



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
October 13, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Keith Bell

Joe Compian

Kimberley Yancy

Tonia Griffin

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem/ District B

District A

District D

ABSENT:

Joseph Lowry

District C

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor S.V. Adolph Jr., newly installed pastor of Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church gave the invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Compian led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Proclamation: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Bell presented Deputy Court Clerk Shannon Curtis with a proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

4.II. Proclamation: Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Mayor Bell presented the La Marque Information Technology Department with a proclamation honoring Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

4.III. Proclamation: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Jessie Rhoades, Community Outreach Specialist from Resource Crisis Center Galveston County received a proclamation honoring Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Nicolas Roque (Newman Rd) spoke regarding the city's financial status, and alleged lack of reporting.

- Hayley Winkelmann (***declined to give address***) requested an update on the city's cybersecurity breach. She spoke of her dissatisfaction with the Chief of Police, stating that the problems in the police department start at the top.
- Delon Delafosse (***declined to give address***) requested that Katherine Herrin be removed from the LMCPAAA and asked that the city not continue to conduct business with the organization.
- Keith Sam (Rose St - Texas City) spoke regarding a traffic stop where his car was searched, and he felt that he was mistreated.
- Joe Mose (Howell) spoke to file a complaint against the same officer previously referenced by another citizen stating that he has been pulled over by this officer on 3 separate occasions, stating that he has a history of behavior in a previous organization, calling him a "bully with a badge".
- Tammy Gary (***declined to give address***) spoke regarding the same officer as before, stating that he was "very nasty". She has a history of law enforcement, and stated that not all the La Marque Police are bad, but there are a few that are. These officers need to straighten up or they need to go.
- Sharon Boulton (Howell) stated that she has "kind of been out of the loop" since the summer. She spoke of her husband's cancer. She is here to find out what is going on. She is asking for transparency regarding the city's finances. She spoke of her disapproval of the loan and asked the council to think of the senior citizens.
- Robert Michetich (N. Curlew) spoke regarding the item related to the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. He stated that the state level will not allow for this Memorandum of Understanding to be signed. He spoke against a rezoning from Commercial to Light Industrial presented for council consideration. He believes it is a disservice to the residents.
- Carl Beard (***declined to give address***) spoke regarding his concerns with the police department, sharing his belief that it is mismanaged and needs a leadership change.
- Re'Chard Loftis (***declined to give address***) stated that his family was harassed at a dinner the previous week by an elected official and their family. He stated that something needed to be done.
- Laura Ochoa (Oaklawn) spoke regarding harassment of her neighbor, stating that he is constantly recording them, stating that he is looking over a privacy fence and being aggressive, leading to police intervention. A warrant was issued for her husband due to an alleged trespass that she believes did not happen, and they were not even made aware of. That was eventually dropped. She feels unsafe and is asking the city to step in if possible.
- Laura Divine (Merry Ln) shared that she is saddened that it seems the council is moving further away from handling the city's business. The city has had challenges in the past and has "pulled through them." She is asking for an audit and updated policies and procedures.

***Councilmember Griffin exited the meeting at 7:03 p.m.*

- Brandon Kantowski (Oaklawn) spoke regarding issues with his neighbor, stating that he now has to film everything, everyone, and every conversation. He believes that the Chief of Police is not doing his job. He said that his neighbor

had intentionally stepped on his grass to mow their lawn, leading to the trespassing ticket.

***Councilmember Griffin returned at 7:06 p.m.*

- Melanie Stowe (Redbud Ln) spoke on behalf of the La Marque Band Booster Club inviting the residents and council to attend the La Marque High School Band Competition the following weekend in El Campo, Texas. She thanked Mayor Pro Tem Compian for a water donation made to the organization. As a citizen, she was not happy and spoke to street issues in her area. She said the city may need to cut back on some wants and focus on the needs.
- Clarence Caldwell (Prairie) spoke regarding the need for the roads at Highland Bayou Park to be updated. He shared that the TxDOT construction is now causing potholes that need to be filled. He asked for streetlights on Prairie Street.
- Orlando Archibald (Palm) spoke to concerns regarding overpolicing. He stated that poverty brings crime. He is a new business owner in La Marque, and he depends on the residents and the citizens. He does not want to see the overcriminalization of the city.

6. MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6.I. Special City Council Meeting Minutes 09.25.2025

6.II. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes 06.23.2025

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearings at 7:16 p.m.*

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited at 7:16 p.m. and returned at 7:18 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0020

There was no Public Comment.

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0021

There was no Public Comment.

7.III. Ordinance No. O-2025-0022

There was no Public Comment.

7.IV. Ordinance No. O-2025-0023

There was no Public Comment.

