



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
May 12, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Keith Bell

Joe Compian

Kimberley Yancy

Joseph Lowry

James Ross

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem/District B

District A

District C

District D

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and Information Technology Assistant Avery Bowers led the pledge.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 4.I. Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting 2023

Mayor Bell acknowledged the Finance Department's continued achievement in reporting.

- 4.II. Municipal Court Traffic Safety Incentive Award - Honorable Mention

Court Clerk Froeschner shared that this is the first time the city applied for this award. La Marque is one of 18 cities that was awarded Honorable Mention, she shares her conviction that next year the city will receive either first, second, or third place.

- 4.III. Proclamation: National Police Week

Mayor Bell presented Police Chief Randall Aragon, and Officer R. Hernandez with a proclamation honoring National Police Week.

- 4.IV. Proclamation: Public Works Week

Mayor Bell presented Interim Public Works Director Shannon Breaux, and members of the Public Works team with a proclamation honoring Public Works Week.

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Carolyn Small (Prune St) said that there is something going on with the mics as they are super sensitive, and the public can hear everything, every pen drop or whisper.
- Sarah Lowry (2305 Cedar Dr) requested a full and transparent audit of all funding distributed to through the EDC. "Fairness and accountability should not be selective." She urged leadership to apply consistent standards and not limit the voices of certain residents.
- Devonya Greenwood (401 Cherry St) spoke of an incident that "traumatized her neighbors and her son", she declined to give details, but she feels that her son's incident highlights a systematic issue within the county. Every case is unique, but the law should be applied consistently.
- Vivian Guidry (614 Sable Terrace Lane) requested sidewalk maintenance in Delaney Cove. She also shared her disappointment with the lack of grass around the fire hydrant due to the flushing.
- Brandon Kantowski (Oaklawn) congratulated Mr. Pritchett and spoke to a neighbor issue, Facebook threats, and noise complaints. He shared that he saw the police write the neighbor a ticket for the first time recently. He listed a few other concerns he has reported to the department.
- Vanessa McAfee (Texas City) stated that there was a Councilmember that has been awarded \$50,000 from the EDC who she believed did not have a legitimate business in La Marque. She believed that the councilman sat shielded by privilege and
- Michael "Rock" Bock (Declined to give address) asked the council to table this item as there should have been equal representation from each councilmember. He also stated that he will not stand for "killing off" the BayouFest.
- Richard Holcomb (declined to give address) stated that there were shots fired near his home after he spoke at the last council meeting. This should be about fixing what is wrong with La Marque and he wants to be able to go fishing at Mahan Park.
- Hayley Winklemann (1413 Bowie St) spoke regarding the ditches and drainage concerns in District C. She has submitted over 80 addresses for work orders to assist with this. She spoke to the community, informing them that the public works department works on a ticketing system through request tracker or emailing it to the public works department. She appreciates the effort made by the council to control the toxicity, as the residents of District C are working together to put a stop to it. She apologized to Interim City Manager Breau for an error in an email sent earlier in the day, and she also requested that the council be more attentive to the charter when posting jobs.

6. PRESENTATIONS

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the meeting at 718 p.m. and this item was taken after item 9.VIII*

- 6.I. Presentation: Public Safety Building Committee Update
Chairman Cantu spoke to the two locations that are being considered for the

new Public Safety Building Committee.

Mayor Bell shared that the intent is to call a Special Bond Election in November 2025. He asked City Clerk Nance for the final date to call an election. It was clarified that the final date to call that election would be August 18, 2025. Chairman Cantu believes that the committee would be able to complete their task prior to that date.

Mayor Bell candidly spoke that the council could move forward without the recommendation of the committee, although it is preferred that the committee give a recommendation.

Mayor Bell and Councilmember Yancy spoke of potential programming that could reside at the location.

6.II. Presentation: Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce

Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce President Tim Culp shared that the event on March 22, 2025, was a huge success with over 5,000 people from 10 different states. It was a very good weather day, there were some concerns going in to the event. However, the La Marque Police Department was very helpful in preventing that. He thanked the Council for their support.

Councilmember Yancy shared that she had a great time at the event. There were some growing pains, but that tends to happen at a first time event.

President Culp shared that he nor the chamber have any desire to "kill the Bayoufest". He wants to work to make it better, and what that looks like is up to discussion.

He shared that on May 28th, 2025 there will be an Economic Development Summit in partnership with the Governor's office, the Small Business Development Center, the Texas Association of Business, and Workforce Solutions. He also recognized the team at Bon Temps Rouler for their hard work.

Daniel "Tiny" Guidry thanked his team and the police department for the work that they did at the location. He shared his desire for a long-term partnership.

Councilmember Yancy recommended a document for the economic impact.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian recommended that the organizations stay engaged with the Parks Board.

7. MINUTES

7.I. Special City Council Minutes 05.01.2025

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the Special City Council Minutes of May 1, 2025. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.II. Regular City Council Minutes 03.10.2025

This item was removed from consideration.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

*****Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearings at 7:47 p.m.***

- 8.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0006
There was no public comment.
- 8.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0007
There was no public comment.
- 8.III. Ordinance No. O-2025-0008
There was no public comment.
- 8.IV. Ordinance No. O-2025-0009
There was no public comment.
- 8.V. Ordinance No. O-2025-0010
There was no public comment.
- 8.VI. Ordinance No. O-2025-0011
There was no public comment.

9. OLD BUSINESS

***Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:48 p.m.*

- 9.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0006
***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 7:49 p.m.*
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0006. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 4 AYES AND 1 ABSENT (LOWRY).**
- 9.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0007
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0007. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 4 AYES AND 1 ABSENT (LOWRY).**
- 9.III. Ordinance No. O-2025-0008
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0008. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 4 AYES AND 1 ABSENT (LOWRY).**
- 9.IV. Ordinance No. O-2025-0009
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2025-0009. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 4 AYES AND 1 ABSENT (LOWRY).**
- 9.V. Ordinance No. O-2025-0011
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2020-0011. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 4 AYES AND 1 ABSENT (LOWRY).**
- 9.VI. Boards and Commissions
Mayor Bell made a motion to appoint James Ross to the Ordinance Review

Committee.

Councilmember Ross suggested that a Councilmember consider appointing Ms. Terry Taylor to the Ordinance Review Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VII. Volunteer Background Checks

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared a draft of his proposed application.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the new application format with typographical corrections and the inclusion of the statement that Registered Sex Offenders are not permitted to serve on boards, commissions, or committees. Councilmember Ross seconded.

Councilmember Yancy asked clarifying questions regarding the disclosure of the felony provision. Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that the intent is just for knowledge, the disclosure does not necessarily preclude participation, unless they are required to register as a sex offender.

***Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 8:03 p.m.*

Councilmember Ross shared that he would like to delay this until a charter amendment can be addressed to give the same qualifications for the council. Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he believes the items are mutually exclusive.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.VIII. Texas City Independent School District Request

***This item was addressed after Citizen's Participation*

Superintendent Melissa Duarte reiterated a previous request to waive the remaining \$300,000. She shared that the district has made 3 out of 4 payments for remaining permits, and is now requesting a reimbursement for those fees.

Councilmember Ross questioned if the Economic Development Corporation could issue a grant to support the \$375,000 initial ask to reimburse the cost of additional drainage requirements. City Attorney Knebel shared reservations regarding speculating on the involvement of the Economic Development Corporation, stating that those processes would need to be discussed with the Economic Development Corporation.

Councilmember Lowry made a motion to waive the remaining \$300,000 in fees as requested by the Texas City Independent School District. Councilmember Yancy seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian clarified questions regarding the drainage improvements and questioned if the city could utilize utility funding to assist in this aspect.

City Attorney Knebel strongly advised against the council utilizing utility funds "for a building project."

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he is supportive of working with the district on this issue, he just wants to ensure that it is in relation to the City of La Marque requirements, not any other entity.

After additional discussion regarding the process, potential refunding of permitting fees already paid, and revenue projections for development services, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.I. Ordinance No. O-2025-0010

Tim Tripode of Stifel explained the terminology included in the Certificate of Obligation to evidence a loan issued by the Texas Water Development Board. He shared that the city is saving about 2 million dollars in debt financing costs by utilizing this subsidized loan. He shared that the repayment of the loan is to come from the water system revenues which have the capacity to cover the payments.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0011. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion.

Mayor Bell shared that he would not vote in the affirmative for any significant debt without voter approval, but whatever the outcome of the vote, he would support the will of the council. **MOTION CARRIED 3 AYES 1 NAY (BELL) 1 ABSENT (LOWRY).**

10.II. Ordinance No. O-2025-0012

Mayor Bell clarified that the Committee is to include the Chair, or their designee, of the Parks Board, Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission, and the Economic Development Corporation, two residents recommended by the Mayor and confirmed by the council, representatives of the Administration, Finance, and Communications, as well as the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2025-0012. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.III. Resolution No. R-2025-0024

Joshua Pritchett shared that this item is in relation to an application for 2.5 million dollars with an 80/20 match which equates to approximately \$500,000. Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0024. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.IV. Resolution No. R-2025-0025

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0025. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.V. Resolution No. R-2025-0026

City Manager Pritchett stated that this item is in relation to a grant application with a 20% match to be funded through the Police department.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0026. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.VI. Resolution No. R-2025-0027

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0027. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.VII. Resolution No. R-2025-0028

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2025-0028.
Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.VIII. Procurement

***This item was taken prior to item 10.I*

City Attorney Knebel shared that the staff recommends proceeding with
Bracewell.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to award the contract to Bracewell.
Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.IX. Newman Road Sanitary Sewer Project

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the Newman Road, Moss
Street, and Rosewood Drive Sanitary Sewer. Councilmember Yancy seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.X. Training Request for La Marque Police Department

***Councilmember Ross exited the meeting at 8:43 p.m.*

Chief Aragon gave an extensive description of the program and shared his
support as he has participated in the past.

Councilmember Yancy shared her support.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the virtual training related
to "The 7-Habits of Highly Effective People" for all La Marque Police
Department employees. Councilmember Ross seconded. **MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.XI. November Bond Election

Jonathan Frels of Bracewell explained the timeline for calling a bond election,
including the voter information document that would be required.

City Clerk Nance shared that there is a regularly scheduled meeting on August
11th which falls within the window of time to call an election. She also
recommended an item to appear at the July 14th Council meeting and an item
to direct the City Clerk to engage Bracewell to create the voter information
document in order to have it prepared for the August 11th meeting.

Mayor Bell believed that the construction of a police station should not be a
political issue, and at minimum should at least be safe.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM.

11. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***Item 11.III was pulled for discussion.*

11.I. Q1 Investment Report

This item stood as submitted.

11.II. March 2025 Council Report

This item stood as submitted.

11.III. March 2025 Water Loss Report

Mayor Pro Tem Compian noted that last month's report had 35% water loss, but this month's report shows 45.6% and asked clarifying questions.

Discussions regarding a water leak at the La Marque High School construction site.

11.IV. March 2025 Stormwater Report

This item stood as submitted.

11.V. Grant Award: NRA Foundation Gun Safety Education

This item stood as submitted.

11.VI. Items for the Good of the Order

City Manager Pritchett welcomed everyone to attend the Hurricane Huddle event.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

13. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No actions were taken.

14. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Ross made a second request for a joint meeting with the Economic Development Corporation. He made an inquiry into how 11 homes were built on 3 lots on Ave B.

Councilmember Yancy requested information on Senate Bill 1844. She congratulated City Manager Joshua Pritchett and requested prayers for Mr. Pettijohn due to a medical crisis.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian wished the public a happy belated Mothers Day and stated that there is raw sewage coming out of the ditches near 2322 Duroux.

Mayor Bell congratulated all candidates for elected office, the city had 6 candidates in this race, and it is an extremely difficult decision to make. On behalf of the City of La Marque and the community, he thanked them for their service. He shared that earlier in the day the council interviewed 4 extraordinary men, and he believes that wherever they go, they will do well. He congratulated Mr. Pritchett on his selection. Mayor Bell requested that a contract be prepared for City Manager Pritchett by City Attorney Knebel with the parameters set forth, upon his receipt, by the Council and Mr. Pritchett. He gave a belated Happy Mother's Day and honored Memorial Day for those who will be celebrating freedom on that day. He asked that among the celebrations, the community remembers those who gave their lives for those freedoms.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

*****Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.***