



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Special Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2015**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas that was conducted on Monday, May 18, 2015 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

ABSENT: City Attorney, Ellis Ortego

Mayor Hocking
Mayor Pro-Tem Bell
Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Brown
Councilmember Trube
City Manager Buttler
City Clerk Eldridge

**(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Pro Tem Bell**

(4) MINUTES

- a. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of April 27, 2015
- b. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 27, 2015
- ** Councilmember Trube made a motion to approve the Workshop minutes of April 27, 2015 and the Regular minutes of April 27, 2015. Councilmember Bell seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(5) PRESENTATIONS

- a. Introduction of new Employees
Chief Grimm introduced three new members of the Fire Department:
Tiarra Fisher, Nathan Baggs and Jimmy Denton
- b. Recognition of Employee Promotions and "Pinning Ceremony"
Chief Grimm introduced David Merryman in his promotion to Certified Fire Engineer, William Reed promotion to Captain and Pedro Zarazua promotion to Captain
- c. Proclamation for DSW Homes Mayor Hocking read a proclamation for DSW Homes, for their continued home renovation and new home buildings within the City of La Marque.
- d. Recognition of Councilmember Lane as a recipient of "Forty under Forty" most influential men in Greater Houston, recognizing Houston's next Generation of Leaders - Mayor Hocking recognized Councilmember Lane for this prestigious honor.

(6) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- 1. Geraldine Sam congratulated Councilmember Lane on his prestigious nomination, she then congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Bell and Mayor Hocking on their re-elections. Stated her concerns



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about the recent crime rise within the City. She wanted someone to explain to her whether or not the City was in a drug-war or a gang-war, or a territorial war that is going on in the community. She said that she along with others are afraid to get out at night. She referred to items on the agenda pertaining to renaming streets, and a park. "I am against the renaming of anything because we set precedence awhile back and when we asked that the Library be renamed and some streets to be renamed, for some reason it was not done. Are we going to rename every street or every little nook and cranny after someone that leaves the community or that leads a committee or after someone that is really involved. We have a lot of people that the Library could be named after, or streets named after, but we voted against that for one reason or another. If this is something brand new that we are going to start doing, then we need to know the procedure in the community, because there is several names that I would like to submit to have the Library and different other places named after. There are some people who have really done some awesome things to our community. It is important that we remain fair, and not just pick and choose what and who we are going to name things after. If we are going to rename for one then we should be able to rename for others."

Mayor Hocking commented, "I might add that on this particular Council of five that it three votes to get anything done. So, I apologize former Mayor Sam that three votes weren't gathered to rename something that was dear to you. I don't know how this vote will turn out tonight. These are just resolutions that we have on the agenda."

2. Patty Shipley spoke, "Thank you for opening the District "C" voting place for all the Omega Bay residents. We have older citizens there that really need to have a close place in which to vote." She asked that the other members of the audience stand up that were from Omega Bay and help her thank the Mayor and City Council.

3. Marcy Scates spoke, "We really appreciate having access to the MUD building so that we can all have a convenient place in which to vote."

4. Don Bishop, "Last year, January 30, 2014, my wife and I had a devastating thing to take place. Our business burnt down. I am still waiting on closure. I don't understand what is going on with the City of La Marque, can come in, conduct illegal search and seizure, and take my property, with no restitution. They never gave me no notice, or anything else. They tore my by building down, they hauled it off, and destroyed everything that was left in it. I would like for anyone that has a question, to contact me. This is an ongoing situation, it has been eighteen months, and I have no closure. The only people I have got cooperation from, but some I haven't contacted, so far have been Chief Grimm and Ana Tims, at the time of this incident. No one else has bothered to contact me or ask me what is going on or what. I lost my livelihood in that, which part of it could have been salvaged, but I was not given the opportunity."

Mayor Hocking stated, "The facts of this matter is under arbitration and litigation, so the Council may not comment, but we are well aware of the situation. Thank you Sir for coming tonight."

5. Maggie Manuel, "I have over three hundred and ninety-one signatures from citizens of La Marque that have requested for me to ask City Council and Mayor to consider renaming Highland Bayou Park to Louis "MAC" Mc Gaffey Park in order to honor a lifetime of contribution not only



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to the City of La Marque, but to the Parks Board. Mr. Mc Gaffey's city and park involvement would certainly inspire a positive image towards not only the history of the park, but also our community as a whole while encouraging generations to come to always volunteer their time and energy in order to make La Marque a better place to live. We believe renaming the park now, is certainly the right thing to do to show the appreciation for all of Mac's hard work that he has done for the community that he loves so well. Thank you for your consideration."

(7) PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Conduct Public Hearing to receive public input regarding Ordinance No. **O-2015-008**, granting a non-exclusive electric franchise to Texas New Mexico Power (TNMP) for a period of 10 years. **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

Mayor Hocking closed the Regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. and opened the Public Hearing

No one spoke.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. and opened the Regular meeting.

(8) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Ordinance No. **O-2015-008** granting a non-exclusive electric franchise to Texas New Mexico Power (TNMP) for a period of 10 years.

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2015-008.

** Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING.

(9) ELECTION INFORMATION

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2015-0011**, canvassing the election returns and declaring the results of the May 9, 2015 General Election, pursuant to the Election Code.

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2015-0011.

** Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Administer Oaths of Office and Bribery Statements to newly re-elected Officials.
Judge Lonnie Cox administered the Oath of Office to the newly re-elected Councilmember District "A", Keith Bell and Mayor Bobby Hocking.

Mayor Hocking thanked Judge Lonnie Cox for doing the honors.

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2015-0012**, calling for and establishing the procedures for the Run-off Election for Councilmember District "C", to be held on Saturday, June 27, 2015, in La Marque, Texas and providing for related matters.

** Councilmember Trube referred to a typo in the date of the election 2015 not 2014 and then made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2015-0012.



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** Councilmember Brown seconded the motion.

Mayor Hocking brought the attention of a correction to the resolution, as suggested by the City Attorney to add the polling location of Bayou Vista, in the wording of the Resolution (Mud 12). The amended motion was made by Councilmember Trube and seconded by Councilmember Brown. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(9) NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2015-0013** denying CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric's application for Distribution Cost Recovery Factor

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2015-0013.

** Councilmember Lane seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Discussion/possible action regarding status report of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

City Manager Carol Buttler began, "We have been working on this program at the of direction of Council. I have looked back on the history of the program to 2008 and based on that, and the discussions that we have had at meetings, what my recommendation of moving forward is that we take the information from the study that was prepared, take the recommendations from the Revitalization Steering Committee and follow the five year plan that was proposed and approved by City Council in late 2010. Even though staff has been conducting these programs, it hasn't been under the umbrella of something formal, it has been day to day activities as requests come through. We would like to bring you the data numbers at the June Council meeting. We have compiled all of the structures that were identified in 2008. We have looked at all of the structures that have been demolished since 2012. It appears that some of the structures identified in 2008 have not been the structures that have handled. We are researching as to what the reason was. It may have been some of the homes that were damaged during the hurricane took precedence, because they could have been eligible for the Ike Recovery Homes. It doesn't appear that we have made a large tax base revenue. We have over 118 within the last two to three years, almost 100 of those were Ike Recovery Homes. We have probably doubled, almost tripled the number of structures that have been demolished. We will be able to bring you that list by District, by year or by street name. Within the last four to five years, the City has probably spent close to a million on this program, but have been awarded close to 17 million in grant dollars. The report will show how much progress we have actually made since the program started. EDC has established the Revitalization Fund. We have met with Habitat for Humanity. They have been working in the area. But they need more property. We are trying to give you a more formal plan. We will keep the momentive going."

Councilmember Bell asked, "Talk to me a little about how we will be recouping our high grass and weeds expenses."

