



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Regular Minutes
December 8, 2014**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, December 8, 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) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hocking dispensed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(4) MINUTES

a. City Council Special Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2014.

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve the City Council Special Minutes of November 17, 2014.

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

(5) PRESENTATION

a. Recognition of Business "Shine your Light" – The Castle Childcare

Mayor Hocking welcomed and congratulated two of the staff members of The Castle Childcare, Keiona Bourgeois Bell and Floredia Haygood.

(6) CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

David Pennington reminded everyone of the upcoming "Wreaths across America" ceremony to be held at the La Marque Cemetery, located at 1709 Oak Street, beginning at 11:00 a.m. and invited all to come out and join.

Geraldine Sam asked that a few of the questions that she will asking be answered in an email or a telephone call. First she asked what the City is or will be doing to prevent the City of La Marque from having a situation here like the situation in Ferguson, Missouri. Second, whether the La Marque Police Officers be allowed to have body cameras provided to them



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and whether the City will be providing more diversity in the Police and Fire Departments. She then reported that garbage pickup is getting later and later, sometime a day later. Was sad to find out that the Librarian and children's Librarian had left and asked if those positions were going to be filled and whether the Library was going to remain open. She said that crime is up in the City and that it with it being the holiday season, asked what things the City had in place to curve the crime in the community. Then she reported that there were no police officers present in any of the school zones within the City, and said that there is speeding going on in the school zones.

(7) OLD BUSINESS – There was none

(8) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action authoring the City of La Marque to enter into an agreement with Abundant Life Christian Center of La Marque for an FM radio transmitting tower as outlined in the City Attorney's memo.
 - ** Councilmember Bell made a motion authorizing entering into an agreement with Abundant Life Christian Center of La Marque for an FM radio transmitting tower as outlined in the City Attorney's memo (Attached as Exhibit "A").
 - ** Councilmember Lane seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- b. Discussion/possible action authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract between the Galveston County Health District and the City of La Marque for Water Pollution Control and Abatement
 - ** Councilmember Lane made a motion authorizing the City manager to enter into a contract between the Galveston County Health District and the City of La Marque for water Pollution Control and Abatement
 - ** Councilmember Trube seconded the motion.

Councilmember Trube asked if the contract would give some relief to recent sewer leaks that the City had been experiencing. She asked that Garner Environmental be placed on a future meeting.

Public Works Director reported that the City does receive monthly recaps and that this agency is a regulatory agency not so much a technical agency. Then said that the reports haven't been forwarded to City Council, but they will begin from this point forward to make sure that City Council has the opportunity to review them. Then, further stated that this agency provides restaurant grease trap inspections, they respond to calls from Cities and other individuals for the regulation of water pollution, control and abatement. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding the recommendation of the Parks Board to approve a three (3) year Agreement between the Bay Area Bears Baseball League and the City of La Marque for use of the baseball field at Highland Bayou Park



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- ** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Parks Board to approve a three (3) year Agreement between the Bay Area Bears Baseball League and the City of La Marque for use of the baseball field at Highland Bayou Park
- ** Councilmember Bell seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lane asked how many children from the City of La Marque utilize the fields. His concern is that the fields continue to be maintained, since also that they are not paying to use the fields, and also that they continue servicing the citizens of La Marque.

Councilmember Bell asked about some of the damages that have occurred on the fields, fence and backstop and was reassured by the Chairman of the Parks Board that the damages were not caused from vandalism, but normal wear and tear of the fields. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- d. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-0023**, amending Section 74.24 (a), Planning and Zoning Commission (a) Organization of Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of La Marque Code of Ordinances by authorizing City Council to appoint up to seven (7) members and/or two (2) alternates to the Planning and Zoning Commission, as per City Charter Amendment
- ** Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. **O-2014-0023**, amending Section 74.24 (a), Planning and Zoning Commission (a) Organization of Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of La Marque Code of Ordinances by authorizing City Council to appoint up to seven (7) members and/or two (2) alternates to the Planning and Zoning Commission, as per City Charter Amendment **THIS IS THE FIRST READING**
- ** Councilmember Lane seconded the motion.

