



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
August 25, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Keith Bell

Joe Compian

Kimberley Yancy

Joseph Lowry

Tonia Griffin

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem/District B

District A

District C

District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Yancy gave the invocation and Councilmember Griffin led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Eduardo Cano (5108 Fleming St) shared that he is having a tough time working with the Development Services Department dividing his property.

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) asked for an updated general fund balance sheet and reserve balance since the budget decisions have been made. He also spoke regarding investigations into grant funding, alleging misappropriation of funds.

Joe A Hix Sr (321 Volney) stated that this is the third time he has come to council regarding ditch excavation in his area. He spoke about the damage done to his lawnmower when trying to mow a ditch that he asserts should be maintained by the city. He states that he has spoken to a previous city manager, the public works director, and his council representative. He keeps crying for help because there is a serious problem.

James Ross (414 Ave D) spoke regarding item 8.VIII, stating "if you really want people to stop coming from other places to talk to the council, you might want to make sure that a certain council person is not speaking out and reaching out to people". He distributed to the council a copy of a cease and desist letter he received, with the assertion that it violated the Texas Citizen's Participation Act. He spoke about the Economic Development Corporation's decision not to review their COVID-19 Relief grants, and requested that the council review them or else he will send the evidence he has to outside organizations. He stated that he had been doxed repeatedly by a councilmember and the councilmember posted for anyone who thought he was having a mental health crisis to call and ask for a health and wellness check, which he stated could be detrimental as he is a veteran and continued to speak about other alleged misconduct by the councilmember.

5. MINUTES

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted.
Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5.I. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes 01.27.2025

5.II. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes 10.28.2024

5.III. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes 10.14.2024

5.IV. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes 09.23.2024

5.V. City Council Special Meeting Minutes 09.23.2024

5.VI. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes 08.26.2024

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearings at 6:20 p.m.*

6.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0016
There was no public comment.

6.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0017
There was no public comment.

7. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:21 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0016
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0016. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0017
Councilmember Griffin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0017. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.I. Ordinance No. 2025-0018
Interim City Manager Holly reiterated to the public that a balanced budget has been presented at the same rate as the previous year.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0018.
Councilmember Yancy seconded.
***This motion was approved by voice vote:*
For: Keith Bell, Joe Compian, Tonia Griffin, Kimberley Yancy
Against: Joseph Lowry

8.II. Ordinance No. 2025-0019

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0019, Councilmember Griffin seconded.

***This motion was approved by voice vote:*

For: Keith Bell, Joe Compian, Tonia Griffin, Kimberley Yancy

Against: Joseph Lowry

8.III. Resolution No. R-2025-0035

It was clarified that the intent of this Resolution was to include Interim City Manager Holly as a signer on the city's bank accounts.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0035.

Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IV. Resolution No. R-2025-0036

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0036.

Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.V. Resolution No. R-2025-0037

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his discontent with the inclusion of the Human Resources Manager. He requested that the investment officers be the same as the bank signatories.

Interim City Manager Holly shared that Human Resource Manager Halbrook has been intricately involved with the process thus far in helping assess the current situation.

Mayor Bell questioned if Mayor Pro Tem Compian's logic is used, would that not apply to the Police and Fire Chief who are considered signatories for the bank accounts?

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion that the list be amended to show Interim City Manager Holly and City Clerk Nance as signatories on the investment accounts. Councilmember Lowry second.

Discussion regarding amending once a finance director is selected ensued.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.VI. 2024 Single Audit

Interim City Manager Holly shared that the council had been presented with a draft audit as the final audit will be presented prior to September 1, 2025. She identified that the audit is required to be completed by April, which is 180 days after the end of the fiscal year, and the legislature has not implemented penalties for that deadline not being met. She stated that the auditing firm would be present at a future meeting to present to the council.

Councilmember Lowry stated that this is not a forensic audit, it is a routine audit and "the auditors can only audit what is given."

Interim City Manager Holly gave a summarized definition of what a forensic audit is and what it looks for. She stated that there were not any suspected malfeasance.

Councilmember Lowry clarified that these routine audits do not look for corruption or "backdoor deals from like, developers and stuff".

Mayor Bell stated that if the Councilmember believes these actions are occurring,

he should present them to the District Attorney and requested that a scope be presented for the recommendation of a forensic audit.

Interim City Manager Holly shared that the city is unique because, by charter, the elected officials have no administrative functions.

Councilmember Yancy asked clarifying questions regarding the new penalties imposed by the state legislature and the timeline of the routine audit.

It was clarified that this audit did not have any findings.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to accept the 2024 Single Audit.

Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).**

8.VII. Awarding Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation: Headworks and Chemical Storage Rehab Contract

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding the project.

Public Works Director Shannon Breau clarified that the bid came in slightly under budget, and this project was an agreement made by the city with the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in lieu of fines.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to award a contract to Sustanite Support Services, LLC for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Rehabilitation - Headworks and Chemical Storage Improvements project in the amount of \$1,892,000.00, and authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract and related documents. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VIII. Citizen's Participation

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave a brief history of this item. He stated that this item arose at the Council Retreat. He referenced League City, who only allow residents of the city to comment, as others do. He also mentioned other cities that use the term "individuals" as the City of La Marque does.

Councilmember Yancy requested consideration for business owners. However, she does not believe she is ready to make changes. She believes that there are comments from certain officials that invite outside individuals.

Councilmember Lowry stated that the objective is to have some form of professionalism. He stated that the city is the "laughingstock of the community" in regard to council meetings. He stated that what is happening now is not what was happening before, and he believes that if he was not on council the rules would be changed immediately.

Mayor Bell rebutted, stating that Councilmember Lowry has for five (5) years stood in the chamber casting aspersions on himself and Councilmember Yancy and was not stopped because the city and council have a tradition of free speech. He stated that the Councilmember is not a champion of free speech as he claims, he just wants to speak freely about other people. This is only a topic because people are coming to this council complaining about one of its members. He is opposed to changing the standard, because doing so is to "pacify" Councilmember Lowry as individuals come and speak about most councilmembers, and they let them, take notes, and move forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that his earlier statements were to provide history. He is comfortable in whichever direction, he likes the history of what

the city has done.

Councilmember Lowry stated that Mayor Bell has a double standard, claiming that he is the "King of everything".

Councilmember Yancy requested that the council improve their own behavior and perhaps the council will no longer see what they have been seeing. She asked to revisit this topic in six months.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

8.IX. Ordinance Review Committee - Mission Clarification

Committee member James Ross shared that the committee started with zoning ordinances but is willing to pivot, to whatever priorities the council has. Mayor Pro Tem requested collaborating with the Ordinance Review Committee to present mission options to bring back to the council for approval.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9. CITY MANAGER REPORT

9.I. July 2025 Municipal Court Stats

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding the number of arrest warrants shown.

Court Administrator Froeschner showed that there was a software issue in June and those were backlogged until July.

9.II. July 4, 2025 Fire Department Statistics

Discussions regarding the Arson Investigation K9 Kai's involvement ensued.

It was determined that the department confiscated 1138 fireworks and disposed of them by soaking them in water and discarding them.

9.III. Items for the Good of the Order

Interim City Manager Holly shared upcoming city events, including the closure of city facilities for Labor Day, a Car Seat Check event on September 17th, Unified Town Hall on October 4th, and Trunk or Treat on October 23rd. She also announced the theme of the city's annual Christmas Parade on December 2nd as "A Nutcracker Christmas."

She shared an updated grants worksheet with the council, and gave brief operational updates regarding the city's software implementation.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

11. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

12. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Griffin reminded the staff that she requested a Labor Day Breakfast for the Public Works Department and Code Division as well as asked logistical questions about the unified town hall.

Councilmember Lowry thanked everyone who worked on the budget and requested his discretionary funds go to the La Marque Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association.

Councilmember Yancy encouraged city swag for Unified Town Hall. She requested flowers be sent to the principals from her discretionary funds as is customary. She hoped everyone had a safe Labor Day. She thanked District A resident Ms. Sally Austin for all of her hard work, volunteerism, and positivity for the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that the city tell the contractors at the high school construction site to wash down the roads as they are "atrocious". He spoke of a Community Development Block Grant announcement from the city in 2024, regarding road resurfacing. He gave a reminder to the city about filing the hotel occupancy tax reports to the state comptroller's office. He stated that in the following two (2) days Galveston County would be helping residents claim their unclaimed funds from the State of Texas.

Mayor Bell requested a report on the disaster fund at the next meeting. He congratulated nVent for their property rezone. He is looking forward to the great things this company brings to the community, including jobs. He thanked the council for the tax rate vote, as this is the current rate is tied to establishing a new police station. He shared that there is no greater workforce than the American labor force. He has had the privilege of being a member of a union, and this country was built on the back of hardworking individuals and continues to thrive as such. He also thanked Ms. Sally Austin for all of her contributions to the city, stating that her presence will be missed in the community, but understands that life goes on, and congratulated her on the next chapter.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.*