



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Minutes
April 28, 2014**

Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, April 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road for purpose of considering the following agenda:

(1) Mayor Hocking called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

(2) ROLL CALL

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

City Manager Buttler
City Attorney Ortego
City Clerk Eldridge

(3) Mayor Pro-Tem Bell led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

(4) MINUTES

a. City Council Workshop Meeting held on April 14, 2014.

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting held on April 14, 2014.

** Councilmember Bell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. City Council Regular Meeting held on April 14, 2014.

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 14, 2014.

** Councilmember Bell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(5) PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

a. Introduction of New Employees –

Mayor Hocking along with Chief Aragon introduced the newest Officer to the La Marque Police Department, Dashiell “Dash” Cantu

b. Proclamation – “Fair Housing Month”

Mayor Hocking presented Mike Morgan and David Baker with a proclamation in recognition of the month May being “Fair Housing Month”

c. Proclamation – “Public Works Week”



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Mayor Hocking presented a proclamation to three members of the public works department and thanked the department for their services. In attendance were:

- d. Proclamation – “National Police Week” of May 12-18, 2014 and “Police Officers Memorial Day” as May 15, 2014
Mayor Hocking presented Chief Aragon with a proclamation in recognition of May 12-18, 2014 being “National Police Week” and “Peace Officers Memorial Day” as May 15, 2014.”
- e. Presentation – “Keep your Light Shining” (Recognition of businesses)
Mayor Hocking presented Certificates of Appreciation to the business owners or representatives of the following businesses: Precision Services (Santa Gary) and the Oglesby’s of Start Smart Academy. Zebco’s Collision was also recognized and their Certificate will be delivered to them.

(6) CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No one spoke

(7) CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- a. Discussion/ possible action regarding the award of bid for Construction of Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – 2013 LJA Project No. E019-097A to PM Construction & Rehab, LLC in the amount of \$1,127,690.00.
** Councilmember Trube made a motion to award the bid for Construction of Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation 2013 LJA Project No. E019-097A to PM Construction & Rehab, LLC in the amount of \$1,127,690.00.
** Councilmember Brown seconded the motion.
** Councilmember Osteen pointed out a typo on page 29 of the agenda packet, on the job number, and will be corrected before signing off on. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- b. Discussion/possible action regarding the award of bid for Construction of Woodland and Lake Street Improvements – LJA Project No. E019-097C to Lucas Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$715,633.75.
** Councilmember Trube made a motion to award the bid for Construction of Woodland and Lake Street Improvements – LJA Project No. E019-097C to Lucas Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$715,633.75.
** Councilmember Osteen seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(8) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion regarding appointments to vacancies and reappointments of members to the Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Hocking started out by adding that most of the members currently have expressed their interest in remaining on the Boards that they are currently serving on and opened it up



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for discussion. There was no further discussion. They are waiting for the thirty day period to receive more applications.

(9) CITY MANAGER REPORT – No Council Action Necessary

- **Development Services**
- **Judicial**
- **Police/OEM**
- **Fire/EMS**
- **Public Works**
- **EDC**

** Councilmember Trube referred to page 109, and that there was a difference in the number of bandit signs. It was determined that some of the signs do not have contact numbers or any other information on them, which are probably not logged in. Both Public Works and the Police Department pick up signs; lost animal signs, old garage sale sign are a few of them.

** Councilmember Bell said the he is concerned of the constant hiring of new police officers, and the high turn-over rate within the Police Department. We have at least eleven officers with less than two years' experience. "I would like to know what the department plans to try to do to stem the tide of that trend?"

Police Chief stated, "In 2012, we had two officer leave for personal reasons. In 2013, we had eight officers depart. We still have two vacancies. By the end of May we should have them filled." Chief continued reading the statistics in percentage rates by year of the turnover rates.

"Right now, it will improve, because those coming on board know what they are coming into. I am also concerned about the loss of veteran officers. But, I think the one's coming on, didn't have the benefits to lose, so they know what they are getting. We have recently hired a Sergeant out of Hitchcock, and some other veteran officers. We have a real good training program. It is twelve weeks long, and is intense."

Councilmember Bell continued, "I just want to make sure that our officers are safe and receiving the training they need, La Marque is a tough city to police."

Councilmember Osteen said that he had asked about a discrepancy of approximately \$34,000.00 at the last Council meeting and wanted to know what the outcome was.

City Manager reported that it was due to an incorrect meter reading to which a citizen received and an incorrect water bill for close \$33,000.00. No water loss was detected or revenue lost, it was a staffing error, which is being handled internally.

Ms. Buttler continued, "Wednesday morning we will begin the special UB audit, and I will keep you informed of what the auditors determine."



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Mr. Langford answered, "We don't really have the capability of determining how much is really being consumed as opposed to how much is being lost within the system. What we actually do is make sure that the customer doesn't go over their contract. It is very difficult to determine how much water is lost and how much is used from the City's side."

City Manager Carol Buttler finished by adding, "We know that we need to workshop the water and sewer rates before budget, and try to coordinate with surrounding cities and see how we compare."

Councilmember Brown asked how much it would cost to drill well and have the water pumped into the Brazos River. He then asked if Texas City had a plan to increase the supply in their reservoir. He was told that they have looked into that also.

Mr. Langford answered, "We have one price from a third property developer, which is \$2.00 per thousand gallons in Caldwell, that amount added to your base rate, and the numbers are huge."

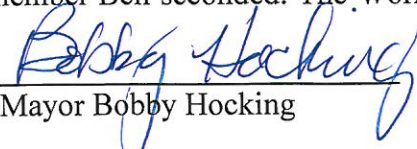
It was further discussed desalination and brackish desalination of salt water; private citizens drilling; emergency water drawn out; ground water and surface water doesn't mix well.

City Manager asked if there were any grants being offered, or is it being left up to each City. To which it was said that it will be customer driven.

(6) Discussion regarding contracts, and proposed amendments of Galveston County Water Authority (GCWA) It was determined that this item was discussed in item 5.

(7) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bell seconded. The Workshop meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.


Mayor Bobby Hocking

ATTEST:


Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk