



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
March 9, 2026**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 stated The Lord's Prayer in unison and former Councilmember James Osteen led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Presentation – City of La Marque, Texas Public Information Policies and Procedures

Joseph Hays of Olson & Olson LLP gave a brief presentation regarding the Public Information Act explaining the purpose of the Attorney General's opinions, explaining that withholding information is determined by the Attorney General's Office.

Councilmember Lowry believes that Olson & Olson LLP is used to "stall and delay" open records, stating that the firm has a bad reputation.

Attorney Hays stated that he does not send requests to the Attorney General with a request that he does not believe is made in good faith, the Attorney General has the ability to either agree or disagree. He unfortunately could not speak on a particular situation without having it in front of him.

Attorney Hays and Councilmember Lowry held a brief discussion regarding the Council's special right of access.

Councilmember Yancy asked for examples of reasons body camera footage would be delayed.

Councilmember Griffin declined to ask questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that the relationship between the city and Olson & Olson LLP be reviewed, due to the length of time it has been

established. He shared concerns regarding differing responses from different governmental bodies when the same request had been made elsewhere. Mayor Bell requested information regarding the contract with the city, and clarity with some of the policies regarding public information. Attorney Hays stated that while he is not on site day to day, he has never seen anything that is believed to be a "red flag" in the requests that his team has received from the City. The city may not have the correct opinion, but the right questions are being asked, and in good faith. Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked questions regarding what is considered public information in relation to the elected body's personal communications. Mayor Bell requested a memo from Olson & Olson LLP to simplify the process for the community as the subject-matter experts. He requested a process be implemented to explain how the staff is following state law. Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked for Attorney Hays' opinion regarding the consolidation of public information personnel to the city clerk's office. Attorney Hays shared that this is very common and is used by many cities. Discussions regarding mandatory vs. discretionary exceptions ensued. Discussions regarding retention periods and departmental custodians of record ensued. Mayor Bell asked for clarification regarding the departmental custodian of record position. After a lengthy nuanced discussion, Attorney Hays was thanked for his time. ***Mayor Bell recessed the meeting at 7:06 p.m. for a technical issue and reconvened at 7:20 p.m.*

5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Robert Michetich (N Curlew) had concerns regarding the city manager reports, namely the finance report. There is no ledger for the public to view. He stated that the city has proclaimed there is no money. However, there is no answer to where the money went. He shared his thoughts regarding outstanding invoices for the city's former grant administrator.
- Clarence Caldwell (Prairie St) spoke regarding brush and limbs in the ditch on Volney St. He also shared his dismay regarding the I-45 road closures. He also spoke to the nuisance of 4-wheelers, and thanked the city for their assistance with the trash cans and street parking in his area.
- Augie Molis (Spoonbill) stated that he is embarrassed by how dirty the city looks. He shared his discontent with the work being done by the Code Enforcement Division.
- Brandon Kantowski (Oaklawn) also had concerns regarding code enforcement and stated that a judicial review is coming. He thanked City Clerk Nance for her assistance with his open records requests.
- Ted Hill (Texas City) encouraged the council to remember that the people who can afford it the least, complain the least. He said each decision should be made with the question: "Is this going to make life easier for the old folks or harder?" as that should be the north star.

- Re'Chard Loftis (*no address*) asked where the Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission money went, stated that the Public Works Department is in need of safety training as he has seen some safety violations where equipment was not tied down during transit. He had concerns regarding the quality of street work. He also stated that he can see the agenda information on the website and the council needs to be better prepared so the meetings don't last as long.

***after the City Manager Report Mayor Bell acknowledged Robert Harvey as he was unable to participate via zoom earlier in the meeting due to a technical issue with the City's Zoom platform.*

Councilmember Lowry shared his objections as he believes that this opens the door pretty wide for the future.

- Robert Harvey (no address) spoke regarding a sitting councilmember's mental health and decision-making, believing that the Councilmember "hates the first amendment."

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.I. Ordinance No. O-2026-0008
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve ordinance No. O-2026-0008. Councilmember Griffin seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- 6.II. Ordinance No. O-2026-0009
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve ordinance No. O-2026-0009. Councilmember Lowry seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- 6.III. Resolution No. R-2026-0006
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2026-0006. Councilmember Lowry seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Interim City Manager Holly stated that the city is not currently utilizing its mosquito spraying apparatus due to funding. Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested information regarding the cost associated with operating the city's mosquito spraying apparatus.
- 6.IV. Resolution No. R-2026-0007
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2026-0007. Councilmember Griffin seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- 6.V. Resolution No. R-2026-0008
Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2026-0008. Councilmember Griffin seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6.VI. RFQ 26-0002

Mayor Bell clarified that the city received 6 submissions to the request. Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared his process for narrowing his selections. It was the consensus of the council that at the meeting tonight, the city would narrow the list to 2 to 3 candidates for further discussion.

