



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
February 10, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Keith Bell

Mayor

Joe Compian

Mayor Pro Tem/District B

Kimberley Yancy

District A

Joseph Lowry

District C

James Ross

District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave the invocation and Councilmember Yancy led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Proclamation: Carlton Getty

Mayor Bell read a proclamation for Associate Judge Carlton Getty honoring over 50 years of service to the City of La Marque

4.II. Proclamation: Black History Month

Constable Derrick Rose and TCISD School Board member Nakisha Paul accepted the proclamation honoring Black History Month.

4.III. Proclamation: American Heart Month

La Marque Fire Department Captains Amanda Black and Jose Reyes, and Firefighter Gregory Forrest, who also serve as First Aid/CPR instructors with the American Heart Association, accepted the proclamation honoring American Heart Month.

Captain Black announced that there is a community CPR Class being held at the La Marque Fire Administration Building on March 1st, 2025 and welcomed any residents to participate.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Kimberley Kriegel Edwards (161 Lower Borondo) thanked the council for allowing her to cut the pine tree that was a danger to her home. She is asking for permission to cut another tree due to it being dead and diseased.
- George Doore (165 Lower Borondo) requested the ability to remove two tree stumps near his home. He is also looking to plant pine saplings behind the fence line to replenish what used to be a beautiful pine forest.
- Richard Holcomb (2708 Magnolia Dr) shared his concerns regarding the intersection of Main St and Lake. He also shared his support for a forensic audit. He says "if you have nothing to hide, spend it, and the people who have something to say may shut up about it"
- Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew) gave a brief overview of the previous Public Safety Building Committee meeting of the previous week. He is requesting drawings from an architect for the building known as Building A on Texas Ave.
- Re'Chard Loftis (309 Johnson) questioned if any of the ARPA funds will be utilized on Public Works and the equipment that they need. He shared support for a forensic audit dating back to the previous Mayor and previous city managers.

6. MINUTES

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

6.I. Special City Council Minutes 02.03.2025

6.II. Special City Council Minutes 01.13.2025

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearings at 6:35 p.m.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0001
There were no comments from the public.

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0002
There were no comments from the public.

8. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Regular Session at 6:36 p.m.*

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0001
Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0001. Councilmember Yancy seconded.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he did not agree with this ordinance, as he felt that it would not contribute to the environment of working together.

Councilmember Lowry felt that this ordinance is a violation of civil rights as it gives too much power to one person and if someone challenges it, it would be a lawsuit against the city.

Councilmember Yancy read excerpts from the ordinance. She respectfully disagreed with the position of Mayor Pro Tem Compian. This is a model for maintaining professionalism on the Dias and as a means to adhere to the charter and "govern ourselves".

Councilmember Lowry felt that this ordinance is a violation of free speech and gives one person control.

Mayor Bell read through the recitals, determining the rules to which this ordinance pertains, sharing his understanding that none of the recitals have anything to do with simple disagreements.

Councilmember Yancy read the section that pertains to the removal of the presiding officer, as there are provisions to assign accountability to all.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that these ordinances are common in other areas of Texas. This is not unique to the City of La Marque. His opposition is simply due to wanting to stick to the business at hand. He hopes that can be done without passing any ordinances.

***Interim City Manager Pritchett exited the meeting at 6:53 p.m. and returned at 6:55 p.m.*

Mayor Bell feels like this council has to act in good faith and any attempt at creating order on the dias is fought against.

MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES (BELL/ ROSS/ YANCY) AND 2 NAYS (COMPIAN/ LOWRY)

8.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0002

Councilmember Ross mad a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0002. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Councilmember Yancy exited the meeting at 6:57 p.m. and returned at 7:01 p.m.*

8.III. Boards and Commissions

City Clerk Nance informed the council that the ordinance review committee does not have enough members to meet.

Mayor Bell requested that the city issue a social campaign to encourage interest in the board.

Councilmember Ross nominated Cassandra Lafferty to the Board of Adjustments and Mardella Park to the Cemetery Board. He also renominated Mary Limones to the Parks Board and David Pennington to Building Standards. Mayor Bell nominated Bim Crowder as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the Cemetery Board.

Councilmember Yancy reappointed Tonia Griffin to the Parks Board and Re Chard Loftis to the Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded all nominations. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0003
Representatives from the Texas City Terminal Railway Company including Jason Hayley, Tyson Mohler, Reed Wilson, and Kenny Corley were present for this discussion.
City Attorney Knebel clarified that their item before the council was to introduce a new zoning district not rezoning any specific property.
Mr. Hayley believed that this ordinance is true to the initial intention of the original agreement between two parties and follows the structure of the other zoning designations with appropriate setbacks, buffer zones, permitted and prohibited uses.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian again clarified that this ordinance was not to actually rezone anything, but to add another potential designation to the city's zoning maps with the understanding that at some point this will be linked to the resolution of some existing legal issues.
Councilmember Yancy questioned if this proposal was ok with Councilmember Lowry as it is within his district.
Councilmember Lowry agreed, and questioned if the property has an agricultural exemption.
Mr. Hayley shared that this is something that was being considered.
After some discussion, it was determined that this is a process that could be paused if the city and railroad worked together in good faith.
Discussions regarding buffer zones, screening, and potential expansion ensued.
Councilmember Lowry made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0003.
Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (ROSS).**
- 9.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0004
***Attorney Knebel exited the room at 7:25 p.m.*
Interim City Manager Pritchett gave a brief overview of the area and the business this item was in relation to.
Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0004.
Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- 9.III. La Marque Police Station Mural
Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the funding source of this project.
MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 ABSTAIN (LOWRY).
- 9.IV. Waste Management Concerns
Mayor Pro Tem Compian spoke regarding an issue of a particular business that had reached out to him regarding the changes in commercial billing as it is now administered by Waste Management.
Shanna Lopez, Waste Management, clarified that the charge in question has always been assessed for this location. However, when Waste Management was billing the city, the city did not properly bill the account. When Waste Management took over the billing, it began being billed correctly. This had been discussed with the customer.
Councilmember Yancy questioned if the option was being properly explained to

the owners.

Ms. Lopez clarified that the particular charges are only assessed by request. These are not on the standard dumpster. The customer in question initially believed that the charge was a one-time fee. This was explained to the customer and Waste Management was waiting to hear back from the customer.

No action was taken.

9.V. ARPA Bid Award - Armored Vehicle

Officer Human shared that the purpose of the vehicle is for the Special Response Team to safely approach high-risk situations such as high-risk warrants, hostage situations, and/or barricaded subjects.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned what the anticipated lifespan of this piece of equipment would be.

Officer Human confirmed that there is a 5-year bumper-to-bumper warranty that could be serviced by any Ford dealership.

It was clarified that this can be used for rescue, mutual aid, and transport.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign a contract with Lenco Armored Vehicles in the amount of \$320,067 to purchase an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC). Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. ARPA Bid Award - 3D Crime Scene Laser Scanner

Lieutenant Gandy explained that this is a way to bring the Investigation Division up to date, assisting with precision and accuracy. The cost includes training for up to 15 officers.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to authorize the purchase of one 3D Crime Scene Laser Scanner. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***all items were pulled for consideration with the exception of 10.V*

10.I. 2024 TCOLE SB1187 Profiling Report

Councilmember Yancy stated that some of the statistics presented were alarming and announced Coffee with Councilmember Kimberly Yancy on February 22, 2025.

***Mayor Bell exited the room at 8:01 p.m. and returned at 8:03 p.m.*

She requested a 60-day report of the policing activity on Lake Road and at Bayou Road. She has received concerns regarding "over" policing in Historic District A.

Councilmember Lowry countered stating that the citizens are begging for more patrols in this area. He, as a resident and Councilmember, is begging for the patrols to be increased.

Councilmember Yancy requested that the conversations discussing this concern include people of color as that is who had the issue and were reporting to her.

Chief Aragon stated that out of 7,300 stops there were only five complaints and all were deemed unfounded.

Discussions were held regarding specific instances of traffic stops and their outcomes.

10.II. South East Texas Housing (SETH) Grant Closeout Report

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned when these services were advertised.

***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 8:23 p.m.*

10.III. Q1 FY25 Council Report - Budget vs Actual

Councilmember Ross asked clarifying questions regarding permitting revenues.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding revenues shown in the sanitation fund.

10.IV. Items for the Good of the Order

Interim City Manager Pritchett will bring back the most updated ARPA report and recommendations from the Public Safety Building Committee at the next meeting.

10.V. Investment Report - Quarter ending 12.31.2024

This item stood as submitted.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.*

11.I. 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:48 P.M.*

12.I. 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Councilmember Ross made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the separation agreement with Cesar Garcia. Councilmember Yancy seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A brief discussion regarding what is legally considered to be acceptable requests or announcements ensued.

City Attorney Knebel read what items of community interest are as designed by the Texas Local Government Code.

Councilmember Lowry declined to give comments.

Councilmember Ross requested that more people participate in the Night to Shine event next year. He announced that on February 22nd the Library would have a big event for the Pokémon Club, and he would like to present a donation to the Library at the next meeting.

Councilmember Yancy began by wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. Stop the Violence is April 21-26. She celebrated local filmmaker Justin Williams, whose movie was shot and produced in the City of La Marque, for receiving a distribution deal and

the theatrical release of the movie is slated for later this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his experience with attending the ICSC Red River event the previous week. He celebrated the city, because many of the attending vendors were already present in our city. He urged residents to shop local.

Mayor Bell hates that he missed the Mayor Bell Small Business Initiative meeting today at the library. It is a wonderful collaboration between the City of La Marque, Texas City La Marque Chamber of Commerce, and the Small Business Development Center to provide free training for the business community.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.*