



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
AMENDED MINUTES
of
August 11, 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

Joseph Lowry

Tonia Griffin

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem/District B

District A

District C

District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Monsignor Anderson of Queen of Peace Church gave the invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Compian led the pledge.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.I. Certificate of Appreciation: Queen of Peace

Monsignor Anderson received the Certificate of Appreciation for Queen of Peace Church.

4.II. Certificate of Recognition: Monsignor James B. Anderson

Mayor Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Compian presented Monsignor Anderson with a certificate of recognition celebrating 47 years of religious service.

4.III. Proclamation: National Water Quality Month

Public Works Director Shannon Breau accepted the National Water Quality Month Proclamation on behalf of the department.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Otto ***declined to give his last name or address*** said that he has observed something terrible and he believes it is casting a dark shadow across the city. He stated that outside of town everyone can see what is going on here, many of the efforts to quell the shame happening in the city have not gone unnoticed.
- Clarence Caldwell ***declined to give address*** spoke to correct something he stated at a previous meeting, the dike price is only \$10 not \$20 as previously stated. He also spoke of his discontent with residents who do not pick up their trash cans after garbage pickup, citing it as a hazard, stating that it is more

prevalent on Fridays. He also spoke to the Friday service, causing destruction to the trash lids. He thanked everyone for solving his problem from the last meeting and asked everyone to be blessed.

- Robert Harvey ***declined to give address*** spoke to his discontent with the council considering to "violate people's rights." He said if anyone on the council does not want their bad behavior criticized, change the behavior or move into private sector work. He asked for the council to stop crying about people coming in to speak, grow thicker skin, or leave.
- Vanessa McAfee ***declined to give address*** welcomed Ms. Holly and spoke to the vegetation on the powerlines, stating that residents need assistance, and she was pleasantly surprised that there were no complaints about water pressure. She thanked the Council for setting up a meeting with the Economic Development Corporation to discuss COVID-19 grants. She requested an investigation into the police chief.
- Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) stated that the presented budget was horrible. He will be turning in two ethics complaints, one for unauthorized travel, and another regarding the city clerk allegedly not responding to open records. He spoke about his discontent with the budget, and the public safety building costs.
- Hayley Winkelmann ***declined to give address*** welcomed Interim City Manager Holly, and she looks forward to her sharing Urban Planning knowledge. She identified areas of debris and shared discontent with the state of ditches in her neighborhood. She shared her discontent with her councilmember and his perceived lack of action while on council. She was disappointed in the budget process and stated that individuals are not being held accountable, "curbing freedom of speech during public comments because someone can dish it but can't take it don't call the fire department when you keep lighting the fire."
- Re'Chard Loftis ***declined to give address*** requested that the council focus on the business they were elected to do.

6. MINUTES

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

6.I. Special Joint City Council Economic Development Minutes 07.28.2025

6.II. Special City Council Budget Minutes 08.05.2025

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0015

Robert Michetich stated that there has not been another meeting of the Public Safety Building Committee. He stated that there was not a location selected, and he stated that the council would be raising the tax rate. He said no one was going to vote for this, and he is against it. This is not the way to do it.

Jonathan Frels, representative of the city's bond counsel Bracewell, stated that levying the tax only occurs once the debt is issued.

Re'Chard Loftis is "all for" a new station. However, he needs the actual numbers and the location. He is totally against any police station moving to the west side of the city. He is aware the city is looking to purchase land from Texas City ISD, but he has heartburn about "buying our land back" because that land originally belonged to the citizens of La Marque and the city has already given the entity \$300,000.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0014

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0014.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.II. Employee Handbook

This item was pulled from consideration.

8.III. Boards and Commissions Appointments

Councilmember Lowry nominated Laura Divine for the Ordinance Review Committee.

Mayor Bell nominated Felix Brown for the Building Standards Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***After City Manager's Report Mayor Bell withdrew his nomination and reappointed Felix Brown to the Special events. Councilmember Griffin seconded.*
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.IV. Ex-Officio Positions

No action taken.

8.V. Unified Town Hall

Councilmember Griffin stated her belief that it would be more beneficial to the residents to have one town hall and that it would have a better turnout. She identified that Councilmember Yancy had previously recommended either September or October.

October 4th and 9th were presented as potential dates.

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to host a unified town hall on October 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the central station with a professional facilitator. Councilmember Yancy seconded.

Councilmember Yancy recommended inviting the schools and community partners to be vendors.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0015

Discussions regarding the timing of this item ensued with staff identifying that August 18, 2025 is the very last day this item could be placed on the November 4, 2025, ballot.

