



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
July 28, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Keith Bell	Mayor
Joe Compian	Mayor Pro Tem/District B
Kimberley Yancy	District A
Joseph Lowry	District C
Tonia Griffin	District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave the invocation and City Attorney Knebel led the pledge.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.I. Certificate of Commendation- Jennifer Johnson

Chief Aragon presented Ms. Jennifer Johnson with a Certificate of Commendation for reporting a situation. She observed an unsafe situation and reported it to law enforcement, which led to the removal of three (3) children from an unsafe living condition. Ms. Johnson also received a gift basket presented to her by the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association from Raising Canes, who heard this story and wanted to show their appreciation.

Ms. Johnson stated that she gives all glory to God, because it was him who put it on her heart to call the La Marque Police Department.

4.II. Certificate of Appreciation - Queen of Peace

This item was asked to be postponed as representatives of Queen of Peace were not available.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Sandra Hofstatter (1402 W. Crockett St.) shared that Hurricane Beryl took the street sign near her home, and one year later it has not been replaced.
- Richard Holcomb (*no address provided*) shared that he is tired of beating an old drum about the Mahan Boat Ramp. The water is beautiful, and the fish are biting, but there is still a chain across the boat ramp. He also spoke about item 9.IX, asking the council to remember they represent the citizens of La Marque,

not other cities. He asked the Mayor to speak with the Texas Department of Transportation and other contractors to clean up the concrete debris in the roadways and grass from the street repairs. "The job isn't done until the cleanup is done."

- Amparo Avila (805 Kenneth St.) stated that she has been a resident for the past 24 years. She has two concerns: there is a waterline near her house that is continually having an issue. She also expressed concern about the change in elevation of Kenneth St. She stated that there will be water in their homes as the streets in the area drain onto their street.
- Hayley Winkelmann (Bowie St.) also shared concerns regarding the debris left by the Texas Department of Transportation. She is thankful that the COVID grants will be audited. She announced that she was mistaken in an earlier statement about the city feeds getting hacked. She thought it was YouTube, but it was the Zoom presentation. She spoke of concerns regarding the timing of certain investigations, asserting Civil Rights violations.
- David Pennington (924 Cypress) requested that the city do an audit of all COVID grant funds, stating that it was taxpayer money and the taxpayers have the right to know where it went. He also shared concerns regarding a sitting Councilmember serving as a voting member of the Economic Development Corporation.
- Clara Holcomb (*no address provided*) stated that it is a shame to drive through the city and see how "trashy" it has become. All citizen comments and council comments should be about what benefits the city, not personal feelings. She requested the council review the recall process in the event the petition fails. There is a new movement gaining momentum to flush out corruption in local government.
- Clarence Caldwell (3603 Prairie St.) shared concerns regarding trashcans in the streets. He shared concerns regarding street depth and speed limit signs. He asked for the residents of La Marque to receive "Dike Passes" in the City of Texas City. He asked everyone to get along and get it together because, "we are grownups."
- Michael "Rock" Bock (Longridge) stated his assertion that the reason an entity that has their own brand would want to take over the Bayou Fest name, and he can think of 60,000 reasons. He asked that the \$10,000 donation that goes into that fund be redirected to the Special Events fund, and the pipeline donation be sent to the Highland Bayou park maintenance fund. He requested the council direct the City Attorney to make these contract amendments.
- Ivy Strong (3123 Steveroy) invited each and every Councilmember along with the Public Works Director and Engineering Part to visit her street. She stated that the work done was subpar. She stated that the Public Works Director did visit after her last meeting, and she is grateful and had no complaints. However, the contractor's "fix" was ineffective. She also spoke about the debris that was left. She spoke regarding the rainwater pooling in front of her home.
- Carl Beard (620 Widgeon Cove) stated that he hates to keep having to address the council at every meeting. He spoke of a Councilmember's online statement that he has PTSD, which is not accurate, but also very disrespectful to the other veterans who do have that illness. He shared concerns regarding a

Councilmember who allegedly profited off of information received by the council.

- Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) said that there are statements that are totally incorrect about the Chief of Police. He spoke of inaccurate statements regarding a certain councilmember. He also spoke regarding a different Councilmember's alleged "7-day vacation" taken on the city's dime.

***Councilmember Yancy, in a point of personal privilege, stated that was not true.*

- Carolyn Small (1121 Prune St.) stated that earlier in the day the city's YouTube page was hacked with an offensive image and the video is still online.
- Robert Harvey (*no address given*) provided information regarding a councilmember's personal litigation "stating that a judge in Washington did more to protect the citizens in Texas, than anyone in Texas has". He also spoke to activities on Facebook. He stated that the images from the hack today make the city look even worse than it already does.

***Councilmember Lowry, in a point of personal privilege, stated that the allegations were false and are under appeal.*

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.I. Presentation - nVent

Steve Swetz stated that nVent is a \$3.3B company that is looking to move to the City of La Marque. Beeco, the former name of the location, was founded in the City of La Marque in 1972. In 2002, the company moved to Hitchcock, then nVent purchased the company in 2024. The current Hitchcock location does approximately \$40M in revenue. Due to the La Marque location having been vacant for over 6 months, nVent will have to reapply for zoning, and he is asking for expedited processing.

He is currently looking for additional staffing, as they have 180 employees in the Hitchcock facility and are continuing to grow.

6.II. Presentation- Collaborate : Vision 2050

Chris Kay of Collaborate gave a brief summary presentation of the Vision 2050 plan, thanking the City and EDC for the invitation. He stated that various meetings were held with stakeholders. He stated that the previous strategic plan was completed in 2015, identifying 12 critical issues that the City had addressed either in whole or in part at the time of the creation of the Vision 2050 plan.

There were four steps to the process of creating the plan: Data Research, SWOT Analysis, Visioning Concepts, and Guiding Principles.

***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 7:29 pm and returned at 7:35 pm.*

7. MINUTES

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

7.I. Council Retreat 07.22.2025

7.II. Regular City Council Minutes 12.09.2024

7.III. Special City Council Minutes 11.18.2024

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.I. Vision 2050

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to accept the Vision 2050 plan as presented by Collaborate. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Prior to taking this item, Mayor Bell addressed a concern regarding the ordinance not being attached to the supporting documents.

City Clerk Nance identified that she was not in office at the time of agenda distribution. However, it is the responsibility of her office. The agenda was drafted and completed by the Deputy City Clerk who was not present at the time of the meeting to give an explanation. She identified that this will be researched and addressed at the staff level.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that this item be postponed until the next meeting.

Councilmember Lowry concurred with the reasoning of Mayor Pro Tem Compian. Councilmember Lowry questioned if this would be put to a vote of the residents of Omega Bay.

City Attorney Knebel shared that it is not in the interest of the city to determine how the rights of way will be made public.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

9. NEW BUSINESS

***New Business was taken after Executive Session.*

9.I. Awarding RFQ - Financial Consultancy Services

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve a contract with Stifel Public Finance for financial consultancy services. Councilmember Griffin seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.II. Budget Workshop Presentations

Members of the Council requested that Bond Counsel, Waste Management, Auditors, and Drainage District 2 be contacted for presentations.

9.III. Public Safety Building

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that this item be considered for a May election.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to authorize the preparation of general obligation bond election documents at the zero (0) tax rate increase amount of approximately \$17 million.

Councilmember Lowry questioned why the cost doubled from the last time and stated that if the bond fails, the city will have to wait three (3) years.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

Mayor Bell clarified that this is just a tool to keep the conversation moving forward.

Councilmember Yancy declared that the officers have waited a very long time for this, and she hopes the council moves in the right direction.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.IV. Coastal Community Federal Credit Union (CCFCU) Back-to-School Bash 2025

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to waive permit fees for the Coastal Community Federal Credit Union annual Back-to-School Bash. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Purchasing

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to authorize the purchase of a Utility Terrain Vehicle utilizing the FY25 SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. Purchasing

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to authorize the sole source purchase of an Axon Drone as First Responder System under FY24 SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VII. Purchasing

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to authorize the purchase of a Mobile Surveillance Trailer from Wireless CCTV, LLC under FY24 SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VIII. Employee Handbook

Human Resource Manager Mikala Halbrook clarified that the city currently uses a handbook from 2013, and there is a draft in review with department heads. Mayor Bell suggested that the council review the current handbook and submit their recommendations to the City Clerk to present to Human Resources and legal to bring back to the next agenda.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

9.IX. Citizen's Participation

Mayor Bell opened the discussion by stating "We find ourselves in the gulf between free speech and what is appropriate".

