



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF
September 10, 2018**

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of the City of La Marque City Council held on Monday, September 10, 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 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

Bobby Hocking	Mayor
Keith Bell	Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilmember District A
Chris Lane	Councilmember, District B
Robert Michetich	Councilmember, District C
Casey Mc Auliffe	Councilwoman, District D

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Charlene Warren	Interim City Manager
Robin Eldridge	City Clerk
Ellis Ortego	City Attorney

- (3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hocking

(4) PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Art Presentation- Paul Bernard
Mayor Hocking introduced Paul Bernard, an employee in the Public Services Department for the City of La Marque who presented a painted Mural of the City including co-workers and officials. Mr. Bernard has been painting since he was eight years old. He thanked Chaise Carey, his supervisor, and said he would like to show his appreciation to the Mayor and other officials for their leadership. He said that he is going to show his work later this month in the Art Walk in Texas City.
- b. Proclamation- "Constitution Week" - Mayor Hocking presented Catherine Polk and Cheryl Tucker with a proclamation in support of Constitution Week, which is September 17, 2018 through September 23, 2018.

Before the following, Mayor Hocking introduced Charlene Warren as the Interim City Manager



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(5) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. Clarence Caldwell reported an accident involving four-wheelers recently, and something needed to be done about the four-wheelers. He reported that the gentlemen that were sent out to change out his water meter, didn't have the correct tools to the job, and there was no supervisor on hand; and another issue he reported was a raw sewer leak in the ditch, the lift station was backed and over-flowing. He wasn't happy about the response he received from one of the workers, when he addressed him about this issue, and also the lack of personnel when staff is on vacation to address his issues.
2. Bo Hunter reported that he had been a resident of the City for fifty-one years. "I am here as a citizen and under the present Police administration, we have had three discrimination complaints and one discrimination suit filed by four employees of the Police Department." He further said that at the time, there were only three black officers working for the City. "Something needs to be done folks." He further compared himself to the Mayor as to who would make it home safely each day, "Not because of a DWI, but because of DWB. That's the difference between my world and his world, and I would like for all of us to live in the same world and be treated right. If the people that work in the police department are not being treated fairly, by the people that they work for, what do you think that will happen to me if I get stopped, what kind of chance to I have as a normal citizen?" He wanted to see an outside investigation done to see why these things are taking place.
3. Moses A. Wilmore handed out pictures for Council to observe that show a picture of a warehouse and reported that there is drug activity at that location. Reported other areas that also include drug activity. "We notified the Police Department six times, concerning that particular matter, and the problem has not been solved, and it has been going on for the past three years. The raids have not solved the problems, these people go back to doing what they are doing. The warehouse is an embarrassment to the City. The projection of La Marque is always centered around drugs, so we have to have visible Police presence in the neighborhood. This is not oversizing the present Police Chief, but Under Chief Aragon, he carried on a "zero tolerance" for drugs for two or three months, and it cleaned up the streets. He kept it that way for two or three years."

Mayor Pro-Tem said as a point of information, "We have understood for a long time that one of the challenges we have here is the narcotics trade. I just wanted to let you know and let the citizens know that we have increased our capacity to address those narcotics issues 100%. So, while there was certainly staff members that were dedicated to that, we have doubled that, I am not going to say how many, I don't want to reveal what Chief Jackson is or is not doing, but I need to let us know that we understand that there is an issue and this Council has in a 100% percent way



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doubled our ability to address the drug and narcotic activity in our City; you can find that in the budget.”

The pictures were going to be referred to the Code Compliance Supervisor and to the Police Chief.

4. Todd Riddle on behalf of Garner Environmental, “Garner is a local business here, and has been operating out of its facility since about 1990. We are an environmental services company, serving the Gulf Coast region.” He then introduced Shanna Wade and Curtis Galloway, two other representatives of Garner that were present. Garner, recently acquired a company out of Louisiana, OMI, an environmental services company also, for oil spill cleanups. OMI company brings over about one hundred and seventy five employees and Garner employees about sixty-five employees, occupying several locations, with one being in La Marque. “We had sought permission and approval from City Council to re-plat and rezone a tract on Main Street to construct a parking lot with a privacy fence.”

(6) **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. La Marque Employee Benefits Trust Minutes 7.23.2018
- b. Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes 8.6.2018
- c. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes 8.13.2018
- d. Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes 8.16.2018
- e. Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes 8.28.2018
- f. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2018-0021**, the Investment Policy

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda

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

(7) **PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. Conduct **SECOND** Public Hearing (as per City Charter) to hear public input regarding FY (2018-2019) Proposed Budget for the City of La Marque.

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

Geraldine Sam spoke. She wanted to make sure that the employees were getting some type of compensation to offset the economy going up. She then asked in light of the Renaissance District, will eminent domain be in effect. “Will the City have to pay certain property owners in that area?” She then stated that the City had not had a tax increase in La Marque in a long time, and asked if the taxes were going to increase.



