



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**City of La Marque
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2015**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Minutes of La Marque City Council held on Monday, December 14, 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 Hocking delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- (4) **PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**
 - a. Ribbon Cuttings – Electronic Marquee; Kiosk
Mayor Hocking announced that earlier he and members of City Council and staff participated in ribbon cuttings for both the new electronic marquee that is now situated in front of the Library and also the Kiosk which is located in the drive-through area that will enable citizens to pay for their water bills and conduct other city business.
 - b. Announce Phone App
Information Technology - Kyle Hunter announced that the new City Website Phone App is available for download and explained functions that are made possible.
 - c. Promoted Employees
 - Chaise Cary – Public Services Superintendent
 - Tina Crawford – Administrative Assistant to Police Chief & Lead Telecommunicator
 - Rodney Gamble – Public Services Utility Field Foreman
 - Venisha Henderson – Utility Billing Specialist
 - Marshall (Ray) Knight – Equipment Operator
 - Joe Mose – Public Services Foreman
 - Alex Oliveros – Payroll/Benefits Accountant
 - Patty Rees – Human Services Coordinator
 - Kathleen Van Stavern – Code Compliance Supervisor



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- Charlene Warren – Emergency Management Coordinator & Public Relations Coordinator

All employees mentioned above were introduced by their Directors and congratulated on their promotions.

Mayor announced that there were cupcakes and drinks in the Community Room for celebration of the promotions.

(5) CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

1. Joe Maza, stated that he attended a meeting earlier this year and that he along with several neighbors spoke against allowing a neighbor to have chickens, goats and other animals on his property. He reported that the neighbor continues to have the animals in the backyard and wanted to know if he was in violation or has something changed. He reported that the same neighbor now has a bull in his backyard. The neighbor has also built up his property and when it rains it drains onto his property and onto Duroux Road, and there is a bad odor and reported unwanted insects. The City Manager was asked to get back with him on the issues.

2. David Pennington referred to an item on the current agenda regarding an ordinance that has the City Council going to one meeting per month. Then he referred to the Agenda Form in the backup for that item, and that it gave no justification for the proposed change. "I have been attending Council meetings for several years, and haven't missed many, but I have never seen a Council meeting cancelled for lack of city business." He then shared his questions he asked to himself of reasons why City Council would want to change to one meeting per month. He asked to know why from each Council member that they would support this change and why it is good for the citizens of La Marque.

Mayor Hocking responded that this proposed change was his idea alone. "First of all there is no subversive plot to this, this is all on me. My reasoning, is that I have noticed in my short five years here, and I have never missed a meeting as Mayor. I have noticed that the second meeting is sometimes what, I call the term "fluff". There is just not a lot going on at that particular meeting. If we have one meeting, as required by Charter, it could be a substantive meeting, where we could get the business done, reserving the right, always, to use that fourth Monday, if there is something time-sensitive or something that is pressing on the City, to call a special meeting. This is all on me. Staff had no idea that I was going to bring this up. I told you about it, at our event on Saturday, and you have chosen not to support this, and I respect that, Sir. Each Council person can elaborate on that during the discussion as to why they think it is a bad idea or not."

(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*



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these items unless a Councilmember requests an item be removed and considered separately.)

- a. Regular City Council Minutes of November 9, 2015.
- b. Discussion/possible action-accepting the Quarterly Investment Report for Third Quarter 2015.
- c. Discussion/possible action regarding a Resolution **R-2015-0037**, appointing Louis Decker as recommended by the Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers Association to the Galveston County Emergency Communications District (9-1-1).

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
Councilmember Michetich seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(7) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discuss and possible action regarding the redesign of City “Trash” handout/flyer by Clean City Commission.

Councilmember Michetich began, “We were looking at ways to help our Clean City Commission stream-line some things, in working with Republic Waste. One of the things that came up, was the current hand-out. Which is really, in my view, used more for advertising, and there is a lot of wasted space on it. We had asked for the Commission to come up with some criteria, i.e., bullets describing responsibilities, with dates and times and criteria for limbs and bundles, and make it easier to read. I have heard from several residents, and we just need to get beyond the finger-pointing, and by redesigning the handout, this should make things easier for both Republic Waste and the City.”

- b. Discuss and possible action regarding the proposal of specific City locations for weekly maintenance/grounds keeping, i.e., City entrance sign on I45.

