



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF
JANUARY 8, 2018**

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of the City of La Marque City Council held on Monday, January 8, 2018, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road with the following members present:

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hocking called the Special Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

Bobby Hocking

Keith Bell

Chris Lane

Robert Michetich

Casey Mc Auliffe

Mayor

Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilmember District A

Councilmember, District B

Councilmember, District C

Councilwoman, District D

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Carol Buttler

Ellis Ortego

Robin Eldridge

City Manager

City Attorney

City Clerk

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hocking led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance

(4) PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS

a. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Proclamation

Mayor Hocking presented a proclamation to Nakisha Paul and other members of the La Marque Alumni Association conduction of their 5th annual parade in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

b. Update- Public Management Projects- Patrick Wiltshire

Patrick Wiltshire of Public Management provided an update on the CBGD grant projects (backup attached in agenda packet)

(5) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. Clarence Caldwell asked if the citizens were being charged for the yellow recycle carts. He said that the citizens were blind-sided in the sense that the water bills have gone up tremendously. He said that he has spoken to the Utility Billing Department Supervisor and he was not satisfied with the answers he was given. He asked that his meter be calibrated, and was told that the meter didn't need to be calibrated. He said his water bill is not consistent.



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(6) MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2017
- b. Special Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2017

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to approve the Regular minutes of December 11, 2017 and the Special minutes of December 18, 2017.

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(7) PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Conduct Public Hearing to hear public input adopting Ordinance No. **O-2017-0022**, changing the zoning classification from R-3 Multi-Family Residential, to C-1, General Commercial of two tracts of land consisting of 8.16 acres together with an easement fronting I- 45 in the City of La Marque; amending the Zoning Map of the City adopted the 12th day of December 2005 by Ordinance Number 953, as forwarded by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a favorable recommendation.
- b. Conduct Public Hearing to hear public input adopting Ordinance No. **O-2017-0023**, establishing appointments of members of City Council to serve on each of the Boards and Commissions as ex-officio members.

Mayor Hocking closed the Regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing (s) at 6:19 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing (s) and opened the Regular meeting at 6:20 p.m.

(8) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Ordinance No **O-2017-0022**, changing the zoning classification from R-3 Multi-Family Residential, to C-1, General Commercial of two tracts of land consisting of 8.16 acres together with an easement fronting I- 45 in the City of La Marque; amending the Zoning Map of the City adopted the 12th day of December 2005 by Ordinance Number 953, as forwarded by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a favorable recommendation **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING**
- ** After a brief discussion, Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2017-0022.
- ** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- b. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Ordinance No. **O-2017-0023**, establishing appointments of members of City Council to serve on each of the Boards and Commissions as ex-officio members **THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL READING**



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** After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Mc Auliffe made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2017-0023.

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

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding appointments and/or reappointments to fill vacancies to various positions of the Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell reappointed Herbert Franklin to the Parks Board for another two-year term.

(9) AGREEMENTS OR CONTRACTS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding entering into a Contract with the Galveston County Clerk and Galveston County Election Officer for the General Election to be held on May 5, 2018, and possible Runoff Election on June 16, 2018.

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion to enter into a Contract with the Galveston County Clerk and Galveston County Election Officer for the General Election to be held on May 5, 2018, and possible Runoff Election on June 16, 2018.

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

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with ARKK Engineers to conduct a *Water and Wastewater Capital Improvements Plan and Impact Fee Study* in the amount of \$29, 950.00.

** After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Mc Auliffe made a motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with ARKK Engineers to conduct a *Water and Wastewater Capital Improvements Plan and Impact Fee Study* in the amount of \$29, 950.00.

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

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding the adoption of the 2018 “IT’S TIME TEXAS” Community Challenge, sponsored by HEB

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt the 2018 “IT’S TIME TEXAS” Community Challenge, sponsored by HEB.

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

- d. Discussion/possible action regarding award of RFP #18-02 to Provision Specialized Resources, LLC for General Grant Applications, Administration, and Project Management.

** Councilmember Michetich made a motion to award RFP #18-02 to Provision Specialized Resources, LLC for General Grant applications, Administration and Project Management

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



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(10) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding **Resolution No. R-2018-001**, calling for the General Election to be held on May 5, 2018 to elect one (1) Mayor and one (1) Councilmember for District "A" and one (1) Councilmember for District "C", each for a three (3) year term.

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2018-001.

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding Resolution No. **R-2018-002**, expressing the need for school campuses within the City of La Marque.

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2018-002.

