

**City of La Marque  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
March 25, 2013**

**Minutes of the City Council Meeting of the City of La Marque, Texas of a Regular Meeting that was conducted on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road for purpose of considering the following agenda:**

**(1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Hocking called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Hocking  
Mayor Pro-Tem Bell  
Councilmember Brown  
Councilmember Trube  
Councilmember Osteen

City Administrator Buttler  
Interim City Clerk McKenzie

**(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Hocking led the Invocation and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**(4) MINUTES**

a. Regular Meeting, March 11, 2013

**\*\*Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve the minutes as presented of the Regular City Council Meeting of March 11, 2013.**

Seconded by Councilmember Brown. Motion approved unanimously.

**(5) CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION**

Comments from the Public (At this time, any person with city-related business who has signed up may speak to Council (limited to three (3) minutes). In compliance with Texas Open Meeting Act the City Council may not deliberate on comments. Personal attacks will not be allowed, and personnel matters should be addressed to the City Manager during normal business hours.

Geraldine Sam, 2412 Stonewall, concerned regarding the amount of money identified in the Audit, funds for Water and Sewer, concerned about the funds in Eco Development.

Willie J. Alexander, 214 Nanlee, Savage Trucking Company is located behind his home, has talked to the owners of the trucking company and they said they will not do anything about dust control.

Hector Compian, 325 Martin Luther King Drive, requesting stop signs to create 4-way stop.

Mayor referred to City Manager Butler and asked to look into and bring back to Council to look into this matter.

**(6) PRESENTATION**

a. Proclamation - Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month

Mayor presented the Proclamation to a number of Motorcycle groups in attendance.

b. Introduction - New City Employees City Manager Buttler introduced Ms. Suzy Kou, Finance Director. Mayor Hocking welcomed and thanked Ms. Kou for her assistance with the audit. Ms. Kou stated it is an honor to be back, this is home.

## **(7) PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. Public Hearing – Ordinance No. **O-2013-002** of the City of La Marque, Texas, amending Chapter 47 of the Code of Ordinances, City of La Marque, Texas, establishing regulations of geophysical mineral exploration, providing definitions, requiring permits and requiring notices.

Mayor Hocking called the Public Hearing to order at 6:17 pm.

No one spoke for or against the proposed Ordinance No. **O-2013-002**.

Ms. Geraldine Sam asked “are we saying they are required to follow the requirements or are we taking the requirements out.” Mayor Hocking stated this will require the exploration companies to follow the requirements and they will be required to come before Council.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing at 6:18 pm.

## **(8) OLD BUSINESS**

- a. \*\*Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. **O-2013-002** of the City of La Marque, Texas, amending Chapter 47 of the Code of Ordinances, City of La Marque, Texas, establishing regulations of geophysical mineral exploration, providing definitions, requiring permits and requiring notices.

Seconded by Councilmember Trube. Motion approved unanimously.

- b. Receive Status Report of Audit from Belt Harris, Pechacek, LLLP – City Manager C. Buttler introduced Mr. Robert Belt; Council authorized an extensive audit, additional funds for work outside of original scope. Mr. Belt stated the audit is going very well, staff is providing documents as requested, hopefully will finish in approximately one and a half weeks, stated he is here tonight to discuss some things that have come up at this point, over the last two weeks there has been a series of meetings and stated it is the official opinion that there is no money missing. Mr. Belt stated that funds were not used as planned, the 2005/2007 CO funds were not drawn down, resulting in a negative balance, funds were drawn down from TxPool and put back in Consolidated Accounts and stated it is believed that everything has been done that needs to be done and that a transfer has been made.

Mayor and Councilmembers asked numerous clarifying questions, which Mr. Belt responded to. Mayor and Council stated this is reflective of funds from 2005 thru today and that there had been numerous statements made regarding past employees and wanted to state that this error goes back much further than the immediate past City Manager and Finance Director. Council stated would like to see the EDC funds in a separate account.

City Manager Buttler stated that any issue regarding the current budget would be determined following the completion of the audit. Council stated they would wait for the completion of the audit and recommendation from the City Manager.

Mayor Hocking summarized by stating there are no missing funds, no stolen funds, EDC and City fund accounts are whole, stated this error did not happen during the past City Manager and Finance Director tenure. Urged everyone to quit looking back and move forward. Mayor Hocking stated it appears that it is the consensus of this Council that they would like to see the EDC funds be held in a separate account.

Council thanked Auditor Mr. Belt for his good work on the Audit.

## **(9) NEW BUSINESS**

- a. \*\*Councilmember Osteen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. **O-2013-003** amending Chapter 14, Building and Building Regulations, Article II, Building Code Section 24 “Revisions to residential code” Table R301.2 (1) Insert Wind Speed (MPH) to reduce the Wind speed requirements from 130/c to 120/b or c. Seconded by Councilmember Brown. Motion was approved unanimously.
- b. \*\*Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the appointment of Deloris McKenzie as Interim City Clerk. Seconded by Councilmember Brown. Motion was approved unanimously.
- c. Discussion/possible action – appointment of Deputy City Clerk Patty Rees.  
City Manager Buttler requested this item to be pulled at this time from the agenda with the appointment of Interim City Secretary.

## **(10) CITY MANAGER REPORT – No Council Action Necessary**

- Development Services
- Public Safety
- Judicial
- Public Works
- Finance

Council asked question regarding various Department reports.

## **(11) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Trube stated she would like to see more people attend the Council Meetings and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilmember Brown stated there was a problem with Sam’s Grand Opening and that someone had the time wrong, a number of officials attended and were late and made everyone arriving late look bad, presented the Sam’s Store Manager with a large framed print of the City of La Marque poster, and reported the Store Manager would like a little plaque saying from the City of La Marque to be displayed in their food court area.

Councilmember Osteen asked the City Manager to get stop signs on the next agenda and stated that Savage Trucking Company may need to do some testing on dust if do not want to cooperate.

Councilmember Bell welcome aboard Interim City Clerk McKenzie, congratulations and thanks to Finance Director Suzy Kou, especially thanked EDC for cooperation with audit and finding out what we have found so far, has heard nothing but positive feedback and said all the money that has been discussed is the citizens money and wished everyone happy Easter.

Mayor reported on meeting with Republic Waste and reported that citizens are going to get recycling, free of charge, reported that over 200 have signed up for this service, if anyone wants to can sign up, can do so by contacting the Water Department, publicly thanked Councilmember Osteen for his dedicated service as liaison on the financial issues, stated that Councilmember Trube advised that the City is in the 60<sup>th</sup> year and will need to celebrate, the Police Department is advising everyone to lock their vehicles, and wished everyone Happy Easter.

Everyone was reminded that Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 13.

**(12) ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.  
Seconded by Councilmember Osteen. Motion approved unanimously.**

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**Mayor Bobby Hocking**

**Attest:**

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**Deloris McKenzie, TRMC  
Interim City Clerk**