Councilmember Michetich stated, “There again, in hearing from some of our citizens, there are certain areas of our City that seem to get a high profile, at the sign entrance into the City. I have noticed it has been cleaned up, but a few weeks ago, the County would mow, but not weed-eat. I understand since this request, that the sign is actually the responsibility of Texas City. I understand that there is a new site being looked into. Keeping up what was done by one of our residents, improving that around the palm tree at Bayou and the Valero store, just spruces up La Marque and it helps our image. There are certain areas that need some attention. We would like to get that list to Les and Carol and the Clean City Commission. We may have to hire a landscaper to keep it up or touch it up. There are just a handful of these sites.”

- c. Discuss and possible action regarding the investigation of cost and design of a new and larger City entrance sign. This item was also mentioned in the previous item.



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Mayor Hocking replied, "The new sign will be located on the very tip of the 82 acres that is to be developed next door to Sam's. It is going to be a big, beautiful sign."

- d. Discuss and possible action regarding the investigation of cost and suppliers to provide "Real Time" GPS monitoring of non-management City vehicles.

Councilmember Michetich began, "This also came out of some issues, where there were a few City employees that may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. The GPS system that the City is working on, will be a management tool, and in my past experience in places that I have worked, it corrects on its own, behavior problems, but it can also exonerate employees. It is a positive thing for both the citizens and the employees."

Councilmember Bell, "I think it is a good idea. My question is, if we are going to do this for our non-management, why not include management level also? I would recommend to do it for our entire workforce. It is important for our managers to model the behavior to display."

Further discussion ended with the consensus of City Council to have all City-owned vehicles to be equipped with a GPS system.

(8) AWARD OF BIDS/CONTRACTS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding authorizing the Police Department to purchase five (5) new Ford Patrol vehicles (three [3] Utilities and two [2] Sedans) equipped with all necessary emergency equipment to Silsbee Ford through the Buy Board in the amount of \$180,430.80.

Councilmember Lane made a motion to authorize the Police Department to purchase five (5) new Ford Patrol vehicles (three [3] Utilities and two [2] Sedans) equipped with all necessary emergency equipment to Silsbee Ford through the Buy Board in the amount of \$180,430.80.

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

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding authorizing the Police Department to purchase fourteen (14) Getac Mobile computers, docking stations and power supplies to Southern Computer Warehouse in the amount of \$39,078.34.

Councilmember Michetich made a motion to authorize the Police Department to purchase fourteen (14) Getac Mobile computers, docking stations and power supplies to Southern Computer Warehouse in the amount of \$39,078.34.

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



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- c. Discussion/possible action regarding authorizing the Police Department to purchase five (5) digital, in-car camera systems from Safety Vision as the City's Sole Source in-car vendor in the amount of \$25,895.00.
Councilmember Bell made a motion to authorize the Police Department to purchase five (5) digital, in-car camera systems from Safety Vision as the City's Sole Source in-car vendor in the amount of \$25,895.00.

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

- d. Discussion/possible action regarding entering into a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the City of Baytown for utility bill printing and mailing services to avoid duplicate procurement efforts and to obtain the benefits of volume purchasing.

Councilmember Michetich made a motion to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing with the City of Baytown for utility bill printing and mailing services to avoid duplicate procurement efforts and to obtain the benefits of volume purchasing.
Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- e. Discussion/possible action regarding award of Bid #LM 14-15 to Grant Mackay for demolition of substandard structures in the amount of \$82,401.00.

Councilmember Lane made a motion to award Bid #LM 14-15 to Grant Mackay for demolition of substandard structures in the amount of \$82,401.00.
Councilmember Bell seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(9) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2015-0028** conducting City Council meetings on the second Monday of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. **THIS IS THE FIRST READING.**

Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2015-0028.
Councilmember Bell seconded.

Councilmember Bell began, "Mr. Pennington, you asked for an explanation. I have served on this Council longer than anybody. I have seen the patterns of business, the agendas and how we conduct our business. I believe that we can do what we do, more efficiently and effectively in one meeting. I think the man hours are going to flesh out, the resources are going to flesh out. We are going to find that we are going to save in our resources and save in our ability to use our workforce in this type of capacity, and we are going to get more bang for our buck. The only thing that we are really doing, is moving agenda items that were scheduled for the second meeting to the first part of the month. I promise you, from where I sit, you should get a more thorough, thoughtful and meaningful discussion and deliberation on every issue. I am willing to try this to see. If we find that it is not working, the way that we think it is going to work, I am one that is



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more than willing to backtrack and add a second meeting. We should at least try to make this Council and government run more efficiently.”