7.V. Ordinance No. O-2025-0024

- Sharon Boulton questioned how much the fees are increasing. It was clarified that the fees are increased by 5% as stated in the contract.

***Councilmember Yancy exited the meeting at 7:24 p.m. and returned at 7:26 p.m.*

A brief discussion regarding contractual obligations ensued.

7.VI. Ordinance No. O-2025-0025

- Brian Freedman, President of Bay Area Economic Partnership, shared his and his organization's support for the zoning request stating that this is a great opportunity for the city and the region.
- Amy Skiki, Executive Director of Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership, shared her and her organization's support for the zoning request stating that the change directly improves the Texas City Railway's growth ability.

8. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:35 p.m.*

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0020

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0020.
Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0021

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0021. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.III. Ordinance No. O-2025-0022

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0022. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IV. Ordinance No. O-2025-0023

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0023.
Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.V. Ordinance No. O-2025-0024

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that an update will need to be made on the senior citizen discount moving forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0024.
Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.VI. Ordinance No. O-2025-0025

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0025.
Councilmember Yancy seconded.

***Councilmember Yancy exited the meeting at 7:47 p.m. and returned at 7:48 p.m.*

Discussions regarding the positive possibilities available on this property ensued, with Mayor Bell clarifying that through economic development the city can reduce

property tax.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.VII. Award of Contract - Newman Road, Moss Street, and Rosewood Drive Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Public Works Director Shannon Breaux and Finance Director Worth Ferguson spoke on this project. Finance Director Ferguson stated that this will be paid partially out of the impact fees later in the calendar year and partially out of the revenue loan if tax revenue has not been received by the time of payment.

Public Works Director Breaux shared that there is currently not a sanitary sewer line in the area and there is new construction. There are currently 15 houses in the area with more being built. Without this line, they couldn't connect to the city sewer system.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked if there are other areas that do not have sewer connections. Public Works Director Breaux stated that there were.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to award a construction contract to JSS Construction, LLC in the amount of \$1,102,114.00 for the Newman Road, Moss Street, and Rosewood Drive Sanitary Sewer Improvements project.

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

8.VIII. Finance Committee

Interim City Manager Holly nominated James Osteen (Economic Development Corporation Boardmember), Alex Getty (Economic Development Corporation Director), Worth Ferguson (Finance Director), Barbara Holly (Interim City Manager), Pastor Jervie Windom, Harriett Massey, and Councilmember Griffin, as she was not on council during the time of financial turmoil. She believes this is a combination that could be very successful.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that he was very disappointed as he wanted to serve on this committee.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to accept the nominations as submitted by Interim City Manager Holly. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.IX. Memorandum of Understanding - Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association

Councilmember Yancy shared some concerns regarding not having a Memorandum of Understanding with this particular organization, as this has been in the works since 2024.

Chief Randall Aragon gave a brief history of the discussions surrounding the Memorandum of Understanding.

***Councilmember Lowry attempted to enter the meeting via Zoom. However, due to camera issues, was unable to participate as without it, participation would be a violation of Texas Government Code 551.127 per the City Attorney.*

Mayor Pro Tem Compian clarified that the Memorandum of Understanding requirement was established by a previous city manager, not by the council, this is a management decision.

Councilmember Yancy requested that the city staff be acquainted with the bylaws of the organization, as the alumni association cannot exist without the academy that is put on by the city.

A lengthy discussion regarding the need for a Memorandum of Understanding ensued.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

8.X. Boards and Commissions Appointments

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0026

Interim City Manager Holly stated that staff and the Planning & Zoning commission recommended that this item be denied.

City Attorney Gus Knebel stated that this item is administrative, as the staff is required, by law, to present zoning requests to council even with a recommendation for denial.

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to deny Ordinance No. O-2025-0026.

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

9.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0027

Public Works Director Breaux announced that \$6798.00 is the new proposal.

However, the city still agrees with the engineer's proposal. However, this is better than nothing.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion that the total amount be \$6598.01, with a sewer impact fee of \$3706.67. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.III. Ordinance No. O-2025-0028

It was identified that this property is roughly 16 acres of land near the "Dog Track" property.

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited at 8:56 p.m.*

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0028.

Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES AND 1 ABSENT (COMPIAN).**

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian returned at 8:58 p.m.*

9.IV. Resolution No. R-2025-0044

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked James Osteen if he would like to participate, which was declined.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0044 nominating James Ross and Matt Doyle for the 2025 Board of Directors for the Galveston County Appraisal District. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Award of Contract - 12-Inch Water Distribution Line from Newman Road to Stonewall Street

Finance Director Ferguson stated that this project will be paid by impact fees until those funds are no longer available, then the city will utilize loan funds and tax revenue.