Mayor Bell shared his thoughts regarding MGT's proposal to stay engaged for 6 months, which he believed would be beneficial, but understood the need for being economical.

The council eliminated MGT and Altiora from consideration as they were the most and least expensive responses.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to meet with three finalist S. Renee Narloch & Associates, JG Consulting, and Clear Career Professionals at a 4:00 workshop before the next council meeting for 20 minutes each.

Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6.VII. Preliminary Plat

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the recommendation for The Shops at La Marque Preliminary Plat, being 1/- 16.95 acres out of the William K. Wilson League Survey, Abstract No. 208, La Marque, TX. Councilmember Griffin seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6.VIII. Finance Committee

The finance committee consists of 7 members and presented 5 recommendations to the council, including having the finance department reconcile all accounts monthly, a monthly detailed finance report to be presented to council, a request for the council to establish a policy to set minimums and maximums for funds and expenses, a requirement that the annual audit to be completed each February for the previous fiscal year, and annual reviews of the investment and purchase policies.

Councilmember Lowry stated that there should be an "amount of fraud" and a timeframe to report this to law enforcement.

Finance Director Ferguson stated that a Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Reporting Policy could be created.

Councilmember Lowry spoke regarding his thoughts on obtaining fuel tanks as a means of reducing fraud, waste, and abuse.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian stated that he would send a template to the City Clerk to assist with this process for her to distribute to council and the finance committee.

Councilmember Yancy requested a simple monthly budget vs actual per department.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

6.IX. Virtual Meetings

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to continue virtual meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. CITY MANAGER REPORT

***Item 7.II was pulled for discussion.*

7.I. Public Works Report
Stood as submitted.

7.II. 2025 Annual Water Loss Report
Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked for clarification regarding where the percentages were derived.
Interim City Manager Holly stated that these numbers are derived from calculating the amount of water pumped vs the amount of water billed. Mayor Pro Tem Compian reminded the community that the city began at approximately a 60% water loss percentage with a goal of approximately 15%.

7.III. Finance Report
Stood as submitted.

7.IV. City Clerk's Report
Stood as submitted.

7.V. Items for the Good of the Order
Interim City Manager Holly shared that Public Works attended the Houston Galveston area Subsidence District. There will be a Meet & Greet for Police Chief Frankland on March 12th at 4:30 and a Ron Crowder Memorial Plaque dedication on March 13. A notice of Water & Trash Rate increases would be sent to residents the next week, and the new Library Director was scheduled to begin next week. She issued a Save the Date for State of the Cities on March 26, and announced Spring Smiles, an opportunity for family bunny photos at the library, and Budget Talks beginning March 30. She closed by stating Habitat for Humanity is under site plan review for the first two homes of Heroes Village while I45 construction continues, and the police department is currently being cleaned.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

9. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No actions were taken.

10. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Griffin stated that she had been on council approximately 9 months. She is looking forward to Public Works working in District D for three months beginning in April.

Councilmember Lowry requested that the city manager email a constituent. He asked for ditches to be cleaned in District C and identified light outages on Meadow Ln and Oaklawn. He spoke to Rosharon TX's pickle festival requesting that the city consider hosting one in conjunction with neighboring cities. He believes that the city should eliminate the 3-minute restriction and "just allow the nuisance content."

Councilmember Yancy congratulated the Hitchcock Girls Basketball team on their

championship win. She shared condolences for the family of the fallen Hitchcock ISD officer. She invited the community to support the La Marque High School Boys Basketball team as they competed in the district semi-finals. She requested a roundtable with District A and the Police Chief, and questioned how many liens the city had on properties in District A. She is concerned with the perception that the city is "dirty". She believes that the code enforcement division was better managed under Development Services and would like the city to review the department's placement, and spoke regarding a nuisance apartment complex in her district. She has found some sponsors for the Juneteenth and Life & Liberty events.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian expressed condolences to the family of Maggie Manuel after a family loss and the Hitchcock community after the loss of Chief Rusk of Hitchcock ISD. He made statements regarding grants for shoreline restoration. God bless La Marque and God bless our country. We don't need war.

Mayor Bell apologized for the technical difficulties experienced tonight. He requested the Texas Department of Transportation's attendance at the next meeting and stick to a quarterly schedule as previously promised. He identified the expectations of the community and council are not necessarily aligned with the actions of the Code Enforcement Division. He believes there should be a relationship between Code Enforcement and Public Works. He celebrated the opening of the new La Marque High School. He requested the annual update of the Safe City Initiative and spoke regarding an issue a resident is having and requested a meeting with the City Manager.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Lowry seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 P.M.*