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Bell said that he, along with Councilmembers Lane and Michetich serve on the Texas City School District Facilities Advisory Board, and that it appears, but has not officially been propositioned, that La Marque schools are in much need of repair to the point that the recommendation would probably be that we would need new schools. "It is important as a city and as citizens within this city, and as a Council that we make it known to the TCISD that we would strongly prefer that any schools that are built to serve La Marque students, that they be built in the City of La Marque. I would personally like to see the possibility of an "Educational Village", where schools are consolidated into a geographical area where we might be able to our serve our Elementary, our Junior High, our High School and have other amenities and facilities all in one geographical area, so that we might be able to serve our citizens and our students to the best of our abilities. I want to make sure that this is part of a letter that you, might draft that might explain our resolution in further detail."

Mayor Hocking thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Bell, and added, "That style of education has worked very well in the Clear Falls Education Village off of 96, and I believe it is time for our students to have state of the art classrooms, facilities, buildings, and grounds. We have great teachers, we need to give them the tools to do their jobs. I appreciate that recommendation and without objection I will write a cover letter expressing that."

Councilmember Michetich clarified that the area across I-45 is not the Texas City- La Marque school district, and added, "When we are talking about building new schools, they are here in the old part of La Marque, and not in the newer part. It is right here."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Ordinance No. **O-2018-001**, amending Chapter 71, Section 71-28 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of La Marque, Texas, pertaining to the face size and height size requirements for digital billboards.



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** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. **O-2018-001.**

** Councilmember Lane seconded.

Councilwoman Mc Auliffe asked that this item be either tabled or begin a discussion, since she had some concerns that the size and height may not be in conjunction with the vision of the I-45 development and entrance that had been previously discussed and envisioned for the City. The state standards were briefly discussed and it was mentioned that there were only a few more locations along I-45 that could be effected by this amendment, but also that Tx DOT has their requirements as well. It was asked if the existing billboards were erected to the state standards. It was mentioned that there were two groups that are trying to come to an agreement on the height and sizes of billboards on a state level. As the billboard reads now, it does not allow billboards anywhere in the city other than along I-45, and that there could be a possibility of the paper signs currently along I-45 being converted to digital signs that would have to meet whatever specifications that are in place when that time comes. The signs at Kirby and 519 and I-45 were briefly discussed. Background was given that a previous workshop had taken place before the sign amendment was adopted for billboards and with the help of a potential buyer, free advertisement was given to the city, with the placement of the sign at Kirby, as well as help in the writing of the parameters that are in the current ordinance. Further discussion continued that the current billboard ordinance is still being discussed and further amendments will be considered and other clarifications will be made. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d. Discussion/possible action regarding approval of the Third Amendment to Public Improvement District (PID #1), Development and Financing Agreement for Painted Meadows, Section 5.

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to approve the Third Amendment to Public Improvement District (PID #1), Development and Financing Agreement for Painted Meadows, Section 5.

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded.

Randall Hall, representing the development of Painted Meadows subdivision and began to explain the process. "Since the Public Improvement District (PID) was created and adopted by ordinance that calls for the public bidding of the improvements, meaning the streets and the infrastructure underground in Painted Meadows. On a section by section basis, once that section is constructed, the construction costs are audited by the PID Board, which in this case is the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Once audited, the EDC makes a recommendation to City Council approving the audit and recommending an assessment for every lot on an annual basis in Painted Meadows for a period of twenty years. This is the last section of Painted Meadows, 134 lots, and that the assessment that has been recommended by the financial advisor to the EDC then on to Council is \$1,550.00 per house per year." **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

e. Discussion/possible action regarding approving the levy of a Public Improvement District



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(PID #1) assessment for Painted Meadows, Section 5, in the amount of \$1,550.00 per house annually, for 20 years.

- ** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion to approve the levy of a Public Improvement District (PID #1) assessment for Painted Meadows, Section 5, in the amount of \$1,550.00 per house, annually, for 20 years.
- ** Councilmember Michetich seconded and clarified that the EDC has control of this and that it is not a MUD. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- f. Discussion/possible action regarding the transfer of Lots 20 and 21, Block 10, Mentor & Bell from the City of La Marque to the La Marque Economic Development Corporation
- ** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion approving the transfer of Lots 20 and 21, Block 10, Mentor & Bell from the City of La Marque to the La Marque Economic Development Corporation
- ** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- g. Receive report and discuss blight reduction progress towards neighborhood revitalization in accordance with five year Strategic Plan.

City Manager Carol Buttler shared documents outlining the third report on revitalization in accordance with the five year strategic plan, highlighting accomplishments and future goals. (As seen in attachment "A").

- ** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked if there was a memorandum of understanding between the City and the solid waste contractor referencing the brush piles. It was said that it is part of the contract for their drivers to tag the piles of brush so that it can be determined whether it fits the brush pickup contract criteria or if it is a code violation.

