



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Minutes
February 24, 2014**

Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, February 24, 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 Hocking led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

(4) MINUTES

a. Workshop Meeting held on February 10, 2014

b. Regular Meeting held on February 10, 2014

** Councilmember Osteen made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 10, 2014.

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

(5) PRESENTATIONS

a. Introduction - New Employees

Chief Aragon introduced James Bunker, Telecommunicator, and Daniel O'Connor and Nicole Perales, two new Police Officers; Building Official Ana Tims introduced Darrell Singleton, the new Code Enforcer in Training

b. Mayor Hocking presented a Proclamation for Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month for the month of May to several members of a local motorcycle club who were present. (Mayor Hocking took this item out of order; it was c. on the agenda).

c. Mayor Hocking presented 'Keep Your Light Shining' certificates to; A to Z Fence; and Highland Manor. Grandma's Child Care; Schitzberger Monument Company McKown Service Company were not present to receive their certificates, and those will be delivered.

(6) CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION



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Valerie Beverly spoke on the subject of urban blight. She moved to La Marque from Colorado Springs, six months ago. She said La Marque is a beautiful community. She suggested that the City concentrate on writing more citations to those who have yards with a lot of trash in them, and to please address the intersection at I-45 and Main Street, since is the first area that a person sees when entering the City.

(7) PUBLIC HEARING

a. Conduct Public Hearing to receive public input regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-002**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas changing the zoning classification of a tract of land from Public to General Commercial, Abstract 150, Page 8, Lots 1 through 14 Blocks 7 through 42 & 45 through 50, better described by metes and bounds in Division "N", and in Appendix "A" attached hereto, all in the Cook & Stewart Subdivision of a part of the John D Moore League in Galveston County, Texas, the map records in the office of the County Clerk of Galveston County, Texas from Public to General Commercial; amending the Zoning map of the City adopted the 12th day of December, 2005 by Ordinance 953.

Mayor Hocking closed the Regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:13 p.m.

b. Conduct Public Hearing to receive public input regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-003**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas repealing Article IV, Purchases, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Marque, Texas, and in its place adopting a new Article IV, Purchases, Section 2-180.

Mayor Hocking closed the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:14 p.m.

c. Conduct Public Hearing to receive public input regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-004** amending City of La Marque FY Budget 2013-2014 by reducing the General Fund, Fund Balance, account 01-2401-00-00 in the amount of \$42,285.00 and increasing appropriation Fire Expenditure accounts 01-1010-06-00 of \$33,124.00, 01-1060-06-00 of \$2,534.00, 01-1065-06-00 of \$3,157.00, 01-1070-06-00 of \$2,400.00, and 01-1075-06-00 of \$1,070.00.

Mayor Hocking closed the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:15 p.m.



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(8) OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-002**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas changing the zoning classification of a tract of land from Public to General Commercial, Abstract 150, Page 8, Lots 1 through 14 Blocks 7 through 42 & 45 through 50, better described by metes and bounds in Division "N", and in Appendix "A" attached hereto, all in the Cook & Stewart Subdivision of a part of the John D Moore League in Galveston County, Texas, the map records in the office of the County Clerk of Galveston County, Texas from Public to General Commercial; amending the Zoning map of the City adopted the 12th day of December, 2005 by Ordinance 953. **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2014-002.

** Councilmember Osteen seconded the Motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-003**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas repealing Article IV, Purchases, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Marque, Texas, and in its place adopting a new Article IV, Purchases, Section 2-180. **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2014-003.

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

c. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-004**, an Ordinance amending City of La Marque FY Budget 2013-2014 by reducing the General Fund, Fund Balance, account 01-2401-00-00 in the amount of \$42,285.00 and increasing appropriation Fire expenditure accounts 01-1010-06-00 of \$33,124.00, 01-1060-06-00 of \$2,534.00, 01-1065-06-00 of \$3,157.00, 01-1070-06-00 of \$2,400.00, and 01-1075-06-00 of \$1,070.00. **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

** Councilmember Osteen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2014-004.

** Councilmember Trube seconded the Motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

(9) NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-005**, an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 981, Chapter 44, Article 1, Section 44-2, Curfew for Minors of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Marque, Texas **THIS IS THE FIRST READING.**

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2014-005.

** Mayor Hocking seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councilmember Osteen asked why the ordinance needed to be changed.

Chief Aragon explained that he began reviewing the current ordinance in 2011. Basically, the proposed ordinance has a little more restrictive time for juveniles to be allowed on the streets during certain hours. The hours fluctuate from City to City. Chief Aragon stated that he has verified the start times and after school times with the La Marque Independent School District.



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Councilmember Osteen asked where the juvenile curfew processing office was located and it was told by Chief Aragon, it is in the Sergeants office, and that no juvenile would come in contact with any other prisoners.

Councilmember Bell asked whether the changes in the times were consistent with surrounding cities, in particular, the changing from midnight to 10:30 p.m. Discussion continued by outlining the statistics of citations that had been written for violating the curfew ordinance.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Discussion/possible action regarding Resolution No. **R-2014-003**, establishing depository and reporting procedures for La Marque Economic Development Corporation Funds.

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2014-003

** Councilmember Brown seconded the motion.

City Manager Carol Buttler stated that it was discussed last year, and it was Councils' direction to separate the EDC funds from the City's funds which staff has since done. Ms. Buttler made a correction to the resolution addressing a word that should be removed from one of the paragraphs on the bottom of the first page, and that Council had a copy of the correct version. There was one other change, which was a misspelling in the signature line, which will be corrected.

