



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2013**

The City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas conducted a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 8, 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 6:02 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL.

PRESENT:

Mayor Hocking

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell

Councilmember Brown

Councilmember Trube

Councilmember Osteen

City Manager Buttler

Recording Secretary Rees

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Bell led the Invocation and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(4) MINUTES.

a. Regular Meeting, March 25, 2013

****A motion was made by Councilmember Trube to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 25, 2013. Seconded by Councilmember Osteen. 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.

Fredrico V. Farias, 3407 Texas Avenue, Texas City stated there is confusion on the number of plots that his mother purchased years ago located at La Marque's cemetery. After his mother passed away, it was reportedly discovered some other individuals are buried in them.

Sandra Stern, 26897 Kings Park Hollow Dr., La Marque, said they are a group of individuals (Galveston Community Radio) trying to return live and vocal radio to our community to represent the City with community events and involvement. Since they are non-profit they are subject to donation and sponsorships. Anything cities can do to get the word out to get these sponsorships would be appreciated. She is requesting a letter of endorsement from the Council for their radio station.



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Jamie Ray Loftis, 309 Johnson Street, La Marque, has ongoing health and sanitary problem with her neighbor who resides at 203 Johnson Street in regard to code violations that she feels hadn't been dealt with in a timely manner. Her neighbor has been keeping chickens which attract small snakes and rats. Also trash in the yard is a continuous problem. It has been causing a nuisance. The neighbor will get served with papers and within a month or two it happens all over again. Now her neighbor has a fence up so Code Enforcement can't see the problem. Ms. Loftis showed photographs to Council and stated she doesn't feel this property owner has been policed enough.

(6) PRESENTATION

a. Proclamation – April, 2013 as “City-Wide Spring Clean-Up”

Mayor Hocking presented a proclamation to the Clean City Commission for the City Wide Clean Up scheduled for April 13, 2013.

David Pennington stated for the Spring Clean-Up, Clean City Commission members will hold registration at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot of City Hall. There will be drawings for prizes, hot dogs and other refreshments will be served to the volunteers who help with the clean-up.

b. Proclamation – April, 2013 as “Fair Housing Month”

Mayor Hocking presented a proclamation to Mike Morgan, member of the FFAST (Fair Housing Activity Statement-Texas) program. Mr. Morgan is the Designated Staff Data Collection Chairman.

c. Proclamation – April 14 – 20, 2013 as “National Public Safety Telecommunications Week”

Mayor Hocking presented a proclamation to La Marque's Tele-communicators Melissa Lockhart, Tina Crawford, and Amber Bramblett.

c. Clean City Commission – Certificates for Anti-littering School Contest Winners

Mayor Hocking, David Pennington, Chairman of Clean City Commission, and Dorothy Jeffcoat, member of Clean City Commission presented the certificates to the winners.

(7) PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Hocking called the Public Hearing to order at 6:44 p.m.

a. Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance No. **O-2013-003** An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas amending Chapter 14, Buildings 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.

Geraldine Sam, 2412 Stonewall, questioned if the City was downgrading their code for windstorm requirements since La Marque is in an area that has threats of hurricanes/tornadoes/golf-ball size hail weather conditions.

Ana Tims, Building Official, stated that the City is in compliance according to the adopted code of International Residential and International Building code as well as TWIA (Texas Windstorm Insurance Association). We will now have the same speed requirements as surrounding cities and this change will make insurance more affordable for the citizens.

No one spoke for or against the proposed amendment.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing at 6:48 p.m.



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(8) OLD BUSINESS.

a. Discussion/possible action – Ordinance No. **O-2013-003** An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas amending Chapter 14, Buildings 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. This is the second reading.

****Motion made by Councilmember Trube to approve Ordinance No. 0-2013-003. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bell. Motion approved unanimously.**

(9) NEW BUSINESS.

a. Presentation/discussion/possible action – Giving authority to the Mayor to submit a letter of recommendation to the Galveston Community Radio (GalvCom) for restoration of Community Radio in Galveston and surrounding areas.

****Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bell giving authority to the Mayor to submit a letter of recommendation to the Galveston Community Radio (GalvCom) for restoration of Community Radio in Galveston and surrounding area. Seconded by Councilmember Trube. Motion approved unanimously.**

b. Discussion/possible action – Changing of the Christmas Parade of Lights Route

Discussion on existing and proposed new route submitted by Mike Morgan. Mr. Morgan stated the Christmas Parade Committee recommended a new route due to the congestion at the end of parade at Walter Feigle Park. Existing route (Westward, Cedar, Bayou to Walter Feigle Park – 1.8 miles) is long for walkers. Mr. Morgan suggested that shortening the parade (New Route- Laurel, Cedar, Bayou to Walter Feigle - .8 miles) and moving it downtown would make easier for walkers and safer because the streets are wider. He said this item was important to bring to Council because of the need to purchase additional lights and coordinate power poles in the right areas. Councilmember Trube, who is serving on the Christmas Parade Committee, stated the congestion at the end of parade route slowed down the parade and the new route would help the floats get back to where they began in a timely manner.

****Motion made by Councilmember Brown to approve the changing of the Christmas Parade of Lights Route. Seconded by Councilmember Trube.**

Motion approved 4 for and 1 against - Mayor Pro Tem Bell opposed.

c. Discussion/possible action regarding the City’s budget.

Questions were raised about Parks Board funding for the purchase of playground safety equipment and it was determined this item will be brought back to Council at a future meeting. Councilmember Trube asked for a budget procedure workshop before the budget book is finalized. Council agreed that this item would be addressed at a workshop within 90 days.

d. Discussion/possible action regarding City Charter/Policies.

There was discussion on the purchasing policy and bidding procedure. City Manager Buttler said the City has been following the purchasing policy that was approved by Council in 2006. City Manager Buttler said a copy of the purchasing policy will be e-mailed to Council and she was asked to bring the purchasing policy back to Council at a future meeting.

(10) CITY MANAGER REPORT – No Council Action Necessary.



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- Administration
- Public Safety
- Judicial
- Public Works
- Economic Development Corporation

(11) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Councilmember Trube re-emphasized that a budget procedure workshop be scheduled. She also asked City Manager Buttler for an inventory system report. She thanked everyone for attending this evening and staying late.

Councilmember Brown congratulated the police department for handling the problem on Martin Luther King in a very professional manner. He thanked everyone for coming and Ms. Rees for filling in for the City Clerk this evening.

Councilmember Osteen was concerned about the employee thievery that has been happening in the City for it is costing the taxpayer money. He appreciates the job that Ms. Buttler and the police department have been doing but the thievery needs to stop. He says the Council needs to help if it means having a workshop. He suggested the City get cameras and GPS monitors in vehicles.

Mayor Pro Tem Bell added to the discussion on thievery. He said it seems to be going on for years but he is thankful that we caught five or more individuals which shows that Ms. Buttler, Chief Aragon and other police department personnel are turning things around. Mayor Pro Tem Bell congratulated the young people that participated in the Clean City Essay & Poster Contest. He said he is proud of the parents and grandparents for participating. Special thanks to Chief Aragon, Lt. Gilchrist and Jackson, Detective Price, Officer Lively and Walton and City Manager Buttler for going the extra mile concerning the incident at McKinney Memorial Methodist Church

Mayor Hocking said thievery will not be tolerated. He thanked the children and family members who participated in the Clean City Poster and Essay Contest. He thanked Ms. Rees for subbing tonight. Mayor Hocking wanted to offer in behalf of the Council and the Citizens of La Marque condolences to the family of Jamaica Beach's Police Chief Andy McClain's family who passed away Saturday, April 6, 2013. The services will be this week.

(12) ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made by Councilmember Trube to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm.
Seconded by Councilmember Osteen. Motion approved unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mayor Bobby Hocking

Deloris McKenzie, TRMC
Interim City Clerk
City of La Marque, Texas



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