Councilmember Lowry stated that he believes if this is put on the ballot it will fail. He recommends looking at Certificates of Obligation and stated that the city needs to act fast as there are potential issues with the condition of the current workspace. When asked to clarify his position he stated that "the forensic audit is going to be a major part."

Mayor Bell clarified concerns about a tax increase, stating that the tax rate would have to be set prior to the November election. Therefore, this would not constitute a tax increase. He agreed with Councilmember Lowry's statement that the city needs to act quickly and believed the way to do that would be to give the public the option in November.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that this item be taken to the voters in May. A recommendation from the Public Safety Building Committee was requested. Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to reset this item to Monday, August 18, 2025. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0016

***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 7:41 p.m. and returned at 7:43 p.m.*

***Councilmember Yancy exited the meeting at 7:42 p.m.*

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0016. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES (BELL/ COMPIAN/ GRIFFIN) 1 ABSENT (YANCY) AND 1 ABSTENTION (LOWRY).**

9.III. Ordinance No. O-2025-0017

***Councilmember Yancy returned at 7:44 p.m.*

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0017. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.IV. Resolution No. R-2025-0034

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0034. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Contract: Special Election

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to defer this item. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. Easement

Interim City Manager Holly stated that she would not sign blanket easement as it precludes vertical development.

Rick Garcia of LNV, Inc. clarified that this is a temporary easement that will be corrected at a later date.

9.VII. Approval of Change Order #12 - Citywide Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Change Order #12 submitted by Southern Trenchless Solutions, LLC. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VIII. Special Events Committee

Discussions were held to establish who the members of the special events

committee were. City Clerk Nance clarified that the members were not named; the council appointed "the chairperson or their designee" of the Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission, Parks Board, and Economic Development Corporation. The Committee also included the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and representatives of the city administration, communications, and finance departments, as well as two (2) at large positions.

Mayor Bell asked if the committee was intended to include representatives of the public safety divisions.

City Clerk Nance clarified that while that was in the initial proposal, it was later determined that the public safety divisions would be available if called upon, but were not necessary for the planning portions.

Chairperson Loftis requested that a meeting be scheduled for the following week. City Clerk Nance identified that there are tentative dates that are prepared. However, the official date would be determined by the result of the City Council's budget meeting the following day, as the council requested additional dates.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

9.IX. Purchasing - Mobile Command Terminals

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the useful life of the terminals. Chief Aragon clarified that the useful life is approximately three (3) to five (5) years.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested an inventory list with the useful life of the items included.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Item 10.III was pulled for discussion.

10.I. June 2025 Water Loss Report

Stood as submitted.

10.II. June 2025 Storm Water Report

Stood as submitted.

10.III. Ordinance Review Committee

Committee Member Ross stated that the committee has had two meetings and has decided to begin with the zoning ordinances for review. The committee is requesting that the council provide the committee with a mission statement as well as any recommended areas of review.

10.IV. Items for the Good of the Order

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*****Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.***

11.I. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - La Marque EDC vs. Texas City Terminal Railroad Company Cause No. 20-CV-0633

11.II. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - Bond Elections

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:46 p.m.*

12.I. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - La Marque EDC vs. Texas City Terminal Railroad Company Cause No. 20-CV-0633
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute a settlement agreement. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12.II. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - Bond Elections
No action taken.

13. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Griffin stated that she loved getting acquainted with District D and the residents. She had approximately two (2) more things she wanted to order for the district.

Councilmember Lowry welcomed the residents to attend the meet-and-greet with the Interim City Manager, and thanked the residents for participating in the budget workshop. He asked that attention be given to the ditches in District C and shared that he knows who to call to get the roadway patched.

Councilmember Yancy stated that Robin Armstrong is having a meet-and-greet on August 14th and encouraged everyone to learn who their county commissioners are, as there are now three for the City of La Marque. She issued congratulations to Ms. Vera Bell Gary for having a building named after her.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave some brief updates regarding potential storms, and encouraged everyone to prepare just in case, as "these things can turn on a dime." He shared love and light with the schools in the area, asking everyone to be safe on the roads, and thanked Monsenior Anderson for allowing the council to utilize the Queen of Peace for the most recent retreat.

Mayor Bell reiterated that there would be a meet and greet for the Interim City Manager on August 18th, as well as a final discussion regarding general obligation bonds. He also requested a finance committee.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.*