



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL AND REGULAR MINUTES
of
July 27, 2026**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Keith Bell	Mayor
Tonia Griffin	Mayor Pro Tem/District D
Kimberley Yancy	District A (Joined at 5:41 p.m.)
Sade Williams	District B
Joseph Lowry	District C

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All assembled stated The Lord's Prayer in unison and Mayor Bell led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Jay spoke about Councilmember Lowry and penal codes 37.11 and 37.12 impersonating a police officer and stating that he was a Texas Ranger and wants a 37.10 citizen's arrest.

Ms. Freebird spoke about Councilmember Lowry's conduct concerning racism and gaslighting and a false police report, and how the public sees his mental health on social media.

Harvey Freebird spoke about Councilmember Lowry making a false police report with the Galveston Police Department and social media posts stalking and harassing people's kids and families.

Zane, from Philadelphia, PA, spoke on upholding the Constitution and the citizen's right to criticize public officials.

Richard Loftis spoke in regard to doing away with the Zoom platform and the fact that other cities have moved away from video call-ins after Covid.

Clarence Caldwell, 1st Street, spoke in regard to the roads in La Marque, particularly Prairie Street and Newman, and for potholes to be filled from Hitchcock to La Marque, and also the brush weeds and overgrowth in the ditches, and no streetlights in the city.

Brandon Kantowski spoke in regard to his PD Records request number 26-288 and disagreed with the decision that it was sent to the Attorney General's office and that he thinks the city has the ability to redact certain confidential information or outsource it and Councilmember Lowry attracting negative attention to the city, and finally flock cameras.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the special meeting and entered into executive session at 5:40 p.m.*

- 5.I. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) - Discussion and possible action regarding City Manager Finalists.

6. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the executive session and reconvened the special meeting at 6:42 p.m.*

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to hire Michael Delmore as City Manager. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION FAILED WITH 1 AYE (LOWRY) AND 4 NAYS.**

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to hire Shawna Burkhart as the permanent City Manager. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).**

7. PRESENTATIONS

- 7.I. Code Enforcement Improvements - *Administrative*
City Manager Barbara Holly presented this item and informed council that the police department would be taking over Code Enforcement as of July 27, 2026.
- 7.II. IRS Reporting Update - *Finance*
Finance Director Worth Ferguson presented this item and stated that there are no updates from the IRS.

8. MINUTES

***Item 8.II was pulled.*

- 8.I. City Council Minutes 06.08.26
Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes 06.08.26. Councilmember Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- 8.II. City Council Minutes 06.22.26

9. OLD BUSINESS

- 9.I. Amendment to Interlocal Collection Agreement - *Finance*
Finance Director Worth Ferguson presented this item.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the Amendment to Interlocal

Collection Agreement. Councilmember Lowry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.I. HGAC 2026 General Assembly Nomination - *Administration*

Mayor Bell presented this item and asked Council to nominate himself to the HGAC 2026 General Assembly and Mayor Pro Tem Griffin as alternate.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to nominate Mayor Keith Bell and Mayor Pro Tem Griffin as Alternate to the HGAC 2026 General Assembly.

Councilmember Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.II. Nominations to the Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool - *Administration*

City Manager Barbara Holly presented this item.

Mayor Bell made a motion to nominate David Merryman for Place 1 to the Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool. Mayor Pro Tem Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Pro Tem Griffin made a motion to nominate Wilmont Smith for Place 2 to the Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool. Councilmember Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to nominate Katrina Baker for Place 3 to the Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool. Mayor Pro Tem Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to nominate Sade Williams for Place 4 to the Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool. Mayor Pro Tem Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.III. Discussion and possible action to approve the FY 2027 City Events Calendar - *Communications*

Finance Director Worth Ferguson presented this item and informed council of the presentations provided in their packets and asked council to approve the draft calendar and informed them that the city will send out sponsorship packages to seek funding for these events, contingent on them being funded.

