



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Workshop Minutes
August 11, 2014**

Minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, August 11, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road for purpose of considering the following agenda:

(1) Mayor Hocking called the meeting to order at 3:00 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) Review and discuss the Report submitted by the Charter Review Committee as it relates to proposed amendments to the City Charter

Mayor Hocking provided an overview and opened for discussion, the report from the Charter Review Committee that contained nine (9) proposed amendments to be considered for the placement on the ballot in November for the voters to have a chance to vote for or against (attached hereto as Attachment "A")

John Hander, a member of the Charter Review Commission was present for questions.

Discussion followed as to whether both the new proposal amendments and the current way the City Charter read were both on the ballot at previous Charter elections. This may be a little too wordy for the ballot in November, since all municipalities end up on the bottom of the ballot. He stated that the Charter Review Committee would be meeting again before the 2015 November Election, to possibly "clean up" some of the typos and antiquated portions of the current City Charter. Mayor Hocking, at the recommendation of the City Manager, proposed an amendment for discussion which would be to change the City Charter Section 10.01 with the reason being, it has been difficult in getting a quorum for the Planning & Zoning Commission.



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Mayor Hocking began reading the report with discussion on Proposition #1 (Section 1.03) being a cleanup of the portion of the current City Charter and the proposed wording being what was recommended by the TML (Texas Municipal League) and NLC (National League of Cities) model City Charters. The same with Proposition #2 (Section 1.04), this being a “cleanup” of the portion and proposed it to model the TML Charter that simplifies it and to come in-line to state law. Proposition #3 does the same thing, only referring to Disannexation. Proposition #4, (Section 2.01), this proposal will only drop the term limits of the Mayor and Councilmembers. As the Charter now reads, an elected Councilmember or the Mayor can only hold an office for three consecutive, three years terms. Every three years, the Mayor and whichever Councilmember’s position term has reached the three years, and it as their own discretion, or will as to whether they want to run in a position again. This will allow them to continue to run as long as they wish, each time their three year term is up for re-election. In some instances, some cities have done away with recall provisions within their Charters. Mayor Hocking stated, “I believe the Charter Review Committee came to the conclusion, that if you are asking to do away with term limits, then it shouldn’t be made more difficult to recall an individual who has done something so outrageous that he or she needs to be recalled.”

It was decided to drop the word “recall”, as it refers to a “recall election”, from that section, since a recall is trying to remove someone from a designated office, and not electing someone into an office. This was cleared by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Bell wanted to note, that the recall provision will remain the same. The recall provision will remain, this being a way in which a Mayor or a Councilmember can be voted out of office. It is a win-win situation, if you like your Councilmember, a citizen can continue to vote for this person each time his/her term is up for re-election, for as long is that person decides to run, but at the same time, allows a citizen to go through the procedures to recall their Councilmember at the same level as before.

Discussion followed concerning Proposition #5, (Section 2.6) there were several different ideas, including calling it a stipend, or not being reimbursed or compensated at all. It was agreed upon that expenses are incurred by the Mayor and Councilmembers in performing their duties as elected officials. The following was agreed upon for the language: “Reimbursement. Members of the City Council may be reimbursed for approved expenses incurred during the course of their duties as prescribed by City Ordinance.”

Proposition #6 (Section 4.05), it was agreed by City Council that the last sentence in the second paragraph be omitted and replaced with the following sentence: “In the event of a tie in the run-off election, the City will proceed in a manner provided by the Texas Election Code and the Texas Constitution.”

Proposition #7 (Section 8.4 (i), it was agreed upon by City Council to read: “Depositories are to be selected for one (1) year, and may be renewed by the City for two (2) additional one (1) year terms, for a total of three (3) years. The City will submit a Request for Proposals. The City



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Council shall have the discretion of remaining with the current depository or proceeding with the selection of a new depository." This replaces the City to have to go out every year, for a depository, which that process alone, may take up half of the year.

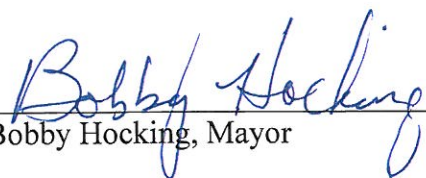
Proposition #8 (Section 11.04), it was agreed upon by City Council to read, "Personal interest in city business. No member of the City Council or employee of the City shall personally engage in any business with the City or have a substantial interest in a business entity doing business with the City without making disclosure thereof. As used in this Section, the term "substantial interest in a business entity" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section 171.002, et. Seq., of the Texas Local government Code [V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 171.002 et seq.]. Any willful violation of this section shall constitute malfeasance in office, and any such member of City Council or City employee guilty thereof shall hereby forfeit his position or employment. Any violation of this section with the express or implied knowledge of the person or entity doing business with the city shall render the contract voidable by the City Council. This is something the City is doing now, this is just is more easily readable.

Proposition #9 (Section 11.05), it was agreed upon by City Council to now read, "

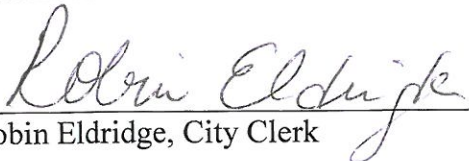
Proposition #10 (Section 10.01), it was agreed by City Council to now read, "The City Council shall appoint a Planning and Zoning Commission by City Ordinance." This will allow the City to pass an ordinance that will give the City Council more control over the number of members on this Commission, in hopes of being able to have a quorum. It was discussed to have five members with two alternates specified in an ordinance.

(4) ADJOURNMENT

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bell seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4: 43 p.m.


Bobby Hocking, Mayor

ATTEST:


Robin Eldridge, City Clerk