



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
July 21, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Bell gave the invocation and Information Technology (IT) Technician Avery Bowers led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Robert Harvey (***declined to provide address*) recognized a devastating loss to the Galveston County community as Facebook has deleted two pages associated with a councilmember. He encouraged others not to provide their addresses in this forum as he believes it is not safe. He also stated that the police department and sheriff's office are refusing to investigate alleged crimes by a councilmember.

Kennisha Chapman (***declined to provide address*) stated that she has been branded as a thief by law enforcement. She stated that the negativity has to stop. La Marque used to be a fun place for the kids; it's not about the adults.

Re'Chard Loftis (Johnson St.) welcomed everyone and questioned the air conditioner situation in the council chambers, stating that the temporary units are a safety hazard. It is hot and unacceptable that the community has to come in week after week in this condition. He stated that the city has been discussing a grapple truck for years, and he wants to know when it is going to happen. "If we can get away from the BS that's going on we probably could do some work around here". He is tired of it and others will support. He took it upon himself to get a quote for a grapple truck and acknowledged that he is "not making any money off of this". He is tired of seeing limbs on the roadway.

James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) shared his concerns regarding the signatures regarding signing checks. He sees that the Mayor is an exception and cannot sign the checks, but he believes that it is misleading to have him listed. He does not believe he should be there, as it looks as if he could violate the charter even though he has no ability.

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) agreed with Mr. Osteen, there should not be any

councilmembers on the financial accounts. There has been a lot of negativity posted online about the police chief, and he would like to thank the police chief and the officers for doing a good job. He also spoke to travel requests by a Councilmember. He asked that the Councilmember be forward with what was spent.

Hayley Winkelmann (1413 Bowie) announced that she was 8 signatures short of her recall petition, and she had refiled. She recited a list of grievances against the councilmember. She adores the city parks, and watches the parks board meetings, and would have applied but does not feel that it is safe. She asked about the West Side City Park, Mahan Football field, and asked that the copier be fixed at the library.

Richard Holcomb (2708 Magnolia) asked about the Mahan Park Windstorm certificate, requesting access to the boat ramp. He hopes that there was not anything going on since the Finance Director, City Manager, and Interim City Manager are leaving. He believes that this is a good reason that the city needs a forensic audit. He hopes that the next person that is selected to the City Manager position is qualified.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1. Boards and Commissions Appointments

Councilmember Lowry nominated Jeremiah Ovalles to the Youth Advisory Council. Councilmember Griffin seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Resolution No. R-2025-0033

Mayor Bell clarified that he never requested to be added to the resolution as the discussion was purely about the addition of Fire Chief Merryman and Police Chief Aragon.

City Clerk Nance confirmed Mayor Bell's account, and clarified that the Mayor's position has historically been listed on the account.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated his opinion that each signatory should be bonded, and no elected officials should be included.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0033 listing City Clerk Kierra Nance, Police Chief Randall Aragon, and Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Chief David Merryman as signatories and bonded for an amount of \$5,000.00.

Councilmember Griffin seconded.

Councilmember Griffin questioned if this was a temporary listing, it was confirmed that it would be temporary.

Citizen James Osteen read the Emergency Management section of the Code of Ordinances.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. CITY MANAGER REPORT

7.1. 2025 Recall Petition Letter

STOOD AS SUBMITTED.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that he did not support recall provisions and would like a provision to extend the length between petitions. He recommended this be

reviewed by the Ordinance Review Committee.

Mayor clarified that this would need to be reviewed by Charter Review.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the Special meeting and entered into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.*

8.I. Section 551.074 Personnel Matters

8.II. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney

9. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Special Meeting at 7:31 p.m.*

9.I. Section 551.074 Personnel Matters

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that it is at these times that we have to have maximum transparency, and he apologized, stating that this should never have happened. The council had a very calm discussion and the council is focused on finding an Interim City Manager. He stated that the council will focus on finding a company to find and vet this individual. He stated that Ms. Miller will continue to serve in the acting position until this is resolved.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian then made a motion to select Texas First Group to lead the Interim City Manager search. He gave a brief overview of the process of choosing this organization to provide this professional service. Councilmember Lowry seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.II. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney

NO ACTION TAKEN ON THIS ITEM.

10. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Griffin questioned the date of the special Public Works discussion. It was clarified that this would happen on the 28th.

Councilmember Lowry shared that he has concerns regarding his city email, and asked that the Public Works report presented at the last meeting be reviewed and corrected. He thanked Ms. Miller for her service.

Councilmember Yancy requested a copy of the street assessment, and new street signs. She thanked Ms. Miller for her work. She has concerns regarding protocol for the city, and believed that the council should not be finding out information from news reports. She began to ask questions regarding a particular situation and was advised by City Attorney Knebel that the city cannot provide information on active investigations. She asserted that the particular situation is "embarrassing for our city, and it looks very racist." She is asking the community to pray for the city and our "sister city" Texas City. She will defend every department in this city, if they are right. District A will be holding a town hall meeting in September.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian announced that the Council Retreat is scheduled to be hosted the following day at Queen of Peace Church at 10:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for tonight.

Mayor Bell thanked Queen of Peace for their invitation on the following day. He looked forward to the retreat. He thanked Ms. Miller for her sacrifice and service. He asked the Acting City Manager to give a full report of the A/C system and an estimate to repair or replace the system in the Council Chambers. He stated that this had been a good meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.*