



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Special Minutes
Beginning August 4, 2014 through August 7, 2014**

Minutes of the Special Called Budget Workshops of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas the week of Monday, August 4, 2014 through Wednesday, August 6, 2014 beginning at 10:00 a.m. each day and if necessary, will continue on Thursday, August 7, 2014 and Friday, August 8, 2014 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until adjourned at 1109-B Bayou Road for purpose of considering the following agenda:

(1) Mayor Hocking called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (8.5.2014) Tuesday

(2) ROLL CALL

Mayor Hocking
Mayor Pro-Tem Bell
Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Brown
Councilmember Trube

City Manager Buttler
City Clerk Eldridge

(3) INVOCATION

Mayor Hocking provided the invocation

City Manager explained the results of the report from Galveston County Tax Assessor and Collector. The City has been proposing the same tax rate since 2007. Even though the market values have increased over the years, the tax values of properties have not increased at the same rate. It has to do with the sales tax, part of which is used for property tax relief.

Discussion followed, as some of the surrounding areas are in the same predicament

POLICE

- New look of police vehicles (black and white)
- Radios- working on requests for proposals
- There are three positions still open
- They have reduced the overtime by \$20,000.00 - discussed due to several reasons (staff level, Code Enforcement)
- Software Maintenance - line item 2035 - migration to another software and there is costs associated
- Payroll- increased from last year difference of \$40,000 (due to collective bargaining)



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- Difference with backup (new officers coming in and other tenured officers leaving)
- Conditions the City jail (not budgeted in building maintenance)
- Adequate supervision after hours/someone to be stationed there at night (jailer)
- Medical emergencies may occur
- Cameras in the cells?
- Jail fee considered?
- Rethink "Community Policing"?
- Requirement by Charter the number of police officers- the needs have changed
- Janitorial contract more than half goes to, then extra daily cleaning of cells, based on inmates

Mayor Hocking recessed the Workshop at 11:16 a.m.

Mayor Hocking reconvened the Workshop at 11:30 a.m.

- Animal Control Services (increased from last year) Animal Advisory Committee Representative/Liaison James Osteen said that as Cities drop out of the contract our rates will increase, but the City cannot afford to have its own officer and vehicle, we would still have to pay to take the animals somewhere.
- 250 is the number of animals that are kept at one time at Galveston County
- Option #1 was voted on by City Council previously

Mayor Hocking recessed the Workshop at 12:05 p.m. for lunch

Mayor Hocking reconvened the Workshop at 1:20 p.m.

- Workshop- still dealing with animal control calls
- Emergency Management
- Charts for EOC Wall
- Repairs and Maintenance (Covered facility for trailer)
- Generators (nine)
- Annual Conference
- Child Outreach Fund- no activity-- last was in 2013
- When fully staffed will pick back up
- Drug Seizure Fund
- Money awarded after drug money received, not budgeted

CLEAN CITY FUND

- Five year plan
- Helped with \$8400.00 to demolish houses last year
- Clean City Commission Trailer
- Fall Cleanup possibility



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FIRE/EMS

- Introduced Amber Karshner, Administrative Assistant
- No major changes
- New position- already approved Fire Marshall
- Adjustment to training (ISO)
- Rental expenses increase yearly
- Three vacancies within department
- Repairs maintenance of motor vehicles/aging vehicles
- Replacing new computers that are outdated
- Professional fees- big jump due to Fire Chief salary is under this line item

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- Read over goals and objectives
- Community driven
- No additional staffing proposed
- ISO Rating/ Flood insurance premiums
- Implement the "Good Neighbor" Program
- Weed control and mowing increase
- Legal notices increase for posting unpredictable
- Increasing the demolition line item
- Usage of Inspectors additional – maybe part-time
- Addresses on houses

Mayor Hocking recessed the Workshop at 3:14 p.m.

Mayor Hocking reconvened the Workshop at 4:07 p.m.

COURT

- Continue collecting a great deal through the collection agency
- Technology Fund by state
- Security Fund by state
- Child Safety Fund by state
- Contract with the Prosecutor and Judge no one has said that they want to discuss their agreements
- Court Clerk to be an appointed position or report to the Finance Director or City Manager?
- Ordinances lining out certain positions will be reviewed

FINANCE

- Donations Fund has its own line item
- STW Training



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- Equipment Replacement Fund
- Equipment Maintenance Fund
- Fund Expenditures- 99 Explained (All of Maintenance)
- Lease Purchases- 9111, 9112
- Audit of Hotels and Motels within the City
- Audit of Sales Tax Users

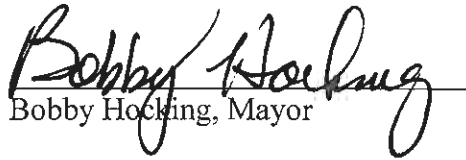
Mayor Hocking recessed the Workshop for dinner at 5:06 p.m.

Mayor Hocking reconvened the Workshop at 6:12 p.m.

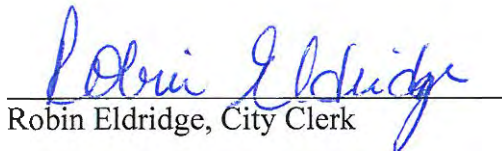
- Debt Service
- 2005 and 2007 Bond principals will be paid out of this
- Possibility of a savings in from of a refund of \$200,000.00 due
- Restricted Fund- on governmental debt side (general) not utility fund

(4) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7: 03 p.m.


Bobby Hocking, Mayor

ATTEST:


Robin Eldridge, City Clerk