



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
January 12, 2026**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:02 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

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

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Proclamation: National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Mayor Bell read a proclamation honoring National Trafficking Prevention Month.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Joe A. Hix Sr. (Volney St) spoke regarding ditch excavation. He also shared concerns regarding the cost of water bills, and the explanation he received from the utility billing department.
- Ted Hill (Texas City, TX) shared good news, "God loves you." He continued by stating that God wants the conflict to stop, "cease hostilities." He stated that the town is too small to continue in turmoil. He wants La Marque to be the place where his glory is restored.
- Nathan Evy and Nick Frienchet (Medium Pace, LLC) requested that certain permitting fees be waived for a project that they are looking to develop.
- James Ross (Ave D) spoke regarding assertions made in a recall petition against the Mayor. He believes some of the statements made in the affidavit constitute tampering with a government document. He believes this is something to be followed up on by city administration, not the citizens.

- Augie Molis (Spoonbill Ln) wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that the new streetlights along the 1765 corridor do not work. He also spoke of a foul smell coming from the sewer holes in his neighborhood and spoke of a public safety issue regarding shrubbery at a particular intersection.
- Alexa Cross (Sable Terrace Ln) spoke regarding the entrance to Delany Cove, and requested a new traffic study be done in the area. She stated that the current construction in the area is causing additional traffic in the neighborhood. She has requested that the flashing light at their entrance be turned into a stoplight.
- Ivan Langford (White Heron Dr) presented the Council with a historical artifact from the Dickinson Historical Society, a newspaper article from the Historical Buttermilk Junction Festival.
- Robert Michetich (N Curlew) requested that the secondary polling location of the La Marque Fire Administration be opened for the May election. He stated that the council has never voted on the Delany Cove treatment expansion. He stated that money has been given to a developer that takes away from updates to another lift station.
- Re'Chard Loftis ***declined to give address*** requested a study on signage in the city, and additional training for staff so they can recognize when these items need to be corrected. He stated that he had been requesting information from when his son was illegally detained at gunpoint. He also spoke to an email requesting that he be arrested for utilizing his free speech.
- Michael Bock (Longridge) read an email he received. He spoke regarding lack of quorum stating that the city needs to show respect to the boards and commissions.
- Clarence Caldwell ***declined to give address*** shared concerns regarding his neighbors not collecting their trash cans. He also spoke to the fact that areas of the city are dark, and people parking on the roads prevents public safety access in cases of emergency.
- Robert Harvey ***declined to give address*** spoke to an incident involving a councilmember and their spouse that resulted in him having to use self defense. He also shared concerns regarding his belief that he is being stalked, and has had his first amendment rights violated by this particular councilmember. He does not understand why the police are not doing anything.
- Gloria De La Cerde (Main St) shared concerns regarding new sidewalks. She stated that since the sidewalks have been installed there have been sewer backups in the area. She is asking for a point of contact, consistent messaging, and more information.
- Natalie Ruiz ***declined to give address*** believes that there are issues within "the system" as the government system is failing from the ground up and top down. She shared a series of tips for how to engage in democracy.
- BZ Watchdog ***declined to give address*** spoke regarding patterns displayed by a certain councilmember, who he believes is using their position to influence police action. He spoke to bodycam footage that is being withheld from the public and demanded transparency and accountability.

6. MINUTES

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.I. Special City Council Minutes 12.08.2025

6.II. Regular City Council Minutes 12.08.2025

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearings at 7:06 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0029
There was no public comment.

8. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:07 p.m.*

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0029
Councilmember Griffin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0029. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.II. Boards and Commissions
There was no public comment.
Mayor Bell nominated Fiona Lane to TIRZ Board and Alan Honish to Planning & Zoning. Councilmember Griffin seconded nominations. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
Councilmember Yancy nominated Orlando Archibald to Planning & Zoning. Councilmember Griffin nominated Sade Williams to Planning & Zoning. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the nominations. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Resolution No. R-2026-0001
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2026-0001. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.II. Election Contract
Councilmember Griffin made a motion to ratify a contract with the Galveston County Elections Division to conduct the City of La Marque General Election on May 2, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.
A brief discussion regarding a request for the use of the Fire Administration Building as a polling location ensued.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.III. Request for Qualifications - City Attorney and Prosecutorial Services
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the request for

qualifications for city attorney and prosecutorial services. Councilmember Griffin seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he would like to remove the prosecutorial services. It was determined that, per the city ordinances, these services are connected.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.IV. Request for Proposal - City Manager Recruitment

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the issuance of a request for proposal/qualifications for a city manager recruitment firm.

Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Awarding Construction Contract for Citywide Lift Station Upgrade - Package No. 2

***Councilmember Lowry exited at 7:18 p.m.*

Public Works Director Shannon Breaux clarified that this project will complete and additional 7 lift stations, for a total of 11 out of 22 lift stations to be completed.

Brent Berthier, ADICO Engineering, clarified that this project was awarded to the second-lowest bidder, as the lowest bidder did not have the necessary experience to complete this work.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked that the locations of the lift stations be included.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to award the construction contract for the Citywide Lift Station Upgrade - Package No. 2 to Matula & Matula Construction. Councilmember Griffin seconded.

Councilmember Yancy requested a list of contractors and subcontractors for this project.

***Councilmember Lowry returned at 7:23 p.m.*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.VI. Certificate of Completion for the ARPA Citywide Asphalt Milling and Overlay Roadway Improvements Project

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the meeting at 7:26 p.m.*

Public Works Director Breaux identified Kenneth, Steveroy, Mar Ann, and McKinney Streets as the area impacted by this project.

