



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF
DECEMBER 12, 2016**

Regular Meeting Minutes of the City of La Marque City Council held on Monday, December 12, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road with the following members present:

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hocking called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Bobby Hocking	Mayor
Keith Bell	Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilmember District A
Chris Lane	Councilmember, District B
Robert Michetich	Councilmember, District C
Clent Brown	Councilmember, District D

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Carol Buttler	City Manager
Ellis Ortego	City Attorney
Robin Eldridge	City Clerk

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

(4) PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Chief Jackson presented the first uniform Police Department patch that was worn from 1954 to 1966; 1966-1983; 1983-2016, then presented the new uniform Police Department patch, a fresh new look for 2016

(5) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. David Pennington invited all to attend the “Wreaths across America” annual event that will be taking place at the La Marque Cemetery, the upcoming Saturday, December 17, 2016 beginning at 11:00 a.m. This year they will be placing 250 wreaths to honor the local veterans.
2. Margaret Little reported that her neighborhood had some serious sewer problems the previous week and she along with a few of her neighbors couldn’t get through to City Hall. “From what I understand, there is a new phone system, well it should be on the website or maybe the library sign. Today, I heard from someone on Evergreen, this is ridiculous, that we are having to go through this. I have lived here since 1970 and I have never had any problems. The reason for this, and I know this. They are not coming out and



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cleaning out these plugs. They make no effort to do this. I have a lot of raw sewage in my yard.” She said that if the City didn’t take care of it she didn’t know what else to do but report it to the Health Department and the State. The four streets that were having the sewer issues were Pecos, Colorado, Brazos and Goliad. “That is a two-man job, not a one-man job and they sent one man out to address the issue, and he was very frustrated. I would like to see a copy of that work-order to see what they put on there, because it wasn’t fixed.” She mentioned that according to the City Manager, the City is losing 56% of our water. “This another severe problem and nothing is being handled with the streets or the water lines. I hear there is another Fire Station coming up, that is ridiculous, we don’t have the money to maintain the infrastructure in this town, but we are going to build a brand new Fire Department across town. Another thing, people are upset about raises being given to administration, but the employees and the retirees aren’t. We never have enough money to get to that point. We are a little town, and if you are going to put up these things like these high salaries, maybe they should go somewhere else and get a job, because this has gotten out of hand too. Administration has been kicking this can down the road for a long time. It is like La Marque is in a sink-hole. You want to beautify everything around us, but La Marque is dying. We are not spending our money wisely.”

Mayor Hocking responded as a point of order. “The sewage matter, just for the record, during Hurricane Carla, there was 14 inches of rain, we had 12.7 inches in eleven hours, no City can handle that. However, Ms. Buttler, if you would please address the drainage situation.”

Ms. Little spoke from the audience, “The rain didn’t help, but the problem is that the City does not clean out the plugs, the lines, at least once a year. That is part of maintenance.”

Councilmember Bell clarified, and it was determined that the plugs are sewer lines. Ms. Little was speaking of.

Mayor Hocking continued, as appoint of order. “This Council gave the first across the board raise of 4% that the employees had been given in eleven years. This year, in this budget, we are looking again at giving, especially down the line employees, another across the board raise, so we appreciate those comments. This will be during the August budget hearings, and you are more than welcome to attend those to help us adjust those numbers. We have done a survey of the surrounding cities, and we want our people to be paid as well if not better, so we can attract great employees.”

