



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
December 8, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 1:16 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. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no citizen participation.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the Special meeting and entered into Executive Session at 1:22 p.m.*

4.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

4.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

4.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

5. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Special Meeting at 5:30 p.m.*

5.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to continue the relationship with MillsShirley LLP for another quarter, January to March 2026, and a request for qualifications be presented at the first meeting in January 2026. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to take no action. Councilmember Griffin seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian disclosed that the city council shared their feedback regarding the work of the City Clerk and requested additional communications regarding the role of the office.

Mayor Bell requested an agenda item under the City Manager's Report to include the City Clerk's Report for the foreseeable future, to address concerns in real time regarding laws, policies, and procedures. He also requested a formalized policy regarding Public Information Requests designated for public safety. He also requested a series of informational videos in connection with the communications division regarding the laws surrounding the department. These requests are to be completed by the end of March.

MOTION CARRIED 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).

5.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to maintain the relationship through the six-month period of engagement, and the council immediately began the search for a qualified search firm in order to begin the search for a permanent city manager. Councilmember Lowry seconded.

Councilmember Yancy shared that she wishes to extend the current contract as the city needs stability, and "we are not out of the woods yet."

Both Councilmember Yancy and Mayor Pro Tem Compian acknowledged that she has been an invaluable resource to the community.

Mayor Bell shared his thoughts regarding the progress that has been made under the leadership of Interim City Manager Holly. He believes that today the city finds itself with more work than when Ms. Holly arrived, the need for transition, and concerns regarding the police department, including a lack of a Police Chief.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he acknowledges there is additional work that needs to be done. However, the city is paying a premium for her experience.

Finance Director Worth Ferguson shared that the current contract is worth approximately \$180,000 annually. He identified that the City Manager in Dickinson, TX, a comparable nearby city, recently hired a new City Manager, approximately \$205,000. He did not have any additional statistics for nearby cities. However, he announced that it could be brought at a later time.

Discussions regarding timelines ensued.

Councilmember Yancy would like to see someone who has experience take the city through the next budget cycle, as she believes that is critical.

Discussions regarding the timeliness of this item and the transitional contract ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that, fundamentally, the city cannot afford to extend the contract for another six months as there is not only the \$180,000 in salary, but the city is also responsible for the Interim City Manager's housing costs.

Mayor Bell believes that the issue "is a wash" as the city is not paying for benefits and additional incentives.

***Councilmember Lowry withdrew his second. Motion died for lack of second.*

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to extend the contract for an additional six months to include 45 days of transition with the new city manager.

Councilmember Lowry shared concerns regarding an email claiming alleged illegal conduct by the Interim City Manager and the city council's choice to ignore that.

Mayor Bell stated that the council has the ability to call a meeting and terminate the Interim City Manager if necessary.

Councilmember Griffin seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 3 AYES AND 2 NAYS (COMPIAN/ LOWRY).

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.*