



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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:25 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

All assembled recited the Lord's Prayer and Councilmember Griffin led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Introduction of Communications Coordinator Colleen Chilcoat

Communications Coordinator Colleen Chilcoat was introduced to the public.

4.II. Recognition of Mayor Bell as a recipient of the 2025 G County Award

Councilmember Griffin presented Mayor Bell with the 2025 G-County Award and gave him words of encouragement. Mayor Bell thanked the residents of La Marque for allowing him to represent them for 22 years.

4.III. Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Safety Action Plan

Payton Arens, of the Houston Galveston Area Council, shared that this is part of a project to update the regional safety action plan and develop community action plans for 11 jurisdictions, including the City of La Marque. The concept for this project is to eliminate roadway fatalities. He gave statistics regarding the city's crash data for the last seven years.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that this project began two years ago. He asked if the H-GAC Tow and Go program is a part of this plan, Mr. Arens shared that while it works in tandem with this project, it is not the same.

4.IV. On-Going Public Works Grant Projects Update

Public Works Director Shannon Breaux, Alex Sievers of Grantworks, and Lauren

Kimble from Project Management gave updates.

Ms. Kimble shared that the Zone 6 and 7, 2 inch Waterline Project is 40% complete. This project is approximately \$521,000 under budget and additional project areas are under consideration. It was clarified that this project is fully concentrated in District D.

Councilmember Lowry alleged that there are streets that have had additional lines replaced leading to the home, to which Public Works Director Breaux stated that the city is replacing lines up to the meter and would look into the allegations.

Mr. Sievers shared that the project known as the "Westlawn" project is substantially complete. The "Manhole and Sanitary Sewer" project is scheduled to be completed on January 31, 2027. However, this project is slated to be completed earlier, estimated in Spring 2026. The "Lift Stations and Wastewater Treatment Plant" project is scheduled to be completed on January 31, 2027. This project is to upgrade and increase capacity at up to 21 lift stations. This project is proceeding on schedule. The "Wisteria Drainage Project" is scheduled to close January 31, 2026, and the construction is 100% complete.

Interim City Manager Holly questioned if the General Land Office (GLO) had concerns regarding the City's funding, as that is what has been said in the community. Mr. Sievers clarified that all funded projects are subject to "monitoring." He stated that this is standard, and expected.

Mayor Pro Tem asked clarifying questions regarding certain lift station locations.

Mr. Sievers expressed gratitude to Public Works Director Breaux, Interim City Manager Holly, and Executive Assistant Gailiea Barrera for their work, stating that these projects have never run smoother.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 7:08 p.m.*

- Hayley Winkelmann ***declined to give address*** shared that listening to the council meeting, she was reminded of the Aesop's fable, "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" giving a list of individuals a certain councilmember called "criminals." She stated that, eventually, if you keep stating the same thing without proof, people will stop believing you.
- Reggie Ford ***stated he lives out of state*** and wanted to bring his business back to La Marque. However, the unrest of the council is holding him back. He believed that the Mayor is doing the best he can but is not receiving help from the necessary individuals, such as the attorney. He spoke to an allegation that was made by a councilmember regarding his deceased grandmother.
- Brandon Kantowski (Oaklawn) congratulated Mayor Bell on his award, and spoke of an issue with his neighbor and the police department. He shared his concerns regarding body cam video redaction. He also stated concerns regarding redactions within his police records. He believes he is being punished and the city is "playing the devil's advocate."
- James Ross (Ave B) shared a document he found from a previous City Manager to a previous City Council regarding the city's lack of utility rate increases and resulted as a credit rating downgrade. He clarified that this financial situation has been an ongoing issue. He requested that each councilmember receive a district budget that includes all expenses.

- Devonya Greenwood ***declined to give address*** spoke regarding statements made regarding her deceased family members. She believes that since she has spoken against a certain councilmember she has been under digital warfare. She looks to file charges regarding the situation at hand.
- Robert Harvey ***declined to give address*** congratulated the Mayor for his award and believes that a certain councilmember has harassed his children. ***Mr. Harvey had to reclaim his time due to interruption from the audience.*** He shared multiple instances of what he believes are harassment.
- Natalie Ruiz ***declined to give address*** shared concerns regarding an arrest that happened in May 2025.
- Audrey Cumby ***declined to speak***
- Carl Beard (Texas City, TX) shared his support for the Interim City Manager. He stated that over the last four years the meetings have become increasingly more aggressive. He asked when the city would begin to look for legal remedies to remove the person who he believes is at the center of all the aggression.
- Clarence Caldwell (La Marque, TX) "This dog and pony show needs to come to a stop." He believes that others have said what he wanted to say, but the city cannot even have a decent meeting. He shared concerns regarding the trash pickup and leaving the trashcans in the road and issues with speeding on rural roads.

