



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
February 10, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 4:03 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

Interim City Manager Joshua Pritchett gave the invocation and Councilmember Lowry led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no citizens participation.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. La Marque High School

***Councilmember Yancy exited the room at 4:06 p.m.*

Representatives of the Texas City Independent School District include Texas City Independent School District (TCISD) School Board President Lori Carnes, Board Members David Moss and Nakisha Paul, Superintendent Melissa Duarte, Associate Director of New Facilities & Planning, Nolan Correa, and Architectural Projects Manager Chris Kay of PBK Architects.

Mayor Bell opened by stating that an impromptu meeting had been held the week prior including himself, Interim City Manager Pritchett, Superintendent Duarte, and others where issues regarding the project arose that he felt needed to be brought to the council.

Superintendent Duarte opened with the notion that the general contractor initially estimated \$1 million in construction fees and a request was made by TCISD to have some of the fees adjusted. To date, the district has paid approximately \$1,201,470.36. The district is requesting a waiver of the remainder of the fees.

***Councilmember Yancy returned at 4:12 p.m.*

Interim City Manager Pritchett gave an overview of the fees, permits, and progress that had been assessed and paid for at the time of the meeting, including but not

limited to additional reviews, pre-development and pre-construction meetings prior to the start of the project, as well as ongoing development meetings as the project progresses.

Discussions regarding the city's fee schedule ensued, including a conversation regarding the timeline of the city's Schedule of Fees update in 2022 in relation to the timeline of the bond passing.

Fire Chief Merryman identified that there have been five (5) plan reviews by the Fire Marshall's office for this project to date. The fee assessed includes the initial review and one "recheck". However, reviews three through five (3-5) were not assessed charges.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian referred to the construction of another Texas City ISD project, Sarah Giles Middle School, that was initially intended to be constructed in the City of La Marque but ultimately was constructed in the City of Texas City due to financial constraints. He asked the school board if the valuation is comparable to the current project.

Board member Paul shared that their current Calvin Vincent Early Childhood Center is being built in Texas City, and the district only paid about \$178,000 in fees to the city.

Superintendent Duarte clarified that the current team was not in place at the time of the construction of the Sarah Giles Middle School.

Councilmember Yancy stated, "I am a teacher and I do understand what education is facing due to the loss of public funds." She asked the attorney to see if the city could possibly utilize funds from the city's Certificate of Obligation Bonds that were dedicated to drainage, to help offset some of the costs.

City Attorney Knebel shared that this is not something he would be able to answer today, as it depends on what the covenants of the bond were.

Councilmember Yancy requested a monthly report regarding the progress of this project.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to direct staff to provide options to absorb the permitting and plan review costs for 397 Duroux and all auxiliary facilities.

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

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

7. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

8. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no requests or announcements.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.*