Code Compliance Supervisor approached the podium, "When we noticed that brush was starting to collect again on the sides of the roads, we got together with Ms. Ortiz and got those plastic pamphlets and we put letters in them and went by every single house that had a debris or brush pile out there, and put it on their door knob so that they would get it and read it to be instructed on how to have it picked up. On top of that, we also go door to door and stop and talk to people."

Mayor Pro Tem then asked about getting the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone in place. "If we cannot reasonably control crime, it doesn't matter how many houses we paint, or roads we repair, the likelihood of us, successfully revitalizing and repopulating our city, would still be slim. We have a crime problem, not a police problem. About 30% of the properties in the Marsh Darcy report stated that they are owner occupied."

Discussion continued including the fact that about 70% of the population are renters within the City. The possibility of adopting a Renter's Ordinance was discussed. So that the City



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can gather information on the property owners and communicate to them that their renters should be enhancing the city and not detracting from the city. "I will be willing to work with you on developing an ordinance. I think if we hold our property owners accountable, I think that they might help us from their side to help to make sure that their renters are folks that we can count on to be contributors." Then he asked for the City Manager to set up a meeting between with the person from Texas City that administers our Section 8 program, and let them know that we expect their Section 8 inspectors to do a service that will ensure that those on our Section 8 program are contributors also to the City. He asked for the City Manager to report back to Council after the meeting with Texas City.

City Manager Carol Buttler responded that she will be working to get the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone in place, and that possibly within the next ninety (90) days that she, along with Code Compliance are working on a Renter's Ordinance. All concurred that this would be a step in the right direction.

Mayor Hocking reported that a brush pile had been situated in the Lakeside and jetty area for quite a while, and would like it to be removed. Added that as soon to be President elect of the SETH (Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation), he would certainly want to bring these resources into light to encourage home buying.

- h. Discussion/possible action providing direction to the City Manager, regarding development of a City of La Marque Brand Style Guide that would directly impact a comprehensive wayfinding program, the La Marque Renaissance District, the Sign Ordinance and the Thoroughfare Overlay District.

Colleen Merritt, Public Information Officer began by stating that the new development and the historical La Marque should look the same, the main problem that she has seen is that La Marque has a perception problem, and explained the need for a Brand Standard within the City, to build a unified brand identity (forms, billboards, water towers, etc.). A wayfinding program will help identify where landmarks, parks, and other valued locations are within the city, including the new Fire Station. "We have the power to decide what we want our City to look like."

Further discussion asked for blessing and direction to move forward with these ideas, and it was the consensus of City Council to allow Ms. Merritt to move forward, and agreed that \$10,000.00 would make a big push in the right direction. She then provided samples that were included in their packets of some of the surrounding cities that have implemented a wayfinding program, which would include some workshops with members of staff and City Council in the new future.

(10) CITY MANAGER REPORT

- **Judicial**
- **Police Department**
- **Fire Department**



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- **Library**
- **Connect Transit**
- **Public Services**
- **Animal Services**
- **Financials**

There were no comments.

(11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

(12) REQUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor announced the untimely passing of Jake Feigle, and reported that his family has a wonderful legacy in the City of La Marque that will last forever. Jake was active in many, many City Council meetings, it says a lot for him that he was interested in community. Mayor Pro-Tem reported that the City is well represented as a few of the Councilmembers are members of the TCISD Facilities Advisory Committee and will do everything in their power to make sure that we have excellent schools within our City. Reminded all, of the Martin Luther King, Jr. annual parade, to take place on the 15th of January, and encouraged all to attend.

Councilmember Lane thanked everyone for attending.

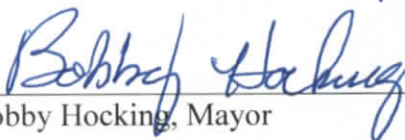
Councilmember Michetich hoped everyone had a happy new year and is looking forward to a great 2018.

Councilmember Mc Auliffe concurred, "I think this a good time to be in La Marque and to be on this Council and there are a lot of big goals to look forward to."

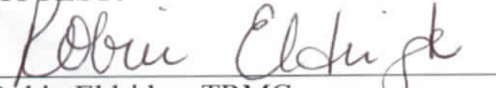
(13) ADJOURNMENT

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:36 p.m.

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded. **MEETING ADJOURNED**


Bobby Hocking, Mayor

ATTEST:


Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk

**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:	1/8/18
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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:

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:	Clarence Caldwell
Address:	3603 Prairie View TX
Phone Number:	409-739-7492

If speaking on behalf of an organization:

Name of Organization:	
Speaker's Official Capacity:	