



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Minutes
August 12, 2013**

Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, August 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road for purpose of considering the following agenda:

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

(2) ROLL CALL

Mayor Hocking

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell

Councilmember Brown

Councilmember Trube

Councilmember Osteen

City Administrator Buttler

City Clerk Eldridge

(3) MAYOR PRO-TEM BELL LED THE INVOCATION AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

(4) PRESENTATIONS

a. Mayor Hocking presented Robert Hart of Hart Pharmacy, Evelyn George of Evelyn's Tuxedo Rental, Mac McGaffey on behalf of La Marque Feed Store, and Gary Farine of Pilgrim Cleaners, with Certificates of Appreciation for their businesses in the City of La Marque and congratulated each of them. Representatives from The Kitchen Collection and Walmart were not present, but, will be delivered their certificates in person.

b. David Pennington, Chairman of the Clean City Commission introduced all of the members of the Clean City Commission and thanked them for all of their efforts and hard work as volunteers on this Board. Mr. Pennington then provided a power point presentation to City Council with a review of the semi-annual Clean City Commission report (January through June 2013).

(5) MINUTES

a. Minutes of Special Meeting held on July 29, 2013

**** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve the minutes of Special Meeting held on July 29, 2013. **Seconded by Councilmember Osteen. Motion carried unanimously.**

(6) PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hocking closed the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m.



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1) Geraldine Sam questioned the financial debt that the city incurred in the 2012-2013, and asked whether the debt would be written off. She thanked everyone for working hard to get the budget ready.

Mayor replied that the city has no bad debt and that the budget is balanced.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular Meeting at 6:39 p.m.

(7) NEW BUSINESS

a) Discussion/possible action authorizing the Mayor to execute grant documents of the City of La Marque's continued participation with Galveston County Auto Crimes Task Force (GCACTF) grant FY 2013-2014.

**** Councilmember Bell made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute grant documents of the City of La Marque's continued participation with Galveston County Auto Crimes Task Force (GCACTF) grant FY 2013-2014.**

****Seconded by Councilmember Brown. Motion carried unanimously.**

Attention was brought that the City of La Marque wasn't mentioned in the backup program narrative, and the representative was asked what this grant did for La Marque.

Mr. Lieutenant Tommy Hansen of Galveston County read and then provided City Council with some additional information pertaining to the City of La Marque (Attachment "A")

(8) OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action on a recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to adopt an Ordinance No. **O-2013-009**, for the regulation of garage sales. **(This item was tabled from July 22, 2013). This is the first reading.**

Councilmember Osteen made a motion to table this time based on incorrect information under the 'Signs' Section. Discussion followed. Motion was removed by Councilmember Osteen.

****Motion was made by Councilmember Bell to approve Ordinance O-2013-009 by removing the sentence, "A sign advertising a sale can only be placed on the property where the sale is occurring." **Councilmember Osteen seconded the motion. Discussion followed concerning the possibility of increasing or reducing the fee, decreasing the number of sales allowed per year, and also what the surrounding cities charged for a garage sale fee. Motion carried 4 to 1, with Councilmember Brown voting in opposition.**

(9) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Administration
- Development Services
- Judicial
- Police
- Fire
- Public Works



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Councilmember Trube brought up a few questions about the Public Works Report and the Judicial Report. She asked if the city was going to issue a stage-3 water drought notice, and was told that it was being closely monitored. She questioned the amount of money being collected by Linberger versus the amount being brought in by the City Marshall on warrants. Linebarger is collecting old uncollectable warrants and the City Marshall was collecting on the newer warrants. With the City Marshall helping out with Code Enforcement, it was actually working hand in hand in the locating citizens that have warrants. She asked for a report that would indicate addresses and fine amounts moving beyond city walls and shows how much the city sees of each warrant payoff. She also stated she was glad to see a report on Intermedix.

A citizen was allowed to speak during this time.

Faye Selly, a resident of Texas City and a homeowner of two properties in La Marque said she was glad to see that the city was going to regulate garage sales, that there were a few addresses within the city that seemed to be having garage sales perpetually.

Councilmember Bell commented on overtime in the Fire Department, and will try to and find out where the issues were and try to curb or lower that number, saying that it puts a strain on the public servants emotionally, physically and mentally and effects their social well-being. He asked Mike Morgan about 'New Hope'. Mr. Morgan provided Councilmember Bell with an update.

(10) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Trube thanked everyone for attending and hanging in through the budget progress, and suggested having three workshop days next year.

Councilmember Brown stated that he accumulates more recycling in the two week period than he does his regular trash and asked if there could be another recycling pickup day; and to maybe have it a future agenda or workshop item.

Councilmember Osteen had a question about the ad that was placed in the Galveston News by Galveston County concerning the total tax rate not being part of the ad. He also questioned the total payroll line, it appears that it had increased from year ending of last year to what is requested for 2014. He was advised that the total payroll line reflects all of the vacant employee positions back into the budget from those estimated for the end of this year, what was proposed 2012-2013 year. An additional workshop will be scheduled for another date concerning some of these issues.

Councilmember Bell congratulated all the businesses for their awards. He thanked members of staff for staying those long hours during the budget workshops. He praised the Finance Director Ms. Kou for doing a tremendous job in the finance department – said he was glad that she is here and told her to keep up the good work.



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Mayor Hocking congratulated the businesses for their recognitions and also thanked staff for staying late during the budget workshops and thanked City Council for all their hard work. He sent condolences to City Attorney Ortegos' family who lost a member of their family very recently. He also thanked David Pennington for this presentation and work on the Clean City Commission.

(11) ADJOURNMENT

****Councilmember Trube moved to adjourn at 7:39 pm.**

Seconded by Councilmember Brown. Motion approved unanimously.

ATTEST:

Robin Eldridge
Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk

Bobby Hocking
Mayor Bobby Hocking