



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2015**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of La Marque City Council held on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road for the purpose of considering the following agenda:

- (1) Mayor Hocking called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- (2) **ROLL CALL**
Mayor Hocking
Mayor Pro-Tem Bell
Councilmember Chris Lane
Councilmember Robert Michetich
Councilmember Clent Brown
City Manager Carol Buttler
City Attorney Ellis Ortego
City Clerk Robin Eldridge
- (3) **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**
Mayor Pro-Tem Bell delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- (4) **PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS & RECOGNITIONS**
 - a. Recognition- Election Workers
Mayor Hocking recognized and presented certificates to the Election Workers that have worked the polls in the City's Municipal Elections for the past few years. Those persons included: Alma Acosta, Tess & Jay Arrington, Melvin Buster, Carlos Flores, Felicitas Jaramillo, Catherine Polk, Maria & Jesse Solis, Rosalie Terry and Charlotte Westerlage.
 - b. Public/Private Partnership for Bobby Beach Park – Presentation – 6:30 or 7:00 – T'Liza Keil arrived around 6:40 p.m. (See item 10c.)
- (5) **CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION (Limited to three minutes per person)**
Rick Harmon remarked about the lack of a grocery store in La Marque, Cedar Street needing to be repaired where the city fixed a leak and didn't put the street back in its original state, using asphalt instead of concrete. He also commented that La Marque wasn't going to grow much, with the state that the School District is in.

Geraldine Sam shared information regarding a petition with signatures to rename Bayou Park. She stated that a petition was submitted to the City Clerk, which was forwarded to the Parks Board for their consideration. The Parks Board voted against renaming the park. Ms. Sam explained that the same procedure was followed when the Parks Board voted to rename Highland Bayou Park, then went to City Council and the park was renamed after Mac McGaffey. "The Parks Board can only make a



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recommendation to City Council. They don't have the final say. They are not the elected officials. The decision is left up to the Mayor and City Council. I would like to bring this up in the next City Council meeting for those citizens to have answers as to why there are problems renaming a small pocket park after me and a larger park was renamed without any issues."

John Hander, referred to 3004 Taylor, having eighteen wheelers driving down the street and parked along the street. The building was there before there was zoning in La Marque. He stated that the big trucks will tear up the street.

Councilmember Bell asked what type of business it was and was told that the owners store equipment in the building.

Daisy Martin, said that the beginning of this year, this issue was brought before the City and that the owners were told they could not rezone. The main issues at that time were concerning the eighteen wheelers driving down the street. "Right across the street, there are a lot of kids and the trucks block the street. It is a residential area. I have spoken to Kathleen Van Stavern about this and she told us to come here tonight to address it again. We just don't need the trucks tearing up our street."

Mayor Hocking asked that the City Manager follow up on the road repair on Cedar and the eighteen wheeler item on Taylor.

David Pennington reminded all of the "Wreaths across America" project taking place on December 12, 2015, where Christmas wreaths are placed at all of the Veterans graves within the cemetery. He invited everyone to come out. "It begins at 11:00 a.m. There are flyers at the back of the room or you can sponsor a wreath online, they are \$15.00 each."

(6) **CONSENT AGENDA** *(All consent agenda items are considered routine by City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember requests an item be removed and considered separately.)*

- a. Regular City Council Minutes of October 26, 2015.
- b. Discussion/possible action regarding a Resolution No. **R-2015-0036**, voting on the ballot and distribution of votes to the Board of Directors of the Galveston Central Appraisal District for two-year terms, beginning January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.
- c. Discussion/possible action regarding award of Bid #LM 13-15, Aeration Basin Cleaning to Specialized Maintenance Services, Inc. in the amount of \$50,400.00.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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



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(7) PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Conduct Public Hearing to hear public input regarding the recommendation of Planning and Zoning Commission to adopt Ordinance No. **O-2015-0027**, approving the zoning classification for the Thoroughfare Overlay District along the La Marque I-45 Corridor, FM 1764 and FM 1765. **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

Mayor Hocking closed the Regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:17 p.m.

No one spoke.

(8) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding the recommendation of Planning and Zoning Commission to adopt Ordinance No. **O-2015-0027**, approving the zoning classification for the Thoroughfare Overlay District along the La Marque I-45 Corridor, FM 1764 and FM 1765. **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

Councilmember Bell made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2015-0027.
Councilmember Brown seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding the status of certain projects.
This item was pulled from the agenda, and will be placed on a future agenda, with the projects separated and identified, as recommended by the City Attorney.

(9) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Restrictive Covenant on certain properties within the City of La Marque with the Texas Commission on Environmental Equality, when final iteration is made available.