EDC Chairman Ron Crowder commented, "This resolution was reviewed at the last Economic Development Corporation meeting and we didn't see any problems with it. We are quite satisfied and we have no issues." **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

c. Discussion/possible action regarding Resolution No. **R-2014-004**, a resolution approving the aerial spraying of mosquitos by Galveston County Mosquito Control District, as required on a yearly basis by the Federal Aviation Administration.

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adopt Resolution R-2014-004.

** Councilmember Osteen seconded the motion.

After asking, Councilmember Osteen was assured that there was no financial impact on the City for this service. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

d. Discussion regarding the recent Gulf Coast Water Authority Symposium for Municipalities.

City Manager Carol Buttler spoke briefly about the Symposium and that it was geared toward water conservation and what all cities were doing. "I have provided the materials for those who couldn't attend and also use this time to count towards the public education portion, which is required. Staff needs to come up with a plan to educate the public on water conservation, other than the booth we have set up at the Bayou Festival. Staff has a May 1st, deadline to meet several items, so if you haven't read your emails, I have sent the letter from the Texas Water Development Board, so you can see what is required from staff to do; one of the items is to review the City's Conservation Plan that is in place, as well as the Drought Contingency Plan. This is one of the Workshops that I would like to schedule for Council, maybe towards the end of March.



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Councilmember Osteen said, "We talked about doing a water audit, that letter sent today, specified that they wanted to know how many water leaks we had, so where are we on that?"

Ms., Buttler responded, "I know Mr. Morgan has started working on that, I am not sure we have all the information that we need yet. It will be better if we get an outside contractor to do this."

(10) CITY MANAGER REPORT

Councilmember Osteen referred to page 213, and said that some of the questions he had earlier have been answered, but questioned the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund, a check for the amount of \$600.00 for 2013 Bayou Fest, and another \$850.00 binder check.

City Manager Ms. Buttler said that she and the Finance Director had discussed this and have come up with the best way to handle this, since the city does have to pre-pay for some of the events in advance for Bayou Fest. "It is considered a pre-pay, which is not budgeted. Funds can be encumbered so that those expenditures can be earmarked for that purpose. Every year this will be brought before City Council to ask for the encumbrance of certain expenditures. We are preparing something for the next meeting to show the amount that will need to be reserved for these types of expenditures."

Another concern of Councilmember Osteen, was the Fixed Route Transit Services. He asked whether it could be taken out of the Hotel Motel Fund, to which was told that it is being looked into by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Trube had a question on page 207, and the amount of \$1,700.00 for the revision of the City Employee handbook. City Manager, Ms. Buttler explained that there were some major errors found, that kept it from being able to follow by some of the departments, there is a disconnect that made it not flow very well. A draft will be brought before staff, and supervisors, who use every day, then brought to City Council for your review, then to legal to review. She said that about some changes that were made by the previous Council and that those versions were not adopted into the handbook. The City Manager said that the personnel policy is constantly being reviewed to make sure that statutes and current Councils' viewpoints are addressed. Ms. Buttler said that the 'list' was gone through and that those were included in the current versions of the handbook. Councilmember Trube would like for this item to be placed in a future Council Workshop. She then referred to page 209, La Marque Volunteer Fire Department payment of \$25.00, which was clarified that 2014 membership dues, to be inappropriately written and will be corrected. Then she referred to repair work that had been done to the outer entry doors of the Library doors, to which the City Manager advised that the doors broke and that a special vendor had to come in and do the repair work. The City Manager will check to see if those were the same doors that were replaced a few years ago.

(11) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Trube asked that a future agenda item include the Ordinance regarding tanker trucks going down Main Street and the enforcement of the ordinance and also asked for an update on camera placement and time clocks; and future discussion for a different type of gate leading into to Public Works.



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Councilmember Brown referred to the Water Conservation Symposium that he had recently attended and that he met John T. Sutton, a Texas Water Development Board Member and that they spoke about the possibility of a buy-back treated waste water project to address the water shortage for rice farmers, that were in such a drought a few years ago that could possibly be funded by the Rainy Day Fund, which could involve other cities as well.

Councilmember Osteen welcomed all the new hires and thanked the public for attending the meetings.

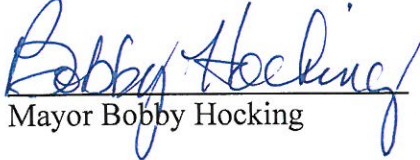
Councilmember Bell thanked Beverly Ferguson on her long tenured services on the Clean City Commission.

Mayor Hocking reminded EV still continues until Friday, encouraged all to exercise their right to vote. He visited Sonny Manual, a long-time resident of La Marque, who is hospitalized, and reported that he is doing better. Sent condolences to the family of Ed Akins, also a long-time resident of La Marque and former Navy Seal's funeral is tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Church in La Marque. He then thanked Beverly Ferguson for great job she did while serving on the Clean City Committee.

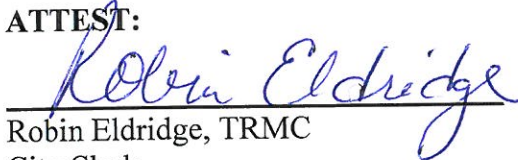
"We have a great Council here in La Marque. We don't always agree, and we aren't supposed to always agree. That is what you want in a democracy. I would like to express my heartfelt support for the current Council which would include the re-election of Councilmember brown in District "D" and Councilmember Osteen in District "B". If it ain't broke don't fix it. I am thankful that we can continue to move forward in the City and do the work of the people."

(12) ADJOURNMENT

It was the consensus of City Council to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting at 6:59 p.m.


Mayor Bobby Hocking

ATTEST:


Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk