



**CITY OF LA MARQUE  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MINUTES  
of  
February 23, 2026**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:03 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**

Councilmember Yancy led all assembled in The Lord's Prayer. Mayor Pro Tem Compian led the pledge.

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**4.I. Proclamation: American Red Cross Month**

Mayor Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Compian presented Robert Young with a proclamation honoring American Red Cross month.

**4.II. Proclamation: Black History Month**

Mayor Bell and Councilmember Yancy presented Clarence Caldwell, a representative of the Caldwell family, with a proclamation honoring Black History Month.

**5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

- Hayley Winklemann (no address) requested a follow-up on the easement at Jaycee Park, and made a formal request that everyone stop unnecessary spending, stating that any spending that is not 100% necessary should stop. She believes that it is a waste of money to print anything for the council.
- Clarence Caldwell (no address) spoke regarding the construction on Newman Road, sharing that the condition is "horrible" and a bad rain or flood would wash out the road. He also spoke regarding the debris left in the ditches from this project. He corrected a mistake made in his last comment, stating that there is one streetlight and posted speed limit sign on his street.

- Re'Chard Loftis (no address) spoke regarding the city's Public Information attorneys, particularly regarding bodycam footage, asking questions regarding fees and withholding of records. He stated that he will continue to remind toe council of this item. He shared that some of the concerns he spoke of publicly have been addressed and that is a good thing, but he is requesting additional funding to be submitted in the next budget cycle.
- Larinda Essary (Westward Ave) also spoke about the progress on the city's street signs, and a code compliance issue that she has had concerns getting communications from the city. She is asking for a violation retraction from Code Enforcement.
- Robert Harvey (no address) spoke regarding the actions of a Councilmember on social media that he believes targeted his first amendment rights. He also spoke regarding a council candidate and attempted to play a video of that candidate. This led to a brief interruption. It was determined that the recording could not be played during this meeting. He also spoke to blocked bodycam footage stating that he previously paid and then had his request sent to the attorney general.
- Brandon Kantowski (no address) requested that a Councilmember "squash the beef" with Mr. Harvey. He also spoke to concerns regarding not receiving bodycam footage. He stated that he has nothing but time, and he is learning but he wants everyone to be transparent.

## 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

*Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.*

### 6.I. Ordinance No. O-2026-0003

David Pennington (Cypress) thanked the council for making this change, he believes it is long overdue. He does not believe this will fully correct the issue of attendance, but it is a step in the right direction. He believes the council needs to do a better job of vetting the individuals that they appoint.

Re'Chard Loftis (no address) stated that there are many members that are not showing up for meetings, he requested that staff that resides in the city be considered for boards, commissions, and committees. He believes volunteerism is down also because of volunteerism.

Brandon Kantowski (no address) shared that his background is in construction and he would be willing to volunteer where needed.

Jackie Pennington (no address) shared her support for Mardella Park to be appointed to a board, sharing that she understands there is a small conflict, but hopes that can be addressed.

### 6.II. Ordinance No. O-2026-0004

There were no public comments.

### 6.III. Ordinance No. O-2026-0005

There were no public comments.

### 6.IV. Ordinance No. O-2026-0006

There were no public hearings.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

*Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:54 p.m.* Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve all items in the consent agenda as submitted. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.I. Regular Meeting Minutes 02.09.2026

7.II. Special Meeting Minutes 08.07.2025

7.III. Special Meeting Minutes 08.11.2025

7.IV. Special Meeting Minutes 08.12.2025

7.V. Regular Meeting Minutes 09.22.2025

7.VI. Ordinance No. O-2026-0003

7.VII. Ordinance No. O-2026-0004

7.VIII. Ordinance No. O-2026-0005

7.IX. Ordinance No. O-2026-0006

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### 8.I. Boards and Commissions

Mayor Bell nominated Re'Chard Loftis to the Board of Adjustments. Discussion regarding the appointment of Ms. Mardella Park ensued, with a request to gain legal clarification. Additional discussions regarding streamlining the appointments process and vetting applicants ensued, with council requesting that the City Clerk bring back an outline to a future meeting.

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

### 8.II. Events and Promotions

Communications Coordinator Colleen Chilcoat opened by stating that she does not have a completed annual calendar nor a cumulative sponsorship list. However, the City had 4 upcoming events that were funded and encouraged community engagement. She gave a brief update regarding Civic Academy expected to launch in the summer, as well as upcoming library and Texas City La Marque Chamber of Commerce events. She also identified that the city has

begun using a new process for special event permits that is still in the trial phase.

Lengthy discussion regarding sponsorship possibilities, and the desire for specific events, namely Life and Liberty and the Juneteenth Gala ensued.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

8.III. Medium Pace, LLC

After a lengthy discussion regarding the payment structure, this item was tabled until the developers have submitted plans for review.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Ordinance No. O-2026-0007

*This item was removed from consideration.*

9.II. Resolution No. R.2026-0005

Councilmember Yancy shared her intent with this resolution.