Ms. Buttler replied, "That is one of the items we will be discussing on Wednesday. The number of and the amount of liens that have been placed on certain properties have probably accumulated as such that they are more than the actual property is valued. We will be determining on how we can foreclose on those, but, they would have to be purchased. EDC does have some discretion, but we



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as the City, would I have to look at how we want to handle those lots. Who is going to take ownership of those lots, so that we can invite someone in to rebuild on those lots. Those might be lots that we can let Habitat for Humanity to build on.”

Councilmember Bell stated that the project has not being completed, and until we see improvement on the tax rolls, it will not be completed. Until there are new homes placed on the lots where the structures have been demolished and families placed in those homes, the program will not be completed.

Councilmember Bell named a few items that he would like to see in the comprehensive document are: the mission, every aspect of what we are doing, the cost effectiveness of those particular tasks and goals in mind. What are we willing to do for our builders? About five years ago, the builders had communicated to us that La Marque may need to relax some the requirements, so that they are free to obtain and secure loans to build. “I believe that we can increase our Code Enforcement Officers by training certain Police Officers, training certain Firemen and our meter readers. We could possibly grow that number from two Code Enforcement Officers, to possibly eight to ten. We have so many priorities in this City that two persons cannot handle that job.”

He complimented the City Manager on what she has been able to achieve, and encouraged her to continue to make sure that the program is comprehensive that we go big and communicate it with all of the avenues of communication available.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to table this item until the City Manager has had the chance to prepare the document completely. Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2015-0014**, regarding a recommendation from the Parks Board, and accepting a petition to rename Highland Bayou Park to the “Mac” McGaffey Park Highland Bayou Park and authorizing the placement of a placard on the monument. (Mayor Hocking read the resolution).

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2015-0014.

** Councilmember Trube seconded the motion.

Councilmember Bell referred to an earlier question of former Mayor Sam if there was a process in which this comes before City Council. Then said that Maggie Manuel collected over three hundred signatures on a petition asking City Council to consider. “This will give you a little direction as to how it got here. I am just trying to help out as far as information purposes go.”

Councilmember Lane commented, “I am glad to be part of the City Council that is going to name a park after a gentleman that has contributed so much to the city that we live in.”

Councilmember Trube added, “I have lived here for thirty years, and I have never know anyone who has done as much as Mac McGaffey. I remember when Cowboy used to do it, first it was Fair



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in the Square, and without those two the park wouldn't be what it is today. It takes a special kind of person to be that dedicated and get that much done, especially for the Bayou Fest.”

Mayor Hocking added, “I go out to that park every couple of days and I see Mac McGaffey fixing plumbing, cleaning up the fishing pier, using his own materials without ever billing the City, doing thing for that park and others. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2015-0015**, renaming of Bayou Extension to Getty Road.(Mayor read the resolution) and presented a Getty Road street sign to Alex Getty in absence of his father Carlton Getty who was a former Mayor and has been serving the City in some fashion since 1982.

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2015-0015.

** Councilmember Lane seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

e. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2015-0016**, reaffirming Resolution No. 638, dedicating and naming the pavilion and pond at Highland Bayou Park, and authorizing the placement of a placard on the pavilion in “Mac” McGaffey Highland Bayou Park in the name of Richard M. “Dick” Arnett.

Mayor Hocking commented, “In our research in renaming the park, it was found that Mr. Arnett had the pond and pavilion named after him, but no placard had ever been placed to show this.”

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2015-0016.

** Councilmember Bell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

f. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2015-0017**, approving the Parks Board's recommendation to accept a donation of a metal canopy from Al Reida, for “Mac” McGaffey Highland Bayou Park, and authorizing the dedication and placement of a placard on the canopy. (Mayor read the Resolution) and thanked Mr. Reida for the generous donation and what he does for the City

** Councilmember Trube made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2015-0017.

** Councilmember Bell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(10) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Development Services**
- **Judicial**
- **Police/EOC Department**
- **Fire/EMS Department**
- **Connect Transit**
- **Public Services**
- **Animal Services**
- **Administration**



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Councilmember Trube public service report was not in the packet, but was assured by the City Manager that this was not the meeting that this report is usually part of, and that it would be in the next packet.

