell, City Manager Garcia, and Chief of Police Randall Aragon recognized Detective Stephen Leacroy for receiving Community Policing Officer of the Year from the Department of Justice.

4.IV. Presentation - La Marque Civic Academy

Julian Brown, La Marque College Intern and student of political science at the University of Houston, gave an overview of the La Marque Civic Academy, a program to introduce the public to municipal operations. This is projected to last

6-9 weeks, building trust between the public and the organization, introducing the public to each department, and sharing an overview of how each process works. Members of the Council shared their support for the project.

4.V. Presentation - AARP Bike Audit

Vice Chairperson Tonia Griffin of the La Marque Parks Board gave a brief presentation regarding the AARP Bike Audit, a comprehensive evaluation of the city's biking infrastructure within the corridor of the Gulf Freeway Feder Road, Highway 1765, Highway 3, and Main Street. This audit highlighted several areas of concern regarding biking ability, such as nonworking pedestrian lights, unsafe roadways, and vehicular traffic.

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the meeting at 6:56 p.m. and returned at 6:58 p.m.*

Vice Chairperson Griffin shared that based on the results of the audit, it is recommended that the city implement bike lanes along Bayou Road, areas of Lake Road, and Cedar Drive, which will need additional infrastructure to ensure that the bike lane is safe.

Councilmember Ross questioned what happened to the walking audit the city requested. It was determined that the city did not get approved for that project. He also asked why this particular area was chosen. It was deterred that there was a call for recommendations and that's what was requested.

City Manager Garcia clarified that the Parks Board has met the requirements of the grant, and has the tools to expand as needed, but it will take time and must be done in sections.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian thanked Vice Chairperson Griffin and the Parks Board, stating that it was a pleasure working with the Board on this project. He questioned statements regarding trashcans on the sidewalks and made recommendations regarding how the city can partner with the trash refuse company, Waste Management, to educate the community on this area of concern. Mayor Pro Tem Compian also requested a bike rack at City Hall.

Mayor Bell requested a sidewalk going down Newman Road, as there is a senior community and students who walk to school down that road. He asked if a survey was put out to the residents to see how many in the community actively ride bikes.

4.VI. Presentation - Street Assessment

City Manager Garcia and ADICO Engineer Brent Berthier presented the La Marque Street Assessment, a color-coded map of the city listing every street, its current condition, and its necessity for repair.

Mr. Berthier clarified that the study only looks at the pavement of the street; the drainage was not considered in this assessment. This is merely meant to be used as a tool.

Mayor Bell questioned if it was an assessment and estimate of the top layer of the street or the entire street.

Mr. Berthier clarified that during the assessment they could only see the top layer. However, the additional layers below were considered when creating the cost estimate of the rehabilitation.

Mayor Bell asked clarifying questions regarding if the engineers know if the street

condition is related to malfunctions in the drainage system.

Mr. Berthier replied that while that can be determined, it was not assessed in this project.

City Manager Garcia interjected that the City's policy is not to do street repairs in areas where waterline repairs are needed.

Councilmember Yancy requested that this assessment be listed online, so the residents can see where their streets are ranked, and the cost.

City Manager Garcia did note that this assessment does not take into account changing the surface of the road, such as from asphalt to concrete.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian announced that he will be going to some of the streets in District B and will be taking photos.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Robert Harvey () - ***Did not speak***
- Re'Chard Loftis (309 Johnson) asked for support for the Library Mural item as presented by Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission. He publicly thanked the City Manager for all the work he has done for the city. He understands that in the role you cannot please everyone.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearing at 7:39 p.m.*

6.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0022

***City Manager Garcia exited the meeting at 7:39 p.m.*

There were no public comments.

7. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:39 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2024-0022

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.I. Resolution No. R-2024-0060

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0060.

Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.II. Resolution No. R-2024-0061

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0061.

Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.III. Resolution No. R-2024-0062

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2024-0062. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IV. Memorandum of Understanding

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of La Marque and the Public Works Department for expending ARPA funds. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***City Manager Garcia returned at 7:42 p.m.*

8.V. Memorandum of Understanding

Councilmember Ross made a motion to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of La Marque and the Finance Department for expending ARPA funds. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VI. Memorandum of Understanding

Councilmember Ross made a motion to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of La Marque and the Fire Department for expending ARPA funds. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VII. Memorandum of Understanding

Councilmember Ross made a motion to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of La Marque and the Police Department for expending ARPA funds. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VIII. ARPA Bid Award

Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve the bid to Craecom, Inc. for Citywide Solar Lighting Improvements in the amount of \$217,912.46. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IX. ARPA Bid Award

Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve a bid to Lucas Construction Company for Citywide Asphalt Milling Overlay Roadway Improvements in the amount of \$399,158.00. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.X. ARPA Bid Award

