



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Workshop Minutes
April 14, 2014**

Minutes of the City Council Workshop Meeting of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road for purpose of considering the following agenda:

(1) Mayor Hocking called the meeting to order at 3:30 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 postponed the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance until the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

(4) Discussion – Discussion of Street Improvements Project and provide City Manager with direction-

Public Works Direct Mike Morgan presented in the packet the latest assessment of the streets that need improvements. He reported that the engineering costs alone would probably consume up the majority of the money that was budgeted for the street improvements project. He then suggested maybe two streets from each District be given as suggested streets to receive improvements. Some of the streets already have cost analysis, previously prepared, but it was noted, that those costs from awhile back, and may not be accurate at this time. The first street Councilmember Bell of District "A" suggested was Campus Heights. The estimate cost to overlay only, was \$30,000.00 to \$35,000.00. "That would be my number one priority, but, I am willing to tackle a street in the spirit of cooperation, a street that has multiple districts in it, and that would be Bayou. It is a main thoroughfare, high traffic, well-traveled street. I'd be willing to submit those two streets, initially, then wait to hear from the rest of Council has a chance to speak."

Councilmember Osteen asked, "The \$350,000, is that money left over and is there any reason why we haven't spent it before now? "

Mr. Morgan said, "It is my understanding, that it is the original money that was left over from the bonds from 2007 and 2006, I believe. Some of it was in reserve for Cedar Drive."



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City Manager Carol Buttler commented, "It was my understanding when we spoke about street improvements last year, most of the streets were in this end of town, there were a couple of through streets and the goals that were very important was to get those completed, to see what was left. When it came to budget, we just carried that money over to be used on streets, until we used the money. We need to use that money within a certain period of time. Evidently, there were some delays with the start. Mr. Osteen asked if the \$350,000.00 included the \$170,000.00 set aside for Newman Road. He said that that money should stay in District A, and that he spent a lot of time getting that money reimbursed and that street ran in front of his business.

Councilmember Osteen added, "The only street that I have is Volney Road, every citizen should have a paved street". That portion was said to have a cost analysis of around \$20,000.00.

It was discussed that Bayou Road would be a big project, and that it should be discussed in the budget process. Also recommended was to do less streets and get the engineering done on them, put more materials on them so the city doesn't have to come back in three or four years and redo them. Mr. Morgan agreed to pick a few streets per district, let the engineer look at those then come back to City Council with what it would cost do the engineering and design for those streets.

Recommendation was made to hold back the refunded \$170, 000.00 for District A.

Councilmember Trube asked whether it had been considered to have streets that are in need of repairing or improving, to be done in brick. It was determined that the costs associated with this would double.

Councilmember Trube added Dalian to the list of streets and then Maxwell, which is the street leading to Highland Bayou Park. A cost analysis of \$35,000.00 was said it would cost for Dalian. She then recommended that if there was any money left over, the city should replace or repair to their original condition some of the driveways and sidewalks that have been destroyed by the City in the process of replacing lines. Mr. Morgan replied that several driveways and sidewalks have been replaced recently.

Councilmember Brown added a portion of Banana Street to the list, which would include paving a portion of the driveways abutting Banana Street to both Savage Tank and also Farmers businesses. There was no cost analysis available for this. They would look into this area. A two block section of Martin Luther King Drive. It was said that most of that road was just patch over patch, it was said that this alone could cost \$300,000.00. Then they discussed a few of the streets after turning left off of Banana Street, just two blocks in need of being resurfaced. Texas Avenue and Wind Way, bout fifty feet section. Maxwell and Martin Luther King and Bayou were suggested to be added to the second round of streets to be improved. Discussion continued as to depending on what condition Maxwell is in once the pipeline is placed in this area, as per agreement for Dow Pipeline to restore the street to its normal stage. It was directed for the Public Works Director to get with the engineers for possible giving us some quality site bids related to



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the repairs and improvements of Campus Heights North, Volney, and Dalian Streets along with the fifty foot section of Wind Way.

For informational purposes, looking into the use of brick in certain areas of the City was given as direction, with Bayou Street mentioned, as a possible street. Further discussion included with the possibility of working with a consultant to help the city see five, ten or fifteen years down the road.

Mayor Hocking recessed the first portion of the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Mayor Hocking reconvened o to the second portion of the meeting at 5:15 p, m.

(5) Discussion – Discussion with the Cemetery Board regarding the fence surrounding the La Marque Cemetery and provide City Manager with direction.

Cemetery Board Chairman David Pennington, Board members Bim Crowder and Peggy Phillips were also in attendance along with Pastor Doug of Paul's Union Church.

Councilmember Brown and Pastor Doug shared photos of the existing fence surrounding the La Marque Cemetery. The Cemetery Board met and decided that they would like to go with the same type of fence that is currently there, which is a six foot, commercial grade, chain link fence. Long the back side of the cemetery where it backs up to houses, they would like to see some barbed wire over the top of the fence to protect some of those houses. They were looking at heavy two inch line posts, with knees. They had also discussed an ornamental front, but it is not something that they have to have, or maybe an arch over the existing brick wall. In 2013, the estimate was \$37,265.00. Pastor Doug said his only concern was when they were talking about putting in a gate. The church actually paved the parking area, and it was part of the agreement that they would have access to the parking. The church is trying to prevent any issues from occurring. It was discussed that there need not be a gate, unless the city is planning on setting up certain times that the cemetery can be accessed; recommending from dusk to dawn. It was further discussed that this could be added to the cemetery rules or in ordinance form. Discussion continued about the shrubbery that will remain after the existing fence comes down and whether or not the neighbors want that buffer there to keep from viewing a cemetery. It was talked about that the old posts and fence could be taken in as scrap metal and can use that to help purchase the new fence if needed. It was further discussed that a new survey be obtained to see if the cemetery is utilizing all of the property that they are supposed to be using. In some areas it is up to ten feet short. A few of the homeowners have replaced their fences, and have encroached onto the cemetery area. A survey of this area should be included in the bid proposal.

Councilmember Brown showed more pictures clearly showing that some of the homeowners have fenced in parts of the right of way along the cemetery in certain areas. Other concerns included dogs that are currently in homeowner's yards, and what needs to be done to control them, when the fence is removed. Pictures also revealed that trees have grown into the existing fence in some areas. Part of the fence is hanging almost to the ground in some of the pictures in a particular area of the fence, and then added, "Whoever replaces this fence will have a big job to do."



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Councilmember Osteen asked, "With all of the homeowners that tie into this cemetery fence, who is going to move their fence back?"

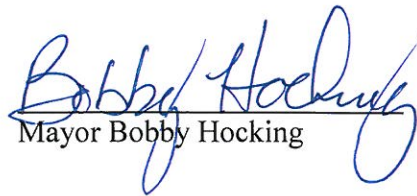
It was determined that the first thing to do is to obtain a survey, and if it is found that the owners have tied into this fence, it will be the homeowners cost and responsibility to replace the fence to where it needs to be situated on their property.

It was the consensus to bring back the proposed fence (s) bid packet also and the "dusk to dawn" verbiage addition to the cemetery rules and regulations.

(6) ADJOURNMENT

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn at 5:33 p.m.

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


Mayor Bobby Hocking

ATTEST:


Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk