



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

Workshop Meeting | 1
Monday, February 11, 2013

**MINUTES
WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

(1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Hocking called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Councilmember Brown
Councilmember Trube
Councilmember Osteen
Mayor Hocking

ABSENT:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell (arrived 3:34 p.m.)

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hocking dispensed with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at this time.

(4) WORKSHOP

a. Discussion – effectiveness of the Traffic Enforcement Officer position initiated August 13, 2012-Chief R. Aragon

City Manager Buttler informed City Council that the purpose of this item is to provide an update on the effectiveness of the Traffic Enforcement Officer and what is being done to prevent/reduce crime and clean up the city.

At this time, City Manager Buttler asked Chief Aragon to brief Council. Chief Aragon stated that with City Council approval, the Traffic Enforcement Officer program was initiated in August 13, 2012. Chief Aragon indicated that based on the statistics, the program is working. The purpose is to reduce “crash incidents” and Officer Guzman is doing a great job.

Chief Aragon stated that the program is successful and adding another officer would be advantageous to the City in making our streets safe. Chief Aragon discussed the additional costs/benefits of another Traffic Enforcement Officer.

.

LMPD staff recommendations: expand traffic enforcement function by adding another TEO with a fully-equipped traffic enforcement vehicle.

Cost (salary/fringe) for additional TEO (depends on selectee): \$60,000
(estimated)

Cost for fully-equipped traffic enforcement vehicle: \$42,000



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

There was discussion on the use of the electronic ticket writers.

Councilmember Trube asked for a report on calls for service

Councilmember Trube also voiced concerns about adding an officer when public works has given up employees. Discussion followed on how long it takes to train a new officer.

b. Discussion – State of Texas Justice Administration Grant (JAG Grant) to prevent and control crime-Chief R. Aragon

Chief Aragon informed Council that this is a unique grant. These are federal monies given to the Federal Government, which in turn, are awarded to cities that meet the criteria. Chief Aragon stated that violent crime is up 9% in our city. As the saying goes, “we need to own the night”. The objective of the grant submission is to prevent and control crime. This grant will allow us to hire at one more SRT member which can assist the existing team in hitting “hot spots”. The maximum amount of the grant is \$125,000.00 per grantee.

Chief Aragon discussed the funding cycles:

Funding Cycle: First year = 100% funding;

Year 2 = 80% funding

Year 3 = 60% funding

Year Four = 0 funding. (Annually this grant needs to be resubmitted for approval.)

Our submission proposes purchasing one (1) patrol vehicle (\$43,000) in year one and adding one (1) Patrol Officer (approximately \$60,000 salary/fringe) in year one. This Officer will work as a full-time member of the department’s Special Response Team (SRT) and will work in conjunction with our department’s part-time SRT during high-crime hours (nights) conducting preventive patrol missions relating to hot-spots.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked if there was enough time to prepare and present the grant application and submit the application. Chief Aragon informed Council that with briefing City Council this evening, presenting the grant application at the Regular Meeting of February 25th, we will be able to make the submission date of February 28th.

City Manager Buttler stated that we encourage the departments to seek grant funding and this grant that will give us another resource in achieving our goals of preventing/controlling crime in our city.

(5) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Osteen seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Bobby Hocking, Mayor

Zina Tedford, City Clerk