*\*\*Councilmember Lowry exited the meeting at 7:51 p.m. and returned at 7:53 p.m.*

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2026-0005 and work to restart a business spotlight program spearheaded by Councilmembers Yancy and Griffin. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.III. Opportunity Zone

Councilmember Yancy requested that the city focus on promoting opportunity zones.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that the Economic Development Corporation has taken the lead on submitting the application for new opportunity investment zones within the city, as the designation is valid for 10 years. Councilmember Yancy requested a workshop on this for local businesses and investors.

Mayor Bell reminded the council that the city held a business summit the previous year, and possibly in connection with the Texas City La Marque Chamber, the city could revitalize that program and focus on the opportunity zone as a topic.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to support the EDC's opportunity zone application, and directed the city manager to instruct staff to begin the process for developing the 2nd annual business summit focused on opportunity investment zones. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.IV. Approval of Construction Change Order for WWTP Improvements - Additional Drilled Geo Piers

Public Works Director Breaux shared that this is an increase of approximately \$8,000 and is approved through the Texas General Land Office funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding geo piers.

Councilmember Lowry requested additional information regarding the specifications of the piers.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve a construction change order for additional drilled geo piers. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.V. Consideration and acceptance of the Certificate of Completion for the ARPA Jefferson Drive Roadway Improvements Project  
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.VI. Consideration of Agreement Allowing Continued Use of Septic System - 1428 Newman Road  
Public Works Director Breaux stated that this was a request by the resident. Joel Fontenot (Newman Rd) shared his reasoning for the request.  
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the septic system agreement at 1428 Newman Road. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## 10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

10.I. Municipal Court Statistics January 2026  
Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that the titles be corrected on the reports.

10.II. Director of Public Works - Professional Mentorship Update

10.III. 2025 Annual Water Loss Report  
Councilmember Lowry requested information regarding "four massive, massive, massive, water leaks."

10.IV. Finance Report

10.V. Utility Billing Report

10.VI. City Clerk's Report

10.VII. Items for the Good of the Order  
EDC hosting Ron Crowder Memorial Event 3/13.  
Academy is coming, Harts Chicken is now opened, and the Mayor Bell Small Business Initiative is going well. Prescribed burn today. "Glow Up" Program with Texas New Mexico, Citizen Engagement tools, Spring Clean Up, BTR Cajun Throwdown. Hurricane Huddle.

## 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Clerk Nance waived the right to a closed session.

*\*\*Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.*

11.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

11.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

11.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

*\*\*Mayor Bell closed the executive session and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:53 p.m.*

12.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to extend the response period for an additional 30 days, and for all firms that have submitted to have a 15-minute discussion prior to a regular scheduled council meeting. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).**

12.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to table this item. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matter)

Mayor Bell established the rules of the discussion, allowing for the councilmember who requested the item to speak first, followed by the councilmember who seconded the item, with a rebuttal from the City Clerk. Then the floor would be opened to the rest of the council to participate, followed by a determination on how to proceed.

Councilmember Lowry stated that "five years later, still talking about open records requests," he accused the city of utilizing Olson & Olson LLP as a means to stall and delay open records, which he stated was a crime. He has been informing residents to send those complaints to the Attorney General. He states that he has experiences where he has paid people to put in open records for him, and they were responded to "improperly." He believes there is favoritism in the process. He stated he had an issue with a letter sent regarding a ballot application that was not accepted. "There is a clique here inside the city, and it needs to be broken up." He stated that the favoritism and "clique" will get the city sued and "it's got to end."

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that he is an outcomes person and open records continue to be an issue that comes up. He is concerned about the amount of money the city spends on Olson & Olson LLP. He did clarify that he understood that this was a policy that was set in place before the current city clerk and encouraged the city to look at what policies other cities have in place. He mentioned a historical argument of "lack of video redaction software" and provided possible alternatives. He also shared concerns regarding petition allegations that were made. He was hopeful for a positive outcome, as City Clerk Nance had grown into the role, and he would like to minimize any sort of adverse attitudes between the residents, the City Clerk's

Office, and the Council.

City Clerk Nance clarified that each open records request that is fulfilled is signed by the person who handled that request, reminding the council that open records are a function of the Deputy City Clerk's Office as that is what previous councils created that position for. She vehemently denied the allegations that she personally was making each determination. Also advising the council and public that the "video" concerns that were raised, were regarding body camera video footage, which is handled by the Police Department Records Division, which, until earlier in the day, was managed by the police department under the direction of the police chief. The current administration has decided that the police records division would be tentatively placed under the city clerk's office for additional training. City Clerk Nance clarified that she has not, and would not be viewing a body camera as she is "not a cop." She clarified the timeline of the body camera requests being sent for legal review, stating that this was implemented in 2020 under the previous city clerk, but acknowledged that it could be time to review this practice to see if it is still the best practice for the city. She briefly discussed the concept of cost estimates, and the allocations within the Texas Public Information Act. She felt that this topic was just "everyone's dog piling on Kierra" as the issue is not being framed as a concern within the department but as a personal attack against her as an individual, in a process that she oversees but does not actively work in. She clarified that the petition issue was addressed, as the actual situation was that a supplemental petition was issued in her absence that utilized legacy forms instead of the department's current forms, identifying that the City Clerk's Office did not reject the petitions; The Galveston County Elections Division did, due to a technicality in how the addresses were written. She acknowledges that the legacy forms were not the proper forms. However, those forms are not what the official rejection referenced. She acknowledged that she has informed anyone who has asked who they can file their official complaints with, and each time the respective agencies have determined that they are unfounded. She again reiterated that she believes that individuals have issues with her personally, not necessarily the department, stating that she has had these review discussions repeatedly, and the last one as recently as December 2025, while the previous city clerk was only reviewed once in her seven-year tenure with the city. She requested that concerns be brought to her that are based in facts not feelings.