Councilmember Michetich agreed with Councilmember Bell.

Mayor Hocking added, “I would concur with Mayor Pro-Tem. If it doesn’t work, I would be happy to do another ordinance and go back to two meetings. Anyone who has pressing business with the City, can contact me and we can call a Special meeting on that fourth Monday. But, I think that we can have an impactful meeting on that second Monday each month.” **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding appointments and reappointments of members to the City of La Marque various Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Hocking said that there were applications for the Boards and Commission in the back of the room at each meeting, and asked for interested persons to apply to various Boards and Commissions. Then encouraged some of the younger folks and anyone else interested to apply.

Mayor Hocking nominated for reappointment: David Pennington to the Cemetery Board; Mike “ROC” Bock and Louis McGaffey to the Parks Board; and Michelle Washington to the Library Board. “That is, if we still have a Library Board, there is some talk that the Library Board has fallen to the wayside, but we are trying to invigorate that.”

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell stated, “Before I make my reappointments, somewhere along the way, District “A” lost one of the appointments to the Building Standards Commission, it shows the Mayor to have two seats, I wanted the record to reflect this. Mayor agreed that one of those would be given to District “A”. Mr. Bell nominated for reappointment the following: Herman Harper to the Board of Adjustments; he deferred the Cemetery Board appointment to a future date, since this reappointments may be resigning from the Board; Herbert Franklin to the Parks Board. Deferred the Planning and Zoning and the Library Appointments to a future date.

Councilmember Lane deferred all of his appointments and/or reappointment to a future date.

Councilmember Michetich nominated the following for his appointments or reappointments as follows: Deanie Barrett to the Building Standards Commission; Al Reida to the Parks Board; Norman Koneman to the Planning and Zoning Commission; and deferred the Library Board appointment to a future date.

Mayor Hocking suggested having an open meeting and discussion in regards to the Library Board.



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Councilmember Brown nominated all of the reappointments as follows: Charlotte Westerlage to the Board of Adjustments; Charles Castelline to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Catherine Polk to the Library Board if the Board remains.

City Manager Carol Buttler deferred her appointments or reappointments to a future date.

All appointments and reappointments were approved by unanimous consent of City Council.

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding Ordinance No. **O-2015-0029** amending City of La Marque Fiscal Year 2016 Budget to recognize miscellaneous funds totaling \$25,642.07 which were received from Texas A & M Forest Service; East Texas Gulf Coast Regional Trauma Advisory Council; La Marque Independent School District; Galveston County Commissioner's Court; and, Brewster Procurement Group on behalf of Shell Pipeline to be used for vehicle/building maintenance, equipment, overtime, or training, and increasing Fire Revenue Account 48-3801-00-00 by \$25,642.07 and, increasing appropriation to Fire Expenditure Account 48-3020-06-00 by \$25,642.07. **THIS IS THE FIRST READING.**

Councilmember Michetich made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2015-0029.
Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- d. Discussion/possible action regarding approval of policy recommendation from Parks Board for the "Naming and Renaming" of City parks, buildings and structures.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve for discussion. Councilmember Lane seconded.

Chairperson Mc McGaffey introduced the Parks Board members who were all in attendance. (Bo Hunter, C. J. Leggett; Al Reida, Coach Walker, Mr. Franklin and Mr. Bock)

Councilmember Bell began, "First let me just say that we appreciate all that you and the Board has done, this is a tremendous document. It appears to be consistent with what is probably out there as it relates to policies like these. In the criteria area, it speaks about renaming a park or facility being named after someone who is consistent with a positive image in the community. It mentions this in other areas of the document as well. How do we qualify one who makes a good, positive image, and let me give you an example, I believe that every President that this country has ever had outside of George Washington, people that believe that he was a hero and people who believe that he was a villain. It is subjective, it is based on your perspective of that person and the work that they may or may not do and how they have conducted themselves in their service to their communities. How do we qualify that outside of the 10% registered voter's piece that you



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have here? Isn't it already qualified in the need for the 10% of the registered voters in the City of La Marque?"