***Councilmember Lowry returned at 7:45 p.m.*

- Robert Michetich (N Curlew) thanked Councilmember Lowry for bringing certain information to light. He stated that the City Manager has not responded to questions he had asked about a lift station. He claimed that the open records process is "selective" and not getting responses from the City Manager is unacceptable. He believes the council has "spent this city into oblivion and almost bankrupt."
- Re'Chard Loftis ***declined to give address*** would like to know when the city will get back to discussions regarding infrastructure. He stated that the culverts on Stonewall were done poorly. He believes that unless there are qualified people setting up the culverts, the city will never get it right. He informed the public that setting culverts on your own is a misdemeanor and gave photos to the city manager regarding the property he spoke of. He stated the city is going backwards in regard to drainage.
- Shannon Breaux (Meadow Ln) stated that he is tired of Christianity and God being used for personal agendas and to attack others. He believes in taking a stand, speaking against injustice, and speaking against evil. He stated that Jesus may have flipped tables, but he also died for those same people. He recited Romans 12:14 and asked the leaders of the city to lead with peace, wisdom, and integrity.

6. MINUTES

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

6.I. Regular City Council Minutes 10.27.2025

6.II. Special Council Meeting Minutes 07.28.2025

6.III. Special City Council Minutes 07.07.2025

6.IV. Special Joint City Council and Public Safety Building Committee Meeting Minutes
07.07.2025

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearing at 7:56 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0030

There were no public comments.

8. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:56 p.m.*

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0029

Finance Director Worth Ferguson identified that all citizen and council recommendations were taken into consideration. The initial year is significantly lower than the previous proposal. However, it includes the full five-year incremental plan. He believed this would be a good compromise of everyone's goals.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding the rate updates. Discussions regarding water capacity ensued.

Councilmember Yancy asked clarifying questions regarding statements that the bond rating are tied to utility rates. It was determined that there are bonds issued against the utility fund and those dollars are just as important as the general fund. Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0029.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).**

8.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0030

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0030.

Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.III. Boards and Commissions Appointments

***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and returned at 8:13 p.m.*

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Resolution No. R-2025-0046

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0046.

Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Councilmember Yancy exited the meeting at 8:17 p.m.*

Mayor Bell identified that the Texas New-Mexico Power area of the city is primarily on the Eastern portion of the City.

9.II. Request for Qualification 25-0005

***This item was pulled from consideration.*

9.III. Municipal Court Contract Approvals

***Councilmember Yancy returned at 8:22 p.m.*

City Attorney Knebel identified that these are the form contracts. However, since they are council-appointed, they need to be approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to ratify the municipal court contracts. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.IV. Accounting and Financial Services Contract

Finance Director Worth Ferguson said the city received two bids and the grading committee consisted of three members, all of whom selected Cherry Bekeart.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian clarified that this work would be done remotely.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve a contract for accounting and financial services to Cherry Bekeart. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Contract Approval - City's Mobile Coverage and Devices

IT Director Conrad Ferraris recommended transitioning the city from AT&T to T-Mobile. Finance Director Ferguson shared that this would be a cost savings and an increase in service for the city. The city received quotes from AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon. This new contract increases the number of devices, increases the city's compliance, and reduces the cost.

Discussions regarding new devices ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve a contract with T-Mobile for the city's mobile coverage and devices. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. City-Issued Mobile Device Policy

Clarifying questions regarding usage and accessibility ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian to approve a policy for using city-issued mobile devices. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VII. Employee Paid Time Off Policy

Finance Director Ferguson shared that the goal is to both transition to best practice and reduce unfunded liability for the city.

Mayor Bell identified that this is for non-collective bargaining employees.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve an employee paid time off policy. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VIII. H-GAC Safety Action Plan

***This item was removed from consideration.*

9.IX. Change Orders 8 and 9 for GLO Lift Station Rehab

Public Works Director Breaux stated that the change orders are to add Lift Station

#1 which is located at the intersection of Bayou and Scott, and additional time to complete the project.

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the meeting at 8:41 p.m. and returned at 8:45 p.m.*

Councilmember Yancy requested clarification regarding what lift stations do.

Public Works Director Breaux clarified that the lift stations keep the water flowing throughout the city.

Discussions regarding the lift station that services Trails at Woodhaven Lakes, aptly called the "Delaney Lift Station", was deemed as critical and was one of the original three lift stations deemed critical need and was rehabilitated.

***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and returned at 8:51 p.m.*

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to accept Change Orders 8 and 9 for the GLO lift station rehab. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.X. Vacuum Truck Water Pump Repair

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve a repair to the city's vacuum truck and authorized the purchase of the replacement pump from Texas Underground Inc. in the amount of \$29,205. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XI. Microgrant applications

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to apply for Kids Gardening Grant for an amount up to \$750 and the Native Plant Society of Texas \$600.

Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XII. Wildlife Assessment for Parks Master Plan

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to add the Wildlife Assessment to the Parks Master Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XIII. Search for permanent City Manager

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to request a Request for Proposal for a City Manager Search Firm at the January 12 meeting. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).**

9.XIV. Agenda Delivery

Councilmember Lowry requested that the city not hinder his ability to do his job.

Councilmember Yancy stated that if that is a need, and the residents are OK with it, then that is OK. The City stopped delivering packets as a matter of cost savings. She asked that Councilmember Lowry not be a hypocrite in his criticisms.

Mayor Bell supported the idea that Councilmember Lowry be able to receive a physical copy of the agenda. The method of delivery is a function of administration. He also identified that Mayor Pro Tem Compian had offered to

deliver the packets.
NO ACTION TAKEN.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***Items 10.III, 10.IV, 10.VII, and 10.VIII were pulled for discussion.*

10.I. September and October 2025 Water Loss Report
Stood as submitted.

10.II. October 2025 Municipal Court Stats
Stood as submitted.

10.III. City Clerk Annual Report
Stood as submitted.

10.IV. Finance Report
Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding unpaid bills, utility payments, and grants accounts.

10.V. Grants Update
Stood as submitted.

10.VI. Impact Fees
Stood as submitted.

10.VII. Delaney Cove Traffic Study
Interim City Manager Holly is looking to speak with Amazon regarding this area. She was quoted \$400,000 for a traffic study, and the consideration of stop signs in the area.
Mayor Bell identified that the business is not following the approved traffic plan and requested that the traffic patterns be corrected.

10.VIII. Youth Advisory Council Update
Interim City Manager Holly and City Clerk Nance shared that the Youth Advisory Council had not met a quorum.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian recommended possibly moving the council's meeting dates to Saturdays to allow for better attendance. When questions regarding staff participation, it was recommended by the Mayor that this board potentially be liaised by the Library due to scheduling.

10.IX. HGSD Grant for Satellite Leak Detection Survey Approved
Stood as submitted.

10.X. Items for the Good of the Order
Interim City Manager Holly shared that a new Capital Improvements Plan is underway.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

13. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Griffin thanked the residents, volunteers, coordinators, and Mayor Pro Tem Compian for assistance in the first citywide community Thanksgiving Drive-thru. The coordinators are excited and looking forward to planning for next year. She has shared some maintenance issues in District D with Interim City Manager Holly. She has identified several volunteer projects over the last six months and looks forward to working with Keep La Marque Beautiful, the Garden Club and other volunteers. She has identified beautification grants that she is looking to bring to the council in February. Councilmember Lowry thanked TxDOT for the cleanup work they have done on the I-45 feeder road. He would like updates regarding drainage in District C. He asked for documentation from Interim City Manager Holly regarding council eligibility. He asked everyone to support the family of Sergeant Garcia at this time. He asked for prayers for the city and elected officials.

Councilmember Yancy stated that everyone deserves forgiveness and redemption. She thanked the city for the new lights on Edgar St. She shared that one of the areas of blight in the city has been renovated thanks to the Building Standards Committee. She also acknowledged the passing of Sergeant Richard Garcia. The previous Saturday was Vera Bell Gary's 100th birthday and she attended the celebration. She congratulated Councilmember Griffin and Mayor Pro Tem Compian for the Thanksgiving Drive-thru. She wished her mother a Happy Early Birthday, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian sent prayers for the Garcia family. He recognized the opening of 7Brew in the city, and thanked Councilmember Griffin for the collaboration in both the Thanksgiving Drive-thru and Christmas event. He announced Wreaths Across America on December 13th as well as the Galveston Blue Santa parade. He said each person on the dias has a special and unique light, and he wished everyone a Happy and joyous Christmas and New Year.

Mayor Bell also wished a happy birthday to Ms. Vera Bell Gary, who has had a big year, recognizing the family support center that was named after her, and 100 years of life. He shared the devastation of the passing of Sergeant Richard Garcia. It is not often that an entire community has good sentiments about an officer who served that community, and there has not been a single person who has not stated that Sergeant Garcia was a great officer. He shared that the Nutcracker Christmas Village was a success and the city is considering having the event return next year. He reiterated Wreaths Across America on December 13th. He announced the new direct shuttle from the Texas City Terminal to the Galveston Terminal. Mayor Bell requested a review of the La Marque 2050 plan, Heroes Village, and the Civic Academy. He also requested a Proclamation for the La Marque High School Varsity Football team. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 2025 was a year of storms in the community, but "we are here, still standing" and stronger than the storm. He asked that in 2026 the community work towards finding a solution. It has been a pleasure to serve with each person on the council and the appointed officials.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

*****Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.***