3. Louis “Mac” McGaffey, “Well I am here tonight, for a different reason. I want to thank you Mayor for sending the volunteers that worked at the Bayou Fest and the Parks Board, a very nice Thank you note. The second thing, I want to thank the Mayor and the Council for sending all of the volunteers, a Christmas card. I felt it was a real card with feeling behind it and I just want to thank ya’ll.”
4. Richard Loflis, “I am here again about the drainage on Bellview and pretty much throughout this town.” He stated that he had met with the City Manager and



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Councilmember Bell a few weeks before and had shown them some of the problem areas and gave them solutions as to how to fix it, the way that they do it at the City of Kemah. But then said that nothing had been done about it. "It rained, I got calls from citizens on that street, I guess because I am more vocal about it and they asked me what was going to be done about it, and I have no answers for them. Every time you see me here, the last couple of times, it has been the exact same problem. It is frustrating that people are getting paid, out of my tax dollars, and the work ain't getting done." He said he is apprehensive about building a new house next to one he already owns, because of the services. "I am at the point where if I could pick up both of the houses that I own in the City of La Marque, and move them somewhere else, that is probably what I would be doing. I want to know when the drainage culverts on Bellview are going to get done."

It was said that the ditches were cleaned, but the mud that was left in the culverts was left and that this keeps them from draining. He was asked what they do in Kemah.

Mr. Loftis answered, "We take a cable and run it through the culverts, with tires tied to the end of it and push it through with a Gradall. This is only done when it is still wet, moist, and it comes right out. The only other solution, would be to dig up the driveways, which is more costly."

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell spoke to the City Manager and referred to the meeting that they had with Mr. Loftis, "I thought we let this resident know that there was going to be a time frame as to when we were going to clean those culverts, and I thought that the time frame was sooner rather than later."

City Manager Carol Butler responded that she had received the message from Mr. Loftis and had answered him back, "As I responded to him earlier that day, was that water and sewer issues took priority over cleaning out the culvert. We did monitor Bellview during the high rains and we had some of the residents come to us and personally thank us for what we had done, so I know we made some progress. But, we are not finished. We did have some other things, especially with the rain, we had a lot of sewer issues and a lot of water issues."

Mayor Pro-Tem asked when the City was going to get the culverts cleaned, and whether the City would be trying the method that Ms. Loftis suggested.

Ms. Butler said that it was a good suggestion and that she was going to ask when Mr. Rumburg would be scheduling that, they normally do ditches on Wednesdays.

(6) CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Workshop Minutes of City Council on November 14, 2016.
- b. Regular Minutes of City Council on November 14, 2016.

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

** Councilmember Michetich seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**



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(7) CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding awarding Lansdowne Moody, a local Buyboard vendor for the purchase of a slope/boom mower, in the amount of \$88,088.00.

** Councilmember Bell made a motion to award Lansdowne Moody, a local Buyboard vendor for the purchase of a slope/boom mower, in the amount of \$88,088.00.

** Councilmember Lane seconded.

Councilmember Brown asked that the City start buying more American made equipment. Questioned the additional \$13,000 to be included in the price to get the ignition installed. A question arose of whether there were any slope-mowers made in America. The additional \$13,000 would only be included if the City had not ordered the equipment before the December 15th deadline.

Public Services Director addressed the issue on the price, and said that the item was on the BuyBoard list and it was less expensive than others.

Councilmember Michetich explained the Buyboard and why cities use it. "It has better prices, warranties and assures the entities that they will stand behind their products and that we are getting the best prices." Suggested that the City request American made, but with the understand that it may not always be available or with the better prices.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding awarding Texas Underground, a local BuyBoard vendor, for the purchase of a trailer jet machine, in the amount of \$49,975.15.

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion to award Underground, a local BuyBoard vendor, for the purchase of a trailer jet machine, in the amount of \$49,975.15.

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

(8) OLD BUSINESS

Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Ordinance No. **O-2016-0020**, repealing Chapter 8, Animal Control, of the Code of Ordinances, City of La Marque, Texas, and in its place adopting a new Chapter 8 to regulate birds, livestock, animals, exotic animals, dogs, cats, kennels, public nuisances; providing ownership; and, providing enforcement. **THIS IS THE FIRST READING (Item tabled at City Council meeting of October 10, 2016)**

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. **O-2016-0020**, repealing Chapter 8, Animal Control, of the Code of Ordinances, City of La Marque, Texas, and in its place adopting a new Chapter 8 to regulate birds, livestock, animals, exotic animals, dogs, cats, kennels, public nuisances; providing ownership; and, providing enforcement.