Councilmember Lane made a motion authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Restrictive Covenant on certain properties within the City of La Marque with the Texas Commission on Environmental Equality, when final iteration is made available.
Councilmember Bell seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding the recommendation by Planning and Zoning Commission to accept request for proposed Final Plat of Saltgrass Crossing Section 2 being 43.2 acres of land containing 154 lots (50 X 120 Typ) and sixteen reserves in four blocks out of the Stephen F. Austin League A-2, City of La Marque, Galveston, County, Texas, allowing a variance to Code Section 41-107(e), for the dimension of the lots to be reduced from 60' X 120' to 50' X 120' in size.

Councilmember Brown said that he is not in favor of the lot dimension sizes.

Councilmember Michetich made a motion to accept the recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission request for proposed Final Plat of Saltgrass Crossing Section 2 being 43.2 acres of land containing 154 lots (50 X 120 Typ) and sixteen reserves in four



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blocks out of the Stephen F. Austin League A-2, City of La Marque, Galveston, County, Texas, allowing a variance to Code Section 41-107(e), for the dimension of the lots to be reduced from 60' X 120' to 50' X 120' in size.

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

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding providing direction to City Manager concerning a possible public/private partnership for Bobby Beach Park. **(PLEASE SEE BELOW)**

(10) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Judicial**
- **Police/OEM**
- **Fire/EMS**
- **Library**
- **Public Services**
- **Financials**
- **Animal Services**

Councilmember Bell asked about the progress on the street project with the County.

City Manager Carol Buttler and Director of Public Services Les Rumburg both reported in the recent correspondence with the County, that they would begin working on streets in this area after the first of the year, and that two (2) additional streets have been added to the original list. As the time frame nears, City Council will be notified as to where the La Marque streets fall in their street repair program.

- c. Mayor Hocking called for a break at 6:25 p.m. to give time for the speaker to arrive to speak on the Bobby Beach Park project.

The Regular Council meeting resumed at 6:40 p.m. (Item 4b and 9c)

T'Liza Keil, a representative of "The Mission Continues" and the Project Coordinator for the non-profit organization "Given Hour" began by explaining that the organizations serve the military families and the community. The Mission Continues encourages veterans by telling them that their services don't not have to be complete once they are no longer active in the military. It is a national organization that goes into underserved communities and attacks projects that will help to uplift and/or rebuild a community.

"Most recently, the organization had three service platoons, covering the Houston area. Last year, they started a fourth platoon covering the Texas City area. It doesn't just cover Texas City, although it is called the Texas City Fourth Platoon, it basically covers Galveston County. Being a native of this area, Bobby Beach Park came to our attention. Although it is not one of the better kept parks, it is still utilized a lot by both the youth



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and adults in the kickball leagues. Unfortunately, since it is not owned by the City, it is up to volunteers and other organizations to keep the park maintained.

As a Service Day Project, Bobby Beach Park was chosen to be renovated. We were hoping that the City will be able to help out, in any way possible, with an understanding that this park will continue to be maintained. We know we can't do everything in one day. We know we will have another Service Day Project at Bobby Beach Park. The other three Houston area platoons, along with the Texas City Platoon as well as other supporting Veterans Organizations and the community is welcome to come out and support this project. I have contacted the La Marque High School band to come out and play the National Anthem and tentatively the La Marque ROTC will be out there as well.

There are a lot of things that we want to do. We know there are issues with the lighting, and the overgrown brush, press box, leveling the field, and we want to add a park on the grounds. We would also like to build some benches, so that the parents and adults can comfortably supervise their children."

Galveston County has the seventh largest population of Veterans in the State of Texas, so it will qualify under the grant.

Mayor Hocking added that he along with other members of the little leagues will do everything they can to help restore the park

"We would like to see a positive impact in La Marque, and I believe this is a good start. The project at Bobby Beach Park is Saturday, November 14, 2015 and it is from 8:00 until 1:00 p.m. and lunch will be provided."

City Attorney Ortego said that because the park is privately owned, the City cannot use public money to maintain private property. The City can adopt a resolution in support of project, and advertise on the website, but cannot spend any money on it.

Councilmember Lane clarified that they weren't asking for anything monetarily, but just to help maintain the property, once the park is improved. "We don't want an organization to come down, and invest their time, energy, efforts and talents and six months later, we are back to square one. Could the City collect money from the Little League Organization to help maintain the fields?" The City Attorney said that a contract could be drawn up, so that in the event that a city employee does go and mow or maintain the fields, that the City be reimbursed.

Discussion continued, with the fact that it is a privately owned Park. Years ago, the parents and families maintained the fields, which does not take place in this time.

It was the consensus of City Council to do everything legally possible to help maintain the park and its facilities. There was confusion as to who actually the current owner and



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or responsible party of this park is. It has been an ongoing struggle to get the park brought up to standards, due to the ownership questions.

Ms. Keil asked for other suggestions for future projects once Bobby Beach Park is cleaned up. A near future meeting between the City Manager, City Attorney, Parks Board Chairman, Public Services Director and other pertinent persons were asked to be present at this meeting to see what can be done by the City if anything and also to obtain information on the correct responsible owners to this property.

