



1111 Bayou  
La Marque, Texas 77568  
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque  
Minutes  
June 2, 2014**

**Minutes of the Special Called Executive Session Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, June 2, 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) EXECUTIVE SESSION (Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code, Sec. 551.071):** Council will adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 551.071: (Consultation with Attorney)

Mayor Hocking recessed the Special Called Executive Session Meeting at 6:03 p.m. and went into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

- a. Discuss allegations received against Councilmember Trube during a press conference held on May 30, 2014.
- b. Discuss allegations received against Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission Chris Colombo during a press conference held on May 30, 2014.

Mayor Hocking reconvened the Special Called Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor Hocking took item 5 out of order at this time.

**(4)** Discussion/possible action taken from Executive Session regarding the allegations received against Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission Chris Colombo during a press conference held on May 30, 2014.



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\*\* Councilmember Bell made a motion to remove Chris Colombo immediately from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

\*\* Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(5) Discussion/possible action taken from Executive Session regarding the allegations received against Councilmember Trube during a press conference held on May 30, 2014.

Brian Begley, an Attorney from Olson & Olson explained that after reviewing the City Charter, section 2.05 and the State Laws, it was found that City Council is limited on actions they can take. They can censure another Councilmember, by publicly expressing their opinions either for or against what the allegations against another Councilmember is, and they can request an investigation of the allegations.

Councilmember Bell, after clarifying with Mr. Begley, stated that he actually had two separate motions, the first one being that "In light of the television interview that was viewed this evening that had been taped earlier, I make a motion that we censure Councilmember Trube, and send a message to her. We think the language that she used during the interview was inappropriate. We do not believe or agree with those things that were said in the interview."

Councilmember Brown seconded the motion.

Councilmember Trube stated, "As far as what took place, these were in a private conversation. It was up to someone else to impose themselves in a closed group of people. No one has to like me and I don't have to like them." She said that what she said was in private, and she was voicing her opinion and practicing her freedom of speech. Referencing the interview that was taped and viewed earlier, she said that portions of her statement were taken out of context. She explained that some of the things that she said about the school board, explaining herself, were left out of the taped interview. She then explained the statement that she said about the school board. Ms. Trube referenced the affidavits that were given to bring on the allegations against her, and denied saying some of the things that were in the sworn affidavits.

Annie Burton, a member of the La Marque Independent School District spoke in regards to remarks that Ms. Trube made earlier.

Geraldine Sam referred to another taped conversation and then stated, "Racism is not going to be tolerated in this City by no one."

Ms. Paul, the President of the La Marque School Board spoke and said the district is financially and academically solvent. LMISD is more in sync within the last four years, than it has ever been in the last six years. "If we can collaborate with you Mayor Hocking, to get this City together, it is going to take all of us to sticking together not just the School Board."



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Ms. Burton invited all of Council to volunteer and become more involved in the La Marque School District.

After Mayor Hocking called for the vote, the **MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF 4 TO 1,** with Councilmember Trube voting in opposition.

Councilmember Bell made a second motion to hire Olson and Olson, an outside, independent law firm to conduct an investigation into the allegations that Councilmember Trube made some disparaging comments against our library and possibly comments against it as it relates to African Americans using the library.

Councilmember Brown seconded the motion.

Councilmember Trube asked that the investigation also include the other two associations (The Police Officers Association and CLEAT)

Russell Lee Washington, Jr. submitted a written question to the City Manager: The City Attorney read the question: Has any member of City Council or the Mayor heard another member of City Council make any racial or derogatory statement toward any African Americans or minorities in their presence?

Councilmember Brown stated that he had heard it, but it hadn't been put to his face.

Councilmember Osteen responded "no".

Councilmember Bell, responded "no".

Mayor Hocking referred to 2012, during the budget discussions, Councilmember Trube, due to budget constraints, was considering closing the library. On two different occasions, he had heard her say that she wanted to close the library because only blacks were using it. He said that he was willing to take a lie detector test.

City Manager Carol Buttler also said that Councilmember Trube made the same comment to her in the City Manager's office two or three days before the budget discussions.

Discussion followed with members of the audience and City Councilmembers saying that no one has heard Councilmember Osteen make any racial or derogatory remarks to or against any African Americans or any other minority group.

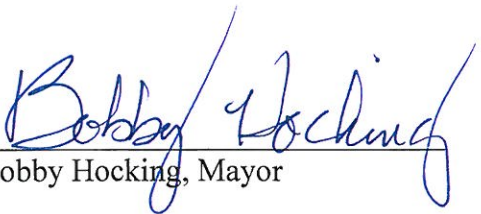
Councilmember Osteen amended the first motion to place a cap on the spending on the investigation to \$10,000.00. Councilmember Bell seconded. **BOTH ORIGINAL AND AMENDED MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **(6) ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Bell made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Osteen seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



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Bobby Hocking, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Robin Eldridge, TRMC  
City Clerk