



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Special Minutes
July 31, 2014**

Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, July 31, 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 Lane
Councilmember Brown
Councilmember Trube

City Manager Buttler
City Attorney Ortego
City Clerk Eldridge

(3) PRESENTATION

a. Presentation - City of La Marque 2014-2015 Proposed Budget

City Manager Carol Buttler provided an overview of the proposed 2014-2015 budget and highlights of her letter which included: no tax increase or utility rate increase; an effective tax rate of .510530, which will require public hearings; market values have gone up but the tax base values haven't quite come up as much; sales tax revenue is up; utility fund has a positive fund balance; tracking of certain funds are now in order (donations fund and a disaster fund); first year that the source of funding is available to be able to give employees an increase and is suggesting an across the board salary adjustment of 3% for all non-collective bargaining employees, and at this point until City Council has a chance to discuss, is recommending it for all current employees with a minimum of twenty-four months service; to reward the employees who have stuck with the City during the lean years. Also she will be asking for the cost of dental and vision plans paid 100% for the employees only, which, the police already have this, and this will be a very small impact on the budget. We are also working on a salary market pay plan, which will compare our salaries to those of the surrounding cities, which may need to be phased in over a couple of years. We are asking to either return a few positions or to hire a few new positions, based on the need for functions. We are trying to condense the number of divisions in the Public Works Department. After evaluating that department a clerk position is being requested to assist the Administrative Assistant, to help when she is out. In capital projects, the items have been pulled from each individual department and placed in a reserve fund, so that all of them are in the same place. These are items that have been needed for the past three years. Each department for the most part has submitted a flat budget, except in a few areas. At this point, in time, we are in much better shape than we have been in the recent years. When the Comprehensive Plan comes about, the goal



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will be that it will be the driving mechanism that we will plan our budget yearly by and provide direction as to where we want to move the city in.

(4) NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action – schedule a public hearing on proposed budget FY 2014-2015. After City Manager Carol Buttler explained the Budget calendar, Councilmember Bell made a motion to schedule a public hearing on the proposed budget for August 11, 2014. Councilmember Trube seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Discussion/possible action – maintain current tax rate of .51436. The effective tax rate is slightly lower, 1/3 of a penny, but Finance Director Suzy Kou was available to answer any questions.

** Councilmember Bell asked how much in dollars would the 1/3 of a penny calculate to, which Ms. Kou responded, “I would be afraid to assume an actual amount, but assuming a hundred thousand dollar house, and assuming that the tax payer is not homesteaded, or over the age of sixty-five, or have another exemption, I would say around .31 cents. Councilmember Trube made a motion to maintain the current tax rate of .51436. Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c. Discussion/possible action – schedule public hearings on tax rate if needed.

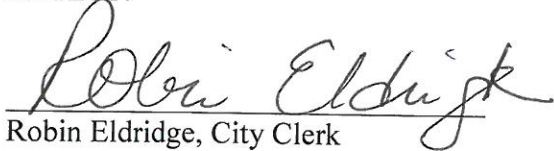
** Councilmember Bell made a motion to schedule the first public hearing on the tax rate for Monday, August 11, 2014 and the second for August 25, 2014 both at 6:00 p.m. and both in the Council Chambers of the City of La Marque. Councilmember Trube seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bell seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.


Bobby Hocking, Mayor

ATTEST:


Robin Eldridge, City Clerk