Mr. McGaffey answered, "That's not the only part. There is another phase in there that says that you have to have a high impact and be favorable to the City, but they also have to be approved by the Councilmember of the District where this is going to take place. So there is another way to get into it. Then we have 10% of all of the voters. After speaking with the City Secretary, there is approximately 10,000 registered voters throughout the City. We included everyone, since parks are a part of the City. With that, this Committee worked hard. We chose from ten different cities in trying to compose a short and sweet, something that could be reachable. Also, the volunteer work, you can always tell a person that has a high input and volunteers on different committees that do things for the City and works with the City employees."

Further discussion led by Councilmember Bell included if a Park or facility would be named after a former citizen that is a former Senator that has made an impact on the country, but has not maybe made such an impact on the city parks within the City.

Councilmember Bell continued, "Under this criteria, she may be excluded, so how do we accommodate those types of situations?"

Mr. McGaffey answered, "The Parks Board works for the City Council, and we cannot rename anything on our own. We count on the City Council to make the final decision."

Councilmember Bell wished to add amendments to the policy as follows: First, if a person who wishes to rename a park or facility should have to go to the City Clerk's Office to obtain the necessary petition and or paperwork. They would have thirty days (30) in which to get the 10% of registered voters signatures and turn in the petition for verification to the City Clerk's Office.

Bo Hunter, a member of the Parks Board stated, "If a person doesn't meet the criteria, then they should not be allowed to obtain a petition, not being biased or disrespectful to anyone."

Councilmember Bell asked, "Is there a way that we could have a special circumstance for somebody that is obviously one of the most prominent people in the State?" (Still referring to the former Senator).

Mr. Hunter answered, "We don't have the last word on that. We would look for City Council to decide."

Councilmember Bell continued with the amendment: Petition to include Name, valid address in La Marque and point of contact. (email or telephone number), then after verification of the registered voter's status by the City Clerk, then refer the petition to



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the Parks Board, after the Board deliberates, they would then make a recommendation to City Council.

Mr. Hunter added, "You certainly wouldn't want to name a building, park, or facility after someone that has a felony record or something of that nature. We are trying to look at different angles, the other cities that we gathered this information from have already panned this stuff out."

Councilmember Brown congratulated Mr. McGaffey and the Parks Board for their work.

Councilmember Michetich made a motion to the amendment to the policy. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(10) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Administration**
- **Court**
- **Police**
- **Fire**
- **Library**
- **Public Services**
- **Financials**

Mayor Hocking invited all to the Community Room for refreshments to help to congratulate all of the promoted employees.

(11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

(12) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Brown thanked all for attending and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Michetich extended Christmas Greetings to everyone in the City and to remember what it is all about and to enjoy their families.

Councilmember Lane wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked the Mission Impossible organization that recently came out and cleaned up Bobby Beach Park. On December 18, will be the first in the area of the Youth Council and invited all to come out for the festivities.

Councilmember Bell wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Then congratulated all of the promoted employees, and asked for the Neighborhood Revitalization document to come before City Council at a near future meeting so that it can be voted on.

Mayor Hocking thanked all of the Parks Board members for their work on the new policy on renaming facilities but also for attending the meeting. Thanked David Pennington for his work on the Wreaths across America. "I think that this event is becoming a

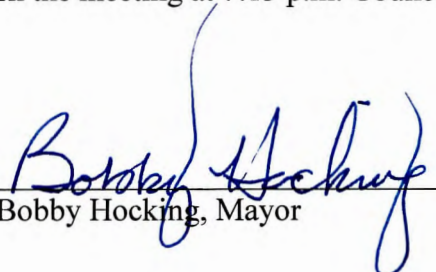


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destination where people will be coming to La Marque and we can look for some funding in this next budget and make it a really positive event." Congratulated the promoted employees. Thanked the Mission Impossible organization for their work at Bobby Beach Park, wished all a Merry Christmas and encouraged the citizens to reach out to any families in need this season.

(13) ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Councilmember Lane seconded. Meeting adjourned.


Bobby Hocking, Mayor

ATTEST:


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: 12/14/15

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:

Property question/concern

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 Joe Maza

Address 1232 Duroup Rd

Telephone number 409-502-0648

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____

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DATE OF MEETING: 12-14-15

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99

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:

ORDINANCE 0-2015-0028

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 924 CYPRESS

Telephone number 938.846

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____