(12) EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session

(13) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Trube asked if the City had an evacuation plan, and was advised by Mayor Hocking that it does, that the City usually follows the County's lead.

Councilmember Brown congratulated both the Mayor and Councilmember Bell on their re-elections. Congratulated Chief Grimm and his department. Thanked Les Rumburg for taking care of a few items within his district.

Councilmember Lane thanked all for attending. Congratulated Mayor Hocking and Councilmember Bell on their re-elections.

Councilmember Bell said that today his mother would have been his mothers' 67th birthday, but she passed away a year before he was first elected, so it is a melancholy day for him. Congratulated the members of the Fire Department on their recognitions and accomplishments. Congratulated Mayor Hocking on his re-election. "I don't want to say the Mayor Sam lost, but that Mayor Hocking won. You won't find a fiercer competitor, who handles herself with grace and integrity. I have seen Mayor Sam run a many of races, and I have never heard her say anything derogatory toward her opponent. She has always been positive and always had a smile on her face. I hope that she continues to fight for what she believes in and continues to light a fire under our Mayor and continue to hold our feet to the fire." Congratulated Councilmember Trube and Mr. Michetich for making the run-off, then all the candidates that ran in this race. He then introduced his wife, Ms. Bourgeois-Bell. His priorities are to move forward 100% with the neighborhood revitalization program and to do everything we can to equip the Police Department with everything they need to fight and reduce crime within the City. Then reported an increase of loitering at Circle T, on 1765 and asked for a special assignment to break this up.

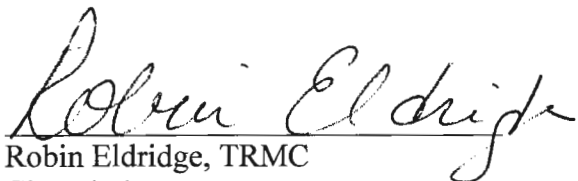
Mayor Hocking spoke, "Thank you, Mayor Pro-Tem, I do appreciate your kind words towards me, and I do reciprocate and congratulate you on your re-election. We are friends not only in our job here with the City but as I am honored, yet very humbled to have been re-elected to serve this great city, which is my home town. I pledge to the 662 voters who voted for me to do the best I can, and to the 224 that voted for Ms. Sam, I pledge to attempt to earn your trust as well. I want to say to Ms. Sam, that I respect that you ran this race with integrity. We ran with a mutual respect for each other. I do appreciate that you do keep me on my toes. I also want to congratulate Councilmember Lane on his prestigious honor, to all that were pinned tonight, to all who received awards, and to Mr. Getty and Ron Crowder who made Highland Bayou Park happen. I want to thank my daughter Clover, my beautiful bride, we celebrate forty-five years together on June 29th. She is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.

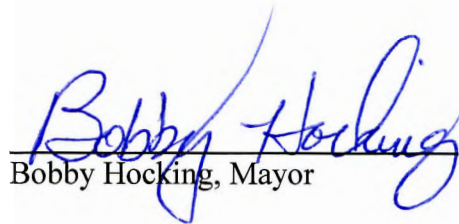


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(14) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bell made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Trube seconded, the meeting was adjourned.


Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk


Bobby Hocking, Mayor

CITIZENS REQUEST TO

SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL

In ordered to be heard, this form must be completed and returned to the City Clerk five (5) minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Date of Meeting:	5-18-18
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Citizens who wish to address the City Council about items on the agenda which are scheduled for Council action will have **three (3) minutes** to express their positions. Please indicate below the agenda item number on which you wish to comment.

Council Agenda Item Number:	
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Citizens wishing to address Council regarding a topic **not** on the agenda are afforded the same amount of time during "Citizens Request for Hearing" section. Please indicate below the subject matter.

Subject on which person wishes to speak:
Renaming of Park
Crime in L.M.