There was further discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Griffin made a motion to approve the FY 2027 City Events Calendar. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.IV. Discussion and possible action to authorize the release of a Request for Information (RFI) for Tourism and Community Event Planning, Production, and Event Management Services - *Finance*

Finance Director Worth Ferguson presented this item and explained the Request for Information bid solicitations and the intent. He discussed briefly some options that were in the proposal.

Councilmember Yancy spoke about Houston Economic and HGAC as possible sponsorship/partnership opportunities and also the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP).

There was discussion about the city obtaining a 501 (C)(3) and City Attorney, Gus Knebel spoke about how the city might go about that.

Mayor Bell asked that the 501 (C)(3) discussion be placed on the next agenda.

10.V. Request for Qualifications - Building Inspection / Plan Review Services - *Development Services*

City Manager Barbara Holly presented this item and reminded council that the city pays approximately \$400,000 annually for these types of services performed outside the city. She informed council that staff has been hired to augment inspections and the intent to hire a planner for plan reviews and that this proposal would be for overflow services.

Councilmember Griffin made a motion to approve the Request for Qualifications - Building Inspection/Plan Review Services. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.VI. Discussion and possible action to approve Texas New Mexico Power (TNMP) Franchise Agreement - *Administration*

City Manager Barbara Holly presented this item and informed council that former Mayor Pro Tem Compian was involved with the work. She noted that Gus has reviewed it, there are no changes and no increase to fees, and that this allows for them to have an active franchise agreement.

There was further discussion regarding the led lights in the city by Councilmember Yancy and a request for Public Works Director Shannon Breau to provide TNMP a list of lights that need repair in the city by Councilmember Griffin.

Mayor Pro Tem Griffin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2026-0014 - Granting an electric franchise agreement to Texas-New Mexico Power Company. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.VII. Discussion and possible action to approve Transition Plan for City Manager - *Administration*

***This item was moved after Item 6.*

City Manager Barbara Holly informed council that Worth Ferguson and Chief Frankland were both qualified to sit in as temporary Interim City Manager until the new City Manager Shawna Burkhardt starts on August 23.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to appoint Worth Ferguson as Interim City Manager from July 31, 2026 through August 22, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Griffin seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 10.VIII. Discussion and possible action to approve a letter agreement with Barbara Holly regarding transition services - *Administration*

***This item was moved after Item 6.*

City Attorney Gus Knebel discussed the contract with council and after discussion, the council approved an open-ended agreement for continued services with Barbara Holly at no cost to the City.

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve a letter agreement with Barbara Holly regarding transition services. Mayor Pro Tem Griffin seconded. **MOTION PASSED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (LOWRY).**

11. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- 11.I. June 2026 Municipal Court Monthly Stats

- 11.II. Public Works-Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project Timeline
Councilmember Williams asked if the debris in the tank had been removed. Mr. Breaux informed her that they were working on it and had just removed the gating and looking to install the bar screen, but prior to that, they would remove the debris. He also informed council that it is also part of the existing planned rehab system and possibly will be done by the end of August.

- 11.III. Public Works - Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response SOP

- 11.IV. Public Works - Streets and Parks Operations Update
This item was pulled by Mayor Pro Tem Griffin and Councilmember Yancy. Public Works Director Shannon Breaux presented this item and an update on the department as a whole. He mentioned the streets assessment study (96 miles of streets in the city) was included in his update in the packet in the Galveston County Mobility Project.

Councilmember Yancy asked about Meadow Lane, and Mr. Breaux informed council that it is included in the Galveston County Mobility Project. He noted that the engineering phase has started, and he recently attended a preliminary meeting and is currently waiting for the project timeline and start date. Councilmember Yancy asked that a memo be submitted to the organization requesting that the City of La Marque not be considered last as in previous times.

Mayor Bell spoke on behalf of the kindness rock gardens in our parks and asked for official acceptance and council approval of them. He also recognized the Garden Club and their activities around the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Griffin spoke about the Park's Board noticing that the bird sanctuary and wildlife habitat was excluded from our Parks Master Plan which was recently adopted, and asked that it be amended. Interim City Manager noted that if they have not approved it, it will need to come to council for approval, if they have already approved it, then it will be added.

11.V. Public Works - Equipment Needs Assessment
Mayor Pro Tem Griffin pulled this item.

Public Works Director Shannon Breaux informed council that the department needs about \$2.5 million dollars worth of equipment to be up to full capacity to handle daily operations and that he provided all the details in the report in the packet. There was discussion about street repairs and labor costs and the needs of the stormwater department, equipment sharing between departments and current equipment utilization.

It was determined that the city would need to go into debt to get the equipment purchased and Mr. Breaux added that it would be necessary to put together a plan that included the needed personnel to run the equipment otherwise it would just be sitting.

11.VI. EDC Board Report 5 2026
Stood.

11.VII. EDC Board Report 6 2026
Stood.

Councilmember Yancy mentioned the College of the Mainland and their recognition of the La Marque Economic Development Corporation and praised the success of the partnership. She also suggested that the EDC look into vacancies due to the recent closings of the game rooms in the city and how that might be an opportunity for new business. She further mentioned getting the word out to small business owners in District A regarding grants that are offered and the possibility of holding an EDC Orientation event for the community. Further requested by Councilmember Yancy was more information about Retail Strategies and the amount of money the EDC pays for their services and the benefit to the city.

11.VIII. City Clerk's Report

12. REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Williams shared that the resident at 216 Preston Street is requesting that the City repave the street and the resident at 3603 Prairie Street would like repairs be made to the potholes, and Saltgrass regarding the sidewalks and requested a meeting with city staff to learn more about it.

Councilmember Lowry apologized to the taxpayers for the out-of-state and out-of-town adjectators who can be tied back to You Tuber Robert Harvey who is a heavy narcotics

user, domestic terrorist, and racist.

Councilmember Yancy brought up the following items: mosquitos and the need for them to be sprayed and requested the item be added to the agenda, the sign that is still down in District A needs to be put back up, a Library report for what they are doing for back to school, an agenda item for the Cemetary Board, and an Ordinance for homebuilding of duplexes in District A and to conduct a study to look at vacant lots and open spaces for development in La Marque. She also mentioned that she will miss Interim City Manager Barbara Holly and commended her for her excellent work and experience.

Mayor Pro Tem Griffin spoke about bringing the Cemetary Board to a future agenda in connection to the tree committee and historical committee and responding to Lesley Taylor about her alleyway and Crystal Donaldson, who lives in another district, and asked Mrs. Holly to respond to their requests.

Mayor Bell mentioned the following items: the removal of heavy brush behind a resident's fence and said that Councilmember Williams could provide Mrs. Holly with his address, the Rapid Response Plan for street repairs and potholes and sewer backflows, the need to possibly reschedule the budget workshop on Monday, City Attorney Gus Knebel to work on Mrs. Burkhardt's contract, he thanked Interim City Manager Bargara Holly for her excellent service and that she is the benchmark to what they should expect from a City Manager and that he appreciates everything she has done to help stabilize the City. Mayor Bell also thanked Michael Delmore for being a part of the process in the city manager search and that he believes he will do a great job wherever he lands. Finally, he congratulated Shawna Burkhardt on becoming the next effective and productive City Manager in the City of La Marque and noted that the city is in desperate need of a city manager like her who has managed several cities with a vast majority of municipal scenarios as being a better fit for our community.

Outgoing Interim City Manager Holly thanked the council and shared that it has been an honor to serve with them as a council and to serve in this community, that the EDC is amazing, and the people here by and large are among the best that she has ever worked with in a long career. She also mentioned that she thinks the choice to hire Mrs. Burkhardt was the correct one and that they are getting someone who also has a lot of experience, and they will see what that means at the dais. She thanked council for the opportunity and wished everyone the best and reminded them that she is still available by phone text or email.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Griffin made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Yancy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.*