** Councilmember Michetich seconded.



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Mayor Pro-Tem was concerned about the ordinance being complaint driven and suggested that it be more proactive than reactive. It was said that the reason being that there are so that have so many animals, and that staff has tried to reach out to those citizens to let them know of the upcoming ordinance to give them time to relocate some of their animals. AG exemptions were briefly discussed.

Mayor Hocking asked that the issues of the culverts on Bellview and the problems on Brazos be addressed within the next sixty days.

(9) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2016-0018**, suspending the effective date of CenterPoint's proposed rate increase until the City has reviewed and evaluated the request.

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Resolution No. **R-2016-0018**, suspending the effective date of CenterPoint's proposed rate increase until the City has reviewed and evaluated the request.

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2016-0019**, approving submittal of application for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture, requesting grant funds totaling \$350,000 with a City match of approximately \$383,000 to provide enhancements to the City's water distribution system in select areas of the City.

** Councilmember Michetich made a motion to adopt Resolution No. **R-2016-0019**, submittal of application for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture, requesting grant funds totaling \$350,000 with a City match of approximately \$383,000 to provide enhancements to the City's water distribution system in select areas of the City.

** Councilmember Bell seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
Public Services Les Rumburg explained what the grant monies would be used for: Wisteria, Honeysuckle, Bluebonnet from Cedar to Winding Way, based on the number of calls for service for water line breaks each week.

Mentioned was that select areas of town be selected until the whole city has been repaired

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2016-0020**, approving procedures for cooperating with Boards and Commissions.

** Councilmember Michetich made a motion to adopt Resolution No. **R-2016-0020**, approving procedures for cooperating with Boards and Commissions.

** Councilmember Brown seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made an amendment to the resolution to include what he offered at the



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previous meeting was that a member of Council become an ex-officio member on each of the Board and or Commissions. Councilmember Michetich seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- d. Discussion/possible action regarding a recommendation from the City of La Marque Parks Board to approve a request to waive all fees for Highland Bayou "Mac McGaffey" Park on March 25, 2017, for a benefit function sponsored by the Friends of Sergeant Royce McQuaig and requiring a Special Event Permit.
 - ** Councilmember Bell made a motion to waive all fees for Highland Bayou "Mac McGaffey" Park on March 25, 2017, for a benefit function sponsored by the Friends of Sergeant Royce McQuaig and requiring a Special Event Permit.
 - ** Councilmember Brown seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- e. Discussion/possible action regarding the recommendation of the Cemetery Board to Transfer Cemetery Plot 62, spaces 3-10 of the Southeast Quadrant from Edna Derrick to John W. and Stephanie A. Hamilton.
 - ** Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Cemetery Board to Transfer Cemetery Plot 62, spaces 3-10 of the Southeast Quadrant from Edna Derrick to John W. and Stephanie A. Hamilton.
 - ** Councilmember Michetich seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- f. Discussion/possible action regarding appointments and/ or reappointments to various positions of the Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Hocking reappointed Harold Augustus to the Board of Adjustments; reappointed Trina Phillips to the Building Standards Commission; reappointed Deanie Barrett to the Economic Development Corporation, (which was actually an appointment of Council "A" District, originally); thanked Mr. Dickey Stanley as a faithful member for his dedicated volunteer services, and that he has chosen to pursue other things; appointed Hugh Cash to the Planning and Zoning Commission; David Holmen to the Clean City Commission; Deanie Barrett to the Clean City Commission;

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell; reappointed Deanie Barrett to the Economic Development Services; reappointed Billy Jefferson to the Building Standards Commission; reappointed Bo Hunter to the Parks Board; reappointed Russell Washington Sr., to the Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilmember Lane reappointed Kurt Koopman to the Cemetery Board; Kathy Goodwin to the Clean City Commission

Councilmember Michetich will wait on his appointment to the Cemetery Board

Councilmember Brown appointed John Berlitz to the Building Standards Commission; With the passing of Willie Alexander, Mr. Brown said he would wait to



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appoint someone at a later date to the Board of Adjustments.