Discussion continued between the Parks Board Chairman and members of City Council on the issue of the lack of personnel to keep up with the parks that the City currently owns; whether or not the City should begin charging the leagues for the use of the fields so that money is being recycled back into the City for the maintenance of the fields; lack of parents ability and cooperation in maintaining fields; the fact that more personnel is needed to help maintain the parks, but at what price; whether this park was the only privately owned park in the City, which it was determined that it is not.

City staff is approaching this project as a possible revitalization project as well as other areas for potential projects.

Councilmember Bell asked when the City Council could see a full plan. Ms. Buttler said that now that there is a Code Compliance Supervisor and other essential staff, organized plan for demolitions and the possibility for grants, a staff member is compiling all of this into an actual document, to be brought before City Council sometime in January.

(11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

(12) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

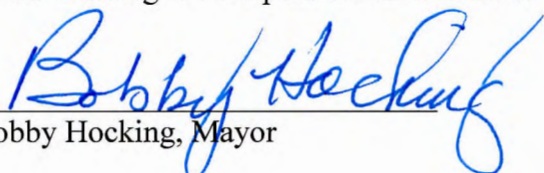
Councilmember Michetich referred to the items addressed in an email, he would like to see them itemized on the next meeting agenda

Councilmember Bell wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. Thanked the Election Workers for their support and participation.

Mayor Hocking echoed Councilmember Bells announcements. Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. Thanked Mr. Morris Dagerath for his continued work around the entrance to the City. (Mr. Dagerath invited all to a Community Thanksgiving service at a local Church.) Wished all the Veterans a Happy Veterans Day.

(13) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Councilmember Michetich seconded. Meeting adjourned.


Bobby Hocking, Mayor



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ATTEST:

Robin Eldridge

Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK

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

DATE OF MEETING: 11-11-15

Citizens who wish to address the City Council about items on the agenda, which are scheduled for Council action, will be given three (3) minutes to do so. Please indicate below the agenda item (s) number on which you wish to speak:

Citizens wishing to address the City Council about a topic **NOT** on the agenda, will be given the same amount of time during the "CITIZENS PARTICIPATION" section. Please indicate below the subject matter:

STARK STREETS

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, do not try to speak from your seat. State your name and address before the beginning of your presentation. If you have written materials, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. If you have any questions concerning the request to speak form, please direct them to the City Clerk.

Name KIDC WARMAN

Address 1202 LAKE RD

Telephone number 409-935-6045

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK

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DATE OF MEETING: Nov. 9

Citizens who wish to address the City Council about items on the agenda, which are scheduled for Council action, will be given three (3) minutes to do so. Please indicate below the agenda item (s) number on which you wish to speak:

Citizens wishing to address the City Council about a topic **NOT** on the agenda, will be given the same amount of time during the "**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**" section. Please indicate below the subject matter:

Naming a park after a citizen

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, do not try to speak from your seat. State your name and address before the beginning of your presentation. If you have written materials, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. If you have any questions concerning the request to speak form, please direct them to the City Clerk.

Name Geraldine Sam

Address 2412 Stonewall

Telephone number 409 - 935 6069

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____

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DATE OF MEETING:

11/9/15

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Citizens wishing to address the City Council about a topic **NOT** on the agenda, will be given the same amount of time during the "CITIZENS PARTICIPATION" section. Please indicate below the subject matter:

18 wheelers from 3004 Taylor, coming onto our street

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, do not try to speak from your seat. State your name and address before the beginning of your presentation. If you have written materials, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. If you have any questions concerning the request to speak form, please direct them to the City Clerk.

Name

John Hander

Address

3123 Taylor

Telephone number

(409) 928-0364

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization:

Residence of people that live on our street

Speaker's Official Capacity

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK

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DATE OF MEETING:

11/9/15

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Citizens wishing to address the City Council about a topic **NOT** on the agenda, will be given the same amount of time during the "CITIZENS PARTICIPATION" section. Please indicate below the subject matter:

12 wheelers from 3004 Taylor
coming on to street

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, do not try to speak from your seat. State your name and address before the beginning of your presentation. If you have written materials, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. If you have any questions concerning the request to speak form, please direct them to the City Clerk.

Name

Daisy Martin

Address

3010 Taylor

Telephone number

409-1457-7461

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization:

Residence on our street

Speaker's Official Capacity

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK

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Citizens wishing to address the City Council about a topic **NOT** on the agenda, will be given the same amount of time during the "CITIZENS PARTICIPATION" section. Please indicate below the subject matter:

_____ WEATHER ACROSS AMERICA _____

Please step to the podium as soon as you are recognized by the Mayor, do not try to speak from your seat. State your name and address before the beginning of your presentation. If you have written materials, please furnish an extra copy for the official files. If you have any questions concerning the request to speak form, please direct them to the City Clerk.

Name _____ DAVID PENNINGTON _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____