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, stating your name and address before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Mayor and Council, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. Citizens who have questions concerning procedure or the registration form may request assistance from the City Clerk. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name:	Geraldine Sam
Address:	2412 Stoneval
Phone Number:	LaMarque, TX 77568-409 9356069

If speaking on behalf of an organization:

Name of Organization:	
Speaker's Official Capacity:	

CITIZENS REQUEST TO

SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL

In ordered to be heard, this form must be completed and returned to the City Clerk five (5) minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Date of Meeting:	05-18
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Citizens who wish to address the City Council about items on the agenda which are scheduled for Council action will have **three (3) minutes** to express their positions. Please indicate below the agenda item number on which you wish to comment.

Council Agenda Item Number:	#6
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Citizens wishing to address Council regarding a topic **not** on the agenda are afforded the same amount of time during "Citizens Request for Hearing" section. Please indicate below the subject matter.

Subject on which person wishes to speak:
Thank you to council

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, stating your name and address before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Mayor and Council, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. Citizens who have questions concerning procedure or the registration form may request assistance from the City Clerk. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name:	Patty Shipley
Address:	110.0 Pelican
Phone Number:	832-221-3373

If speaking on behalf of an organization:

Name of Organization:	OBIC
Speaker's Official Capacity:	

CITIZENS REQUEST TO

SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL

In order to be heard, this form must be completed and returned to the City Clerk five (5) minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Date of Meeting:	5/18/15
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Citizens who wish to address the City Council about items on the agenda which are scheduled for Council action will have **three (3) minutes** to express their positions. Please indicate below the agenda item number on which you wish to comment.

Council Agenda Item Number:	6
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Citizens wishing to address Council regarding a topic **not** on the agenda are afforded the same amount of time during "Citizens Request for Hearing" section. Please indicate below the subject matter.

Subject on which person wishes to speak:
Thank the council

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, stating your name and address before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Mayor and Council, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. Citizens who have questions concerning procedure or the registration form may request assistance from the City Clerk. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name:	MARCY SCATES
Address:	4 S. REDWING
Phone Number:	713 828 7374

If speaking on behalf of an organization:

Name of Organization:	OBIC
Speaker's Official Capacity:	VICE PRESIDENT

CITIZENS REQUEST TO

SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL

In order to be heard, this form must be completed and returned to the City Clerk five (5) minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Date of Meeting:	5-18-15
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Citizens who wish to address the City Council about items on the agenda which are scheduled for Council action will have **three (3) minutes** to express their positions. Please indicate below the agenda item number on which you wish to comment.

Council Agenda Item Number:	
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Citizens wishing to address Council regarding a topic **not** on the agenda are afforded the same amount of time during "Citizens Request for Hearing" section. Please indicate below the subject matter.

Subject on which person wishes to speak:
ILLEGAL SEARCH & SEIZURE
ILLEGAL TAKING OF PROPERTY

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, stating your name and address before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Mayor and Council, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. Citizens who have questions concerning procedure or the registration form may request assistance from the City Clerk. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name:	DON BISHOP
Address:	3236 McKimney
Phone Number:	409-221-6990

If speaking on behalf of an organization:

Name of Organization:	
Speaker's Official Capacity:	

CITIZENS REQUEST TO

SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL

In order to be heard, this form must be completed and returned to the City Clerk five (5) minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Date of Meeting:	5-18-15
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Citizens who wish to address the City Council about items on the agenda which are scheduled for Council action will have **three (3) minutes** to express their positions. Please indicate below the agenda item number on which you wish to comment.

Council Agenda Item Number:	R-2015-0014
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Citizens wishing to address Council regarding a topic **not** on the agenda are afforded the same amount of time during "Citizens Request for Hearing" section. Please indicate below the subject matter.

Subject on which person wishes to speak:

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, stating your name and address before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Mayor and Council, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. Citizens who have questions concerning procedure or the registration form may request assistance from the City Clerk. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name:	Maggie Manuel
Address:	1706-W Crockett St
Phone Number:	409-938-7627

If speaking on behalf of an organization:

Name of Organization:	
Speaker's Official Capacity:	