- ** Councilmember Michetich made a motion to accept all of the appointments and reappointments
- ** Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(10) CITY MANAGER REPORT

- **Judicial**
- **Police**
- **Fire**
- **Library**
- **Financials**

(11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

(12) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Brown thanked all for showing up to for the Christmas parade. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year he is looking forward to his continued service to the City of La Marque.

Councilmember Michetich thanked all for attending the Christmas Parade as well. Also thanked Public Works for their work from this past rain, and has some pictures to share. The winds raised the water levels at least two feet higher than normal and said the water had no where else to go. Public Works did a great job unplugging those things, we still have a lot of work to do. Wished all a Merry Christmas and reminded all not to forget what this season is really all about.

Councilmember Lane echoed on what Brown and Michetich said. "I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. This has been a very successful and productive year for the City, and 2017 promises to be a lot better. Thank you for coming out."

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell sent condolences out to the family of Brajean Powell , who was recently killed in a car accident. "This hits home for a lot of us. That young man worked at our day care, and that family is in our prayers." Then asked for the first meeting in January to include a workshop on the Public Services Department. "We need to look very closely at our operations. We need to see what is working, what is not working. Council needs the opportunity to speak to our constituents and bring change to that department if it is necessary. He invited Mr. Loftus specifically to come and give his expertise from the Kemah standpoint, and any other citizens that is frustrated with the water and sewer problems within the City. "I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanza to those who s celebrate and God Bless you."

Mayor Hocking concurred with the Public Works workshop. "We know that we need to revamp. We have allocated a million dollars to finding water leaks and our reports showed a number of leaks, and all but three of those leaks have been repaired. Some of those very

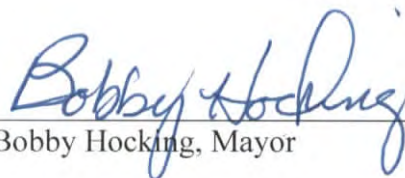


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substantial leaks. We approved the purchase of a new pump truck tonight, and that was the reason. We have a lot of work to do and we intend to do it, and we appreciate comments, and you all letting us know of specific concerns. "I want to thank the Emergency Management team, we spent all day Saturday into the night Saturday and I want to compliment the Fire Department, the Police Department, Charlene Warren, EMT's, and especially Public Works who as we were driving around in the rain, saw them waist deep in water, unplugging drains." Reported that he had received several emails also complementing them on their hard work. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Then wished Councilmember Brown a belated Happy 86th Birthday, who celebrated the day before. "I love this time of the year. I would encourage every family to find another family who may not be as merry as you, this year and reach out to them and provide what they need. Any day care can tell you who the single working mothers and dads are who may be struggling this Christmas. We have done this in our family. And it's not all about jumping up in the morning and opening gifts, it's about Jesus, his birth and the giving spirit."

(13) **ADJOURNMENT**

- ** Councilmember Bell made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:53 p.m.
- ** Councilmember Lane seconded the motion. **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: 1-12-16

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:

Sewer lines & City matters

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 Margaret Little

Address 1525 - Brazos

Telephone number 938-8990

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____

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: 12-12-16

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:

WEATHERS ACROSS AMERICA

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Name DAVID PENNINGTON

Address 924 CYPRESS

Telephone number 409-938-4416

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK

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Name Louis (Mac) M. Gaffey

Address 2314 Downey Dr.

Telephone number 409-938-0106

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____

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: 12-12-16

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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:

Drainage on Bellview

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 Rebecca J. Poff

Address 309 Johnson

Telephone number _____

IF SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Speaker's Official Capacity _____