Public Works Director Breaux identified that this project is a necessity as this is

the waterline connected to the High School.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to award a construction contract to Faith Utilities, LLC in the amount of \$1,398,471.00 for the 12-Inch Water Distribution Line from Newman Road to Stonewall Steet project. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. Street Signs

Public Works Director Breaux clarified that there is money that was donated by the Economic Development Corporation in May that will allow for approximately 200 street signs that will cover most of the missing street signs within the city. Mayor Bell requested from the City Manager an updated list of all missing and damaged street signs by the end of the following week.

It was also determined that the Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission had replaced the signs along Bayou with the new All America City logo.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9.VII. Memorandum of Understanding - N Zone Sports

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with N Zone Sports. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VIII. Contract Extension - Axon Enterprises

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared potential grant and funding opportunities.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to authorize the extension of the Axon contract for body-worn cameras in the fire department. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.IX. Grant from Marathon Petroleum - Enclosed Cargo Trailer

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to accept a no-match grant from Marathon Petroleum in the amount of \$5,000 for a 6x12 enclosed trailer.

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

9.X. Hiring Positions

Interim City Manager Holly opened by stating that the intent of hiring the Development Services Director, as well as the Building Inspector position in item 9.IX, is to reduce the amount the city spends on third party services. It was determined that the city spends approximately \$600,000 on third party services related to development services.

A brief discussion regarding the role of the Traffic Control Technician ensued, led by Public Works Director Breaux.

A discussion regarding the agenda language ensued, questioning if the term "freeze" is appropriate for the listed positions, as they are positions that are funded, just currently vacant due to personnel changes. It was determined that the language would be corrected as these arise in the future.

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to authorize the hiring of a Development Services Director and Traffic Control Technician. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XI. Hiring Positions

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to authorize the hiring of a Building Inspector. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XII. TML Region 14 Director Ballot

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to cast votes for Robin Collins for the Texas Municipal League Region 14 Board of Directors Election. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XIII. Cancellation of Meeting

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to cancel the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2025. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XIV. Cancellation of Meeting

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to cancel the Regular Meeting of December 22, 2025. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***items pulled for discussion 10.I, 10.V, and 10.VI*

10.I. 2024 SETH Grant Report

City Clerk Nance gave a brief overview of the program. Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his support for continued participation if the opportunity arises.

10.II. July and August 2025 Stormwater Report

Stood as submitted.

10.III. July and August 2025 Water Loss Reports

Stood as submitted.

10.IV. August 2025 Code Enforcement Report

Councilmember Yancy requested that the code enforcement report be broken down by district.

10.V. August 2025 Fire Reports

Stood as submitted.

10.VI. August 2025 Financial Report

Finance Director Ferguson shared that, in an effort to be as transparent as possible, his report is over 1200 pages long, and will also be posted on the city's website. He displayed a new tracking system that is available for both the council and citizens to view the progress made by the finance department on a monthly basis. He spoke of his desire to implement monthly community financial sessions.

A brief discussion regarding forensic audits ensued, followed by a discussion regarding Director Ferguson's opinion on utilizing certain investment avenues available to the city and the revision of the city's financial accounts.

10.VII. Items for the Good of the Order

Interim City Manager Holly announced the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Groundbreaking on October 22 at 2:00 p.m., Trunk or Treat October 23 at 5:30 p.m., Fall Sweep November 15. OpenGov is now live, but experiencing issues with online payments. The City is "rightsizing" the fleet, and shared the unfortunate news that the city's S&P rating has dropped from an AA- to a BB+.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no actions taken.

13. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Yancy stated that La Marque's birthday is this month, and we should still celebrate. The city needs to get back to promoting what it is doing well. She shared an issue with a streetlight on Pirtle St. She encouraged the city to utilize the chaplains to help bring peace in the community. She is grateful for the hard work of Interim City Manager Holly and her team. Early voting begins on October 20th. She also welcomed City Clerk Kierra Nance back to the dias after a leave of absence.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian officially welcomed Interim City Manager Holly as a resident of La Marque. He requested an adjustment to the discount for senior citizens and the disabled on the utility bills. He requested HOT Tax revisions for short-term rentals. He is attending TML at his own expense. He shared that La Marque was honored again at the WISE Awards by HGAC for the sensory sidewalks, and the Mahan Park Boat Ramp. "Don't believe everything you see on social media."

Mayor Bell gave a brief recap of the Unified Town Hall. He asked the City Manager to have a conversation with Mr. Roake to understand his position. He also requested that scheduling evaluations of appointed staff members be placed on the next agenda.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.*