Councilmember Yancy stated that it was unfortunate that City Clerk Nance had to endure such harassment and discrimination. She requested a motion that the council not have this discussion again until the annual review, as this is "absolutely a hostile environment that you have had to deal with", but thanked City Clerk Nance for still being able to produce. She apologized for the unprofessional rhetoric "that has been spewed from this council towards you and your department." She asked the council to allow staff to do their job, because it's hard to do the work when you are in a constant state of defense. Councilmember Griffin asked clarifying questions regarding Open Records Cost Estimates, and the division of duties within the Open Records process. City Clerk Nance clarified that the cost estimates were determined a priority

by the new finance team, as the Public Information Act allows for it, and the city, at the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Compian, passed an ordinance regarding public information costs years ago. The department had been following the law "to the letter" regarding these cost estimates, which she questioned if that was best for this particular community, and expressed that additional discussions need to be had. She requested additional data to be provided to the council.

Mayor Bell clarified that while the City Clerk is the keeper of records, they are not the creator of said records. The role also is responsible for council support "as long as both parties are comfortable and feel safe in their interactions" which he acknowledged that she currently may not. He spoke briefly to the role of the position to conduct elections administration, and closed speaking regarding the position's role as public information officer and transparency officer. He gave a brief example of how the open records/public information process is demonstrated. Mayor Bell requested that Olson & Olson LLP attend a future council meeting to discuss their role in the Open Records process.

City Attorney Knebel clarified that from a legal perspective, it is not City Clerk Nance, or any individual staff members who withholds information, it is the State of Texas who has made that decision, typically in La Marque that is in reference to police investigations.

Mayor Bell clarified that falsifying records is a crime, and that City Clerk Nance can't just create something because an individual is asking for it. He also agreed with Councilmember Yancy that it is not conducive to an efficient work environment for an employee to be subject to constant potential removal every three months.

Councilmember Lowry stated that what was just fed to be public was "complete BS." He states it is not harassment to want to "hold people accountable" and he said that the city releases body cameras when they believe it would be harmful to his reputation. He also stated his discontent with the reformatting of recall sheets. He requested that an outside firm audit open records, specifically the ones that were turned in on paper "because those are the ones that are going to bite you." He believes that the data that will be produced at the request of council is unreliable because it comes from City Clerk Nance.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested a revision of the public information web page to include additional information regarding requestors' rights as well as restarting the open records training that the city clerk used to do for staff and volunteers.

Interim City Manager Holly shared that it is her responsibility to protect the employees from a hostile work environment, and she is having trouble doing that when the hostility comes from a councilmember.

Mayor Bell stated that City Clerk Nance has received no constructive criticism, nor did the council develop any policies. The council has just been "feeding the storm." He asked for solutions.

Councilmember Lowry made a motion to terminate City Clerk Nance.

*\*\*Motion died due to lack of second.*

Councilmember Yancy made a motion not to evaluate City Clerk Nance until

the December annual evaluation unless she is accused of and arrested for a crime, or accused of and convicted of violating the charter. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded.

Councilmember Lowry stated his dismay at the motion, believing that the "weak, sorry excuse for a district attorney" is going to be a shield, which is "good for her but bad for the taxpayers."

There was brief discussion regarding Councilmember Lowry's statements among the council.

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

### 13. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Griffin loves "each and every one of y'all." She is asking that the residents of District D utilize Request Tracker in lieu of emailing requests to staff members.

Councilmember Lowry requested that the City Clerk be placed on the next agenda.

Councilmember Yancy encouraged the residents to patronize O'Fayes, 7Brew, and Harts Chicken. She encouraged the City Clerk with scripture. She requested that the council revisit the ethics policy, and thanked the councilmembers who are doing the work to keep the city moving forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave information regarding the Houston-Galveston Area Council Annual Report. He invited the community to the Lighthouse Charity grand opening in Galveston on the next day from 4-6 p.m.

Mayor Bell celebrated the upcoming arrival of Academy. He shared concerns regarding a property on Duroux with Interim City Manager Holly. He shared his excitement regarding the ceremony honoring the legacy of Ron Crowder. He requested the attendance of Habitat of Humanity and Olson & Olson at a future meeting.

### 14. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*\*\*Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.*