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve a bid to Lucas Construction for street improvements, including the demolition, paving, and storm sewer upgrades on Jefferson Drive, and re-striping of Cedar and Lake Road in the amount of \$881,097.85. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XI. Acceptance of Grant Award

Councilmember Ross made a motion to accept a no-match grant award of \$2,000.00 from the Community Project Funding (CPF). Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XII. Acceptance of Grant Award

City Manager Garcia announced that this item would essentially be a zero-cost match as the trial funding is \$230,000 with a 10% match. The Economic Development Corporation has graciously approved covering \$15,000 of the \$23,000 match requirement and the remaining \$8,000 was provided by additional grant funds the city received from the International City Manager's Association. Councilmember Ross made a motion to accept a grant award in the amount of \$230,000 for the Houston Galveston Area Council Livable Centers Study. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** City Manager Garcia thanked State Representatives Terri Leo Wilson and Dr. Greg Bonnen for their support.

8.XIII. Updated Street Signs

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve an updated street sign design to incorporate the All America City logo with the All America City logo on the left and the City logo on the right, for needed street sign replacements. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XIV. Street Assessment

Councilmember Ross made a motion to accept the 2024 Street Assessment as presented by ADICO Engineering. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XV. Final Plat Extension

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve a 6-month extension on the Final Plat of Ambrose Sec. 3. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XVI. Library Mural

Councilmember Ross made a motion to authorize the erection of a mural at the La Marque Public Library. Councilmember Yancy seconded. Mayor Bell questioned what material the front of the Library is made of and if it would be suitable for this project. It was determined that the artist believes so. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XVII. Historic District

Councilmember Yancy requested a workshop in the month of February. Councilmember Ross requested information on what all documents regarding the local, state, and federal historical district designations would entail. **NO ACTION TAKEN.**

8.XVIII. Texas Coalition for Affordable Power

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to cast votes for all nominees excluding Jo Ella Wagner. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XIX. Virtual Meeting

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to continue the use of virtual participation

for meetings in board, commission, council, and committee meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.XX. Boards and Commissions

Councilmember Ross nominated Ray Medina to the Ordinance Review Committee. Mayor Bell nominated Gene Smith to the Economic Development Corporation. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded all nominations.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. CITY MANAGER REPORT

9.I. Monthly Statistics

Stood as submitted.

9.II. H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Award-Parks Master Plan

Stood as submitted.

9.III. H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Award-Mahan Boat Ramp

Stood as submitted.

9.IV. H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Award-Arts in the Park

Stood as submitted.

9.V. Items for the Good of the Order

City Manager Garcia announced a closure at Newman Road by the Texas Department of Transportation from December 16th to December 18th.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Bell suggested to postpone this item until all members of Council are present.

10.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

11. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to extend a 60-day contract to terminate.

Councilmember Compian withdrew the motion

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to postpone this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

UNANIMOUSLY.

12. REQUESTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Ross read a letter that he received from the Economic Development Corporation. He also reaffirmed his address for the record. He announced Pictures with Santa and a toy drive at the VFW.

Councilmember Yancy hoped everyone enjoys Christmas and each other. She stated that the constituents of District A did not give other councilmembers the right to represent the people of District A. The residents of District A will not be participants of slanderous gossip and lies. She believes it's hard to say that individuals intend to save

taxpayers money and put the city in precarious positions that will cost money. She just wants to do what she was voted to do, and that is representing the good citizens of District A and providing a safe, happy town that people would like to come and live in. It has been a very interesting 2024, and she looks forward to continuing working together. She wished a Happy Birthday to Ms. Lois Jones who turned 75 today. Mayor Pro Tem Compian wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Safe New Year. He believes that he should write 3 books, one for each year in city government. He has disconnected from social media and no longer reads the newspaper. He has now transitioned to reading books on love and compassion. He tries to be as impartial as possible and looks at the facts. Impartiality is not easy, it is not a natural human reaction. He thanked everyone for putting up with the council and the joy that they bring him each day.

Mayor Bell announced Wreaths Across America on December 14th and Santa at the Library. He shared that the job he holds is not an easy one, and nothing that is done on the dias is done without intense thought and debate. There are two sides to every story. Mr. Garcia has accomplishments as well. He helped the City receive the All American City designation and added to the grant totals. He is a very serious man with a very bright future. The council has to do what is best. However, it does not negate the positive work that has been done. However, he will not apologize for his belief that La Marque deserves "the best". He acknowledged that Mr. Garcia has a tremendous amount of talent. He is proud of the time spent together, and the progress made. He thanked the Council for their hard work. "This has been one heck of a year". He prays that everyone rests over the holidays and moves into 2025 with focus, intensity, and vigor.

City Manager Garcia thanked the Mayor for his kind words. He thanked the residents for their kind words. He leads from the heart, and understands that leadership and management are the same. Happy holidays everyone. He also recognized his family for their support.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.*