

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 12, 2012**

(1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Hocking called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

(4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Workshop Meeting, February 23, 2012
- b. Regular City Council Meeting, February 27, 2012

Councilmember Trube moved to approve the Workshop Minutes, February 23, 2012 and the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2012. Councilmember Osteen seconded the motion. The minutes passed 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.

No one signed up to address City Council at this time.

(6) PRESENTATION

- a. Proclamation – Flood Safety Awareness

Mayor Hocking asked Erica Grundmann, City of La Marque Permit Coordinator, to read the proclamation.

(7) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action of appointments to Boards & Commissions

Board of Adjustments –

District B-Alternate

District D-Alternate

Councilmember Brown made a motion to nominate Willie Alexander. Councilmember Osteen seconded. After discussion, Councilmember Osteen made a motion to nominate Jim Rex as District B-Alternate. Mayor Hocking asked Councilmember Brown and Councilmember Osteen to withdraw their motion respectively. Councilmember Osteen made the motion to approve Councilmember Brown's nomination of Willie Alexander as Alternate-District D and approved Jim Rex as Alternate –District B. Councilmember Trube seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Discussion/possible action of Ordinance No. **O-2012-1058**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas, amending Chapter 14, Buildings and Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Marque, Texas, by repealing Sec. 14-60, Electrical Board Generally, of Article III, Electrical; Repealing Sec. 14-61, Appeal from Action of Electrical Board, of Article III, Electrical; and Repealing Sec. 14-188, Plumbing Board, of Article IV, Plumbing. This is the first reading.

Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2012-1058 for the first reading. Councilmember seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

(8) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action of appointments to Negotiating Committee for Police Collective Bargaining Negotiations

City Manager Buttler stated that after reviewing previous meeting minutes, it appears that City Council has appointed two Councilmembers to the Committee. The last Committee appointees were Councilmember Trube

and Councilmember Osteen. This item has been placed on the agenda for your consideration to appoint or re-appoint as you choose.

Councilmember Brown made a motion to re-appoint Councilmember Trube and Councilmember Osteen to the committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded the motion.

Councilmember Osteen stated that City Manager Buttler had stated in the summary sheet that staff support will include Finance Director, Human Resources, and the City Clerk. In the past, Chief Aragon had been included as part of staff. City Manager Buttler states that Chief will be consulted. Councilmember Osteen also stated that Human Resources was not part of committee. Councilmember Trube stated that it was not appropriate to overload staff with additional meetings. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked for a point of clarification regarding support staff. Support staff will include the finance director, city manager and city clerk. Mayor Hocking stated that the motion is to re-appoint Councilmember Trube and Councilmember Osteen to the committee. If no objections from City Council, will direct City Manager Buttler to proceed with staff support sans Human Resource Director.

Motion passed to appoint Councilmember Trube and Councilmember Osteen to the Negotiating Committee for Collective Bargaining unanimously.

(9) CITY MANAGER REPORT – No Council Action Necessary

Councilmember Osteen –asked City Manager Buttler about Chief Weidman’s relocation to the City of La Marque. City Manager Buttler stated that Chief is in temporary accommodations. He in the process of searching for housing and has been encouraged to relocate within the city.

Councilmember Trube asked City Manager Buttler if she writes the city manager’s report using the department reports. City Manager Buttler stated that she writes the report and incorporates department reports. The goal is to simplify the report without sacrificing the information. Councilmember Trube stated that she preferred the way reports were presented in the past. Mayor Hocking stated that all information is provided to Council at the end of the month. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell stated that he could go either way.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell stated he would like to enforce Councilmember’s Osteen’s comments. It is important for city officials to reside within our city limits. City Council takes the heat from the residents when city officials have not found places to live within our city and have experienced the crime, drainage issues, code violations, etc.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell concluded by extending his congratulations to City Manager, Finance Director and staff for receiving the Texas State Comptrollers Gold Leadership Circle Award-Local Government Transparency.

Councilmember Trube – asked if the gate levees are operational. There has been trouble in the past and would like to be assured that gates are operational as we approach the storm season. Fire Marshal Pierce informed Council that she has been attending meetings and there has been a great deal of emphasis placed on this issue.

Councilmember Osteen asked City Manager Buttler to congratulate the Judicial Department on their collections during the recent warrant roundup. City Council appreciates their efforts.

(10) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Requests by Mayor and Council Members for items to be placed on future City Council agendas and announcements on city events/community interests

Councilmember Brown – none

Councilmember Trube-Thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Councilmember Osteen –none

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell – discussed the La Marque Tigers upcoming registration on April 14th and available options.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell also stated Councilmember Brown is the hardest working councilmember. He is always out there doing something for the city. Excellent job! Mayor, move forward, you are our leader. A tremendous leader for all of us. We are proud of you.

Mayor Hocking –Thank God we live in America. Pray, it does not become a distraction in our city. United, not divided. For those of you that have not read the paper today - No city officials, past or present will face criminal charges. Galveston County District Attorney’s office finished a yearlong investigation into a series of allegations lobbed at city council members, the former mayor and former city manager. Let’s put this to bed and move ahead with business of this city. It is our intentions to move forward with what is best for the citizens of our community.

(11) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.