Discussion followed with concerns of the numbers of members required to make a quorum. Further discussion included the incumbency that this Council encourage citizens to serve on these boards and to make sure that the appointees are committed to this Commission, to actively search out persons that are willing to serve and to represent this Commission. After discussion, it was agreed for the City Council to appoint five members and two alternates.

Mayor amended the motion as delineated by the City Attorney. Councilmember Brown seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- e. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2014-0024** amending City of La Marque Fiscal Year 2015 Budget to recognize funds received from Galveston County for mutual aid fire protection services and to appropriate certain fire expenditures per contract by increasing revenue account 48-3801-00-00 by \$22,500.00 and increasing appropriation to Fire expenditure account 48-3020-06-00 by \$22,500.00 **THIS IS THE FIRST READING.**



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- ** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. **O-2014-0024** amending City of La Marque Fiscal Year 2015 Budget to recognize funds received from Galveston County for mutual aid fire protection services and to appropriate certain fire expenditures per contract by increasing revenue account 48-3801-00-00 by \$22,500.00 and increasing appropriation to Fire expenditure account 48-3020-06-00 by \$22,500.00.
- ** Councilmember Lane seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(9) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (no action needed)

- Development Services
- Judicial
- Police Dept.
- Fire Dept.
- Library
- Public Works
- Financials

Councilmember Trube referred to page 51, 52 and 53, errors in calculationS. City Manager said she would be conferring with staff the following day, and also Page 57. Page 135 through 139, the report was confusing (YTD (2015)). Page 141, question of how much Mr. Bowen was paid for Bayou Fest; list of vendors not yet paid; which were said to be outstanding invoices; page 146, backup for inspections done; page 149, carpet shampoo for Fire Marshalls SUV \$95.00, which also included removal, cleaning and replacement. Page 150 and 151, how many employees does this amount include? (9), questions on check requests for payments and how many meter readers, the temp agency amount is included. (Councilmember wants a breakdown); page 152, (after verification, they are paid as soon as they are received); 154 Republic Waste bill received late; other questions included what can be done to expedite the payment process; it was determined that staff was following the purchasing policy; documentation on late invoices to be provided; reports received from finance department need to be work shopped; proofreading by staff.

Councilmember Bell asked Lt. Jackson, referred to page 70, violent crime rise up 5%, this increase has to do with aggravated assaults. Asked what was being done, if anything can be. This was said to have been due to the season, with more family members getting together and celebrating. He went on to explain what aggravated assaults were. These types of crimes increase and tend to fluctuate this time of the year. Motor vehicle theft up 25%; one of the officers left and left a gap in that area (Task Force employee); police officer vacancies, couldn't be pin-pointed; reports on the use of force were also discussed briefly.

(10) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – (took out of order- before Executive Session)

Councilmember Trube thanked all for attending, and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Councilmember Brown said that the city's light is going to keep shining

Councilmember Lane congratulated staff on the Christmas party that had been held the previous Friday



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Mayor Pro-Tem Bell thanked all involved in the Christmas parade, then asked about body cameras for the Police department

Mayor Hocking wished Mr. Brown a Happy Birthday on Thursday; expressed condolences to the family of Fred Heinemann; announced a Special meeting on the 15th to swear in the New Police Chief, with a Meet and Greet to follow.

(11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section:

1. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) – Discuss the status of arbitration regarding Alfred Decker

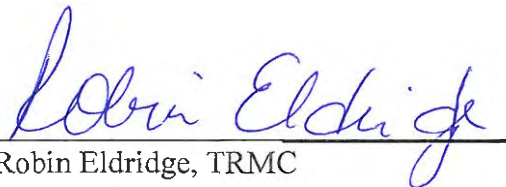
Mayor Hocking recessed the Regular Meeting and went into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.

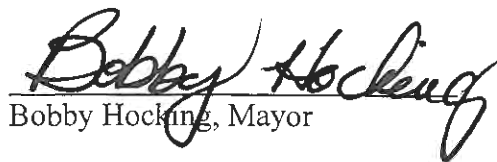
Mayor Hocking reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:38 p.m.

No action was taken at this time from the Executive Session.

(12) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**


Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk


Bobby Hocking, Mayor