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to accept the Certificate of Completion for the ARPA Citywide Asphalt Milling and Overlay Roadway Improvements Project. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 ABSENT (COMPIAN).**

9.VII. New IT Server

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian returned at 7:27 p.m.*

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to authorize the City manager to purchase a new IT server for an amount not to exceed \$500,000. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

IT Director Conrad Ferraris shared that this new IT server is to facilitate the relocation of the La Marque Police Department in order to serve that

operation. The current site will be utilized as a secondary site.

Discussions regarding the 2018 Certificate of Obligation, which will be utilized for this project ensued, including how this project is allowed for these restricted funds. It was determined that these funds are restricted to use regarding the "ABC Buildings" and Police Department, both of which are met through this project.

Councilmember Yancy raised concerns regarding utilizing "Building A" for a police station, as the department needs a new station and this facility was initially intended to be a youth facility.

Discussions regarding the intention of the funding and contract terms ensued. After a lengthy discussion, it was clarified that the 2018 Certificate of Obligation would only pay for the initial costs, and the intent is to absorb the annual fee into the annual departmental budget.

MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).

9.VIII. Budget Priorities

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9.IX. Boards and Commissions

City Clerk Nance shared that there has been a growing concern regarding attendance and participation in the city's boards, commissions, and committees. She shared that the purpose of the agenda item was to gain council input on how to proceed. She proposed recommendations for potentially consolidating some of the groups, reducing the frequency of meetings, and/or appointing more members. She shared that the staff's main concern is regarding quasi-judicial boards, whose lack of meetings are stalling progress within the city.

When asked for a recommendation by Mayor Bell, she recommended considering moving advisory groups to quarterly meetings, and combining the Board of Adjustments with the Planning & Zoning Commission as state law allows for this to be one board.

After clarity regarding the state law for Zoning and Adjustments, City Clerk Nance was asked to bring a proposal to a future meeting.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9.X. Ordinance Review Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to recommission the Ordinance Review Committee. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XI. Events and Promotions

Communications Coordinator Colleen Chilcoat shared that the city is looking to reduce the number of events hosted by the city and provided a proposal for a modified schedule.

The Council shared events and promotions items that were important to each councilmember and discussions related to sponsorship ensued.

Councilmember Yancy recommended that staff take the next 30 days to try to acquire sponsorship for the events for the year and then return to council for

final consideration.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

9.XII. 2026 Holiday Calendar

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the amended 2026 Holiday Calendar. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.XIII. Tree Program

Councilmember Lowry requested that the city look to have a new identity regarding trees. He believes this is an opportunity for everyone to work together and clean the air.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian acknowledged that there is a Tree City USA designation that the city could aspire to.

Councilmember Griffin shared that this is one of the discussions that the Parks Board brought to the council previously; she had provided the information to Interim City Manager Holly.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to bring back information regarding Tree City USA. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***Items 10.I, 10.II, 10.III, 10.V, 10.VI, and 10.VII were pulled for discussion.*

10.I. Civic Academy Update

Communications Coordinator Chilcoat shared that this is a project in progress and the city has identified volunteers to assist with development.

10.II. Delany Lift Station

Clarifications regarding this lift station ensued with Brent Berthier of ADICO Engineering. He identified that this lift station was in "Dyre need of care" and this project was not upgraded as the public has claimed but rehabilitated, as there was only one pump and no backup pump at this lift station. He shared that this was part of the initial GLO rehabilitation package along with 2 other major lift stations.

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the meeting at 8:48 p.m. and returned at 8:49 p.m.*

This project was bid, awarded to the second-lowest bidder due to experience, and was given a "face lift."

Lengthy discussion regarding this project ensued.

10.III. Vision 2050

Mayor Pro Tem Compian acknowledged that the city is encompassed in 4 school districts.

10.IV. Municipal Court Stats

Stood as submitted.

10.V. Active Grants Report

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding the Livable

Centers Grant and the Mahan Boat Ramp Projects.
Discussions ensued regarding clarifications on the grants report.

10.VI. City Clerk Report
Stood as Submitted.

10.VII. Finance Report
Finance Director Ferguson shared that during the software implementation he found issues that should have been found during the prep work phase of this process. He and his team are working to reconcile these items. He is hoping to have this process completed by the end of the month.

10.VIII. Items for the Good of the Order
Interim City Manager Holly announced that city offices are closed January 19th. There have been 34 submissions for the Chief of Police position. On February, 6th the city would be receiving an award for the Arts in the Park program. She announced that Inside La Marque should be reaching residents soon, and announced Bayou Fest on April 10th and 11th. She provided updates on the software implementation and announced upcoming events at the La Marque Public Library.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION
There was no executive session.

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION
No actions were taken.

13. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Councilmember Griffin shared that her birthday is on January 15th.
Councilmember Lowry requested a copy of the police chief applicants. He requested that the city clerk be placed on the next agenda.
Councilmember Yancy requested that Delany Cove traffic concerns be placed on the next agenda. She wished the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta a happy early Founders Day.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian declined to comment.
Mayor Bell requested a follow-up on the sewer backup on Main St. He wished everyone a happy new year, and he is excited about what the year holds for the city. He welcomed everyone to participate in MLK Day of Service.

14. ADJOURNMENT
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
***Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.*