LA MARQUE CITY COUNCIL
LA MARQUE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1109-B BAYOU ROAD
LA MARQUE, TEXAS 77568
REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2011
6:00 P.M.

The La Marque City Council met in a duly-called and announced Regular Meeting on April 11, 2011. Mayor Sam called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Pastor Bobby Hocking. The Mayor led the pledge to the U.S. Flag and Texas Flag.

038-2011 ROLL CALL –

Present: Mayor Geraldine Sam, Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Bell, Councilmember Connie Trube, City Attorney Ellis Ortego, City Manager Eric Gage and City Clerk Carolyn E. Anderson

Department Directors: Police-Chief Randall Aragon, Buildings-Ana Tims, Finance-Karen Cooper, Fire Chief-Larry Damrell

039-2011 PRESENATION –

Galveston County Elections Division – Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Bill Sargent re: May 14, 2011 General and Special Election

Mr. Sargent explained that the County is the contractor for a number of jurisdictions that contracted jointly for the May 14th election. It originally included College of the Mainland, City of La Marque, La Marque ISD, City of Dickinson, Dickinson ISD, Hitchcock ISD, City of Hitchcock, Santa Fe ISD. College of the Mainland suggested creating five voting locations, one in each of the ISDs. He explained that some locations will have two voting locations in one location. Several jurisdictions cancelled their elections, leaving Santa Fe ISD, La Marque ISD, City of La Marque, City of Dickinson and Texas City (separate) and College of the Mainland. There are three different ISDs cutting across the city limits of La Marque, including Santa Fe and Hitchcock. One set of poll books will be available at each ISD. He explained the schedule at each location, with Hitchcock being the only location of the joint election open on Saturday. Ballots will be programmed according to the residence of the voter. He stated that the County will issue statements in the newspaper and other means of informing the voters of voting locations. Mayor Sam stated that for the history of La Marque, voters have had everything in the City of La Marque. She feels that this will be confusing for the voters in Hitchcock and Santa Fe. Council Member Trube asked about how this voting process occurred. Mr. Sargent stated that when the Council voted for the joint election, that put it under the joint umbrella. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell questioned if voters are able to vote at any location. Mr. Sargent stated that they are not doing the super precincts. Each voter will have to vote in their own ISD. He asked for a clarification with the contract with the County of Galveston concerning the joint process with the College of the Mainland. Mr. Sargent explained the process and the steps that were considered in this process. Council Member Trube asked for clarification of where the mail-in ballots will come from. She asked for reassurance that incorrect ballots will not be mailed to the wrong voters. Mayor Sam stated again that she is not happy with citizens voting in locations other than the City of La Marque. Mr. Sargent suggested voting separately in the future and that the City will have to pick up the cost. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell stated that he feels that the College is trying to dominate the election by trying to push through the bond. He stated that he appreciates the efforts of the County. Mr. Gage reiterated that the voters on the west side of La Marque are the ones primarily affected. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell thanked Mr. Sargent and asked if there will be a public information campaign. Mr. Sargent stated that there will be notifications in the newspaper. Council Member Trube asked that the boundary lines be stated. Mr. Ortego stated that he does not see a problem with educating the public on the polling locations.

040-2011 APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Regular Meeting of March 28, 2011

Council Member Trube made a motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

041-2011 REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER –
Council Member Trube made a motion to approve the City Manager's report. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

042-2011 SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – (A Public Hearing Will be Held)

Ordinance Number 1045 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Changing the Zoning Clarification of a Tract of land containing Lots 31 & 32 of Westridge, a Subdivision of Record in Vol. 254-A, Page 68 in the office of the County Clerk of Galveston County, Texas, from Single Family Residential to Mobile Home Park; Amending The Zoning Map of the City adopted on the 12th day of December 2005 by Ordinance Number 953.

Mayor Sam closed the regular meeting at 6:36 p.m. and opened the meeting for a Public Hearing. There being no one to speak before Council, the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:37. Council Member Trube made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 1045, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bell. The Mayor asked for clarification on the location of the property. Mr. Gage stated that Industrial is located on the southeast part of town. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance Number 1046 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Changing the Zoning Clarification of, a tract of land described as described as Lots Four (4), Five (5), and Six (6), in Division "T" of Cook and Stewart Subdivision a Subdivision of Galveston County, Texas according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 81, Page 526 in the office of the County Clerk of Galveston County, Texas Records La Marque, Galveston County, Texas, from Single Family to General Commercial; Amending The Zoning Map of the City adopted on the 12th Day of December 2005 by Ordinance Number 953.

Mayor Sam closed the regular meeting at 6:37 p.m. and opened the meeting for a Public Hearing. There being no one to speak before Council, the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:38. Council Member Trube made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 1046, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bell. The Mayor asked for clarification on the location of the property. Ms. Tims stated the physical address is 2515 Maxwell, bordering Highland Bayou Park. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance Number 1047 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Changing the Zoning Clarification of, a tract of land described as Lot 42 of Mainland Homesteads, a Subdivision in Galveston County, Texas, According to the Map or Plat thereof recorded in Volume 254-A, Page 50 and transferred to Plat Record 2, Map No. 30, all in the Map Records in the Office of the County Clerk of Galveston County, Texas Records, La Marque, Galveston County, Texas, from Single Family to General Commercial; Amending The Zoning Map of the City adopted on the 12th Day of December 2005 by Ordinance Number 953.

Mayor Sam closed the regular meeting at 6:39 p.m. and opened the meeting for a Public Hearing. There being no one to speak before Council, the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:40.

Council Member Trube made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 1047, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bell. The Mayor asked for clarification on the location of the property. Mr. Gage gave the description of the property. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance Number 1048 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City La Marque, Changing the Zoning Clarification of, a tract of land described as 2.93 acres out of the surface only of a tract of Five (5) acres out of S.F. Austin League No. 4, in Galveston County, Texas, said 2.93 acres being more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes recorded in the Office of the County Clerk of Galveston County, Texas Records, La Marque, Galveston County, Texas, from Single Family to General Commercial; Amending the Zoning Map of the City adopted on the 12th Day of December 2005 by Ordinance Number 953.

Mayor Sam closed the regular meeting at 6:41 p.m. and opened the meeting for a Public Hearing. There being no one to speak before Council, the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:43. Council Member Trube made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 1048, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bell. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

043-2011 NEW BUSINESS

Consider, Discuss and Approve Resolution 1155, a resolution authorizing the City of La Marque to enter into an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement with Municipal Funding Solutions, LLC

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion to approve Resolution 1155. Council Member Trube seconded the motion. After a question for clarification, the motion passed unanimously.

Consider and Discuss City Manager to Open Up Contract Negotiations for Wages with the La Marque Firefighters Association

Council Member Trube made a motion, seconded by Mayor Sam. During discussion Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked about the language of the document. He asked Mr. Ortego to verify that the language is correct. Mr. Gage stated that the Association is requesting the negotiations. He will keep the Council members informed. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

044-2011 CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR HEARING –

Comments from the Public: (At this time, any person with city related business who has signed up may speak to Council. 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.)

None.

045-2011 ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL –

Council Member Trube thanked everyone for coming. She congratulated Chief Damrell on his acceptance and appointment as Fire Chief. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell congratulated the new Fire Chief and Tracy Turner for becoming the new Human Resources Director. Mayor Sam thanked everyone for coming out. She congratulated Chief Damrell and Tracy Turner. She also thanked all of the employees for their work.

046-2011 ADJOURNMENT –

Councilmember Trube made a motion to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Geraldine Sam, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Carolyn E. Anderson, City Clerk