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that residents have asked why individuals who do not live in the city have the same privileges as residents.

Councilmember Lowry stated that there has to be a happy medium, as he is a big supporter of the First Amendment, but he has an issue with outside agitators coming into the meetings using profanity and speaking about councilmembers' wives, and more.

Mayor Bell agreed that some of it is inappropriate. Many individuals have come before the council and spoke about both his mayorship and personal situations. He believes that individuals should be allowed to speak on items on the agenda, actions of a Councilmember in their official capacity, and/or relevant city business or operations. Speaking about councilmembers' families, pasts, or

personal lives is unacceptable.

Councilmember Yancy requested that this not only be open to residents, but also to business owners.

City Attorney Knebel shared that he is comfortable providing further clarification against personal attacks. He urged the council to take caution in prohibiting members of the public to speak since the statute requires the body to allow the public to redress the government.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that the comments be split. First, a citizen's participation would be for addressing agenda items, and another at the end of the meeting to address other concerns.

Councilmember Yancy shared that the council could try the split comments and if the body does not like it, "put it back".

Mayor Bell feared that splitting the comments could be seen as an act of suppression.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9.X. Ex-Officio Positions

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9.XI. Discretionary Spending

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9.XII. Drainage District # 2

Councilmember Griffin made a motion for the city enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Galveston County Drainage District #2. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XIII. Unified Town Hall

Councilmember Griffin felt that the council was on the right track by working together for the citizens. She believes that it would benefit the Mayor and Council to have a unified town hall to represent the unified stance that the council has taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to host a unified town hall for all districts. Councilmember Lowry seconded.

Councilmember Yancy recommended an October date.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Pro Tem Compian pulled item 10.III

10.I. June 2025 Municipal Court Stats

Stood as submitted.

10.II. July 2025 Sales Tax Revenue

Stood as submitted.

10.III. Texas H.B. 1522 New Legislation for Agenda Postings

City Clerk Nance shared that the Texas Legislature has changed the posting schedule for agendas from 72 hours to three (3) business days.

10.IV. Items for the Good of the Order

Interim City Manager Miller shared that the City has obtained new equipment to address the sound concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian apologized for an unfortunate event that transpired on the city's livestream earlier in the day.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the regular meeting and entered into executive session at 8:01 P.M.*

11.I. Section 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices)

11.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

11.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the executive session and reconvened the Regular meeting at 10:26 p.m.*

12.I. Section 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices)

NO ACTION TAKEN.

12.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion for the council to initiate discussions with Schwartz Associates to begin a damage quantification. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to appoint Barbara Holly as Interim City Manager with the request that she meet individually with each Councilmember within the first 14 days of hire. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

Councilmember Yancy shared Ms. Holly's credentials were verified by Texas First Group.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Griffin requested a discussion on ditches.

Councilmember Lowry thanked Amy Miller for her service to the city and for the overnight repair of the pothole on Cedar.

Councilmember Yancy declined requests and announcements.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian thanked the residents of Duroux and Corbett for taking the time out of the day and being a part of their government. They reminded the community that the business of city government is the basics. He thanked the council and Texas First Group for their service.

Mayor Bell requested that the tentative language the council agreed upon be added to the next agenda for adoption. He apologized to the residents of Omega Bay for the delay in approving of their financing plan. He stated that the bible says "everything that is lawful is not expedient." The council needs to cement their expectations by

resolution. He also reiterated that the council voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Barbara Holly to Interim City Manager. Ms. Miller has done a splendid job, and he thanked her for her service.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 pm.*