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Mayor provided point of information and said that yes there were some enumeration for employees and that eminent domain has not been discussed as of yet and that there would be no increase in taxes.

Clarence Caldwell began to speak of another subject and was asked to return at a later date for the issues he was bringing forward, since this was a public hearing for the proposed budget.

Mayor Hocking closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular meeting at 6:34 p.m.

(8) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Ordinance No. O-2018-0010 making appropriations for the support of the City of La Marque for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019 appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal due on the City's indebtedness; and adopting the annual budget for the City of La Marque for 2018-2019 fiscal year. **THIS IS THE FIRST READING**

** Councilmember Michetich made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-0010.

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

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Ordinance No. O-2018-0012, amending Chapter 62, Section 62-84, Traffic and Vehicles, of the City of La Marque Code of Ordinances, Farm Road Highway 1764 to alter certain speed limits and amending Section 62-85, by deleting Subsection (c), which established a school zone on Farm Road Highway 1765. **THIS IS THE FIRST READING**

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2018-0012.

** Councilmember Michetich seconded.

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe asked for clarification of the changes to the speed limits to which Chief Jackson explained. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding the Planning & Zoning recommendation for denial of a re-zone from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1 General Commercial, being a tract or parcel of land containing 1.3684 acres of land or 59,606 square feet, located in the S.F. Austin League, Abstract 2, Galveston County, Texas; Said 1.3684 acre tract being all of Tracts 1 and 2 of record in the name of La Marque Investment Group, Inc. in Galveston County Clerk File (G.C.C.F.) Number 9103747 and being all of that tract of land of record in the name of Hazel Benton of record in G.C.C.F. Number 8723178, Said 1.3684 acre tract being more particularly



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described as bearings based as on said G.C.C.F. No. 9103747. (3197 Main and lot on Duroux and contiguous to 3197 Main)

- ** Councilmember Michetich made a motion for APPROVAL of the rezone from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1 General Commercial, being a tract or parcel of land containing 1.3684 acres of land or 59,606 square feet, located in the S.F. Austin League, Abstract 2, Galveston County, Texas; Said 1.3684 acre tract being all of Tracts 1 and 2 of record in the name of La Marque Investment Group, Inc. in Galveston County Clerk File (G.C.C.F.) Number 9103747 and being all of that tract of land of record in the name of Hazel Benton of record in G.C.C.F. Number 8723178, Said 1.3684 acre tract being more particularly described as bearings based as on said G.C.C.F. No. 9103747. (3197 Main and lot on Duroux and contiguous to 3197 Main)

- ** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded for the purpose of discussion.

Councilmember Michetich reported that as ex officio to the Planning and Zoning Commission, he attended the meeting where this item was discussed. At that time, the possibility of spot-zoning was discussed, but stated that all of the residents within 200 feet of the property were notified and that there was no negative feedback to rezone from the persons within those parameters.

- ** Mayor Pro-Tem changed his motion from discussion to APPROVAL of the rezone. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** (This item will be on the next agenda in October with an Ordinance)

- d. Discussion/possible action regarding the Planning & Zoning recommendation for denial of a re-plat being a tract or parcel of land containing 1.3684 acres of land or 59,606 square feet, located in the S.F. Austin League, Abstract 2, Galveston County, Texas; Said 1.3684 acre tract being all of Tracts 1 and 2 of record in the name of La Marque Investment Group, Inc. in Galveston County Clerk File (G.C.C.F.) Number 9103747 and being all of that tract of land of record in the name of Hazel Benton of record in G.C.C.F. Number 8723178, Said 1.3684 acre tract being more particularly described as bearings based as on said G.C.C.F. No. 9103747. (3197 Main and lot on Duroux and contiguous to 3197 Main)

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described as bearings based as on said G.C.C.F. No. 9103747. (3197 Main and lot on Duroux and contiguous to 3197 Main)

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell seconded.

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe is in favor, but reminded them of all of the trees that were located on the above property and asked that they place some substantial landscaping and or hedges on the property once the parking lot is put in to replace some of the trees, that are not able to be saved. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- e. Discussion/possible action regarding adoption of City of La Marque Brand Style Guide.

Public Information Officer Colleen Merritt handed out a brochure to show a few revisions to the brand style that was included in the packet, showing a color pallet. The showing of envelopes and letterhead currently being used was presented and it was said that this would serve to have more continuity and adding some polish.

** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt the City of La Marque Brand Style.

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

- f. Discussion/possible action regarding creation of La Marque Renaissance District and adoption of La Marque Renaissance District Development Guidelines.

** Ms. Merritt distributed a few more brochures showing the La Marque Renaissance District Guidelines, outlining areas and showing different colors and designs. "Art of Coffee" is coming into one of the sections of the strip center located in this District and being the first for construction, and a food establishment by the name of "Birdies".

** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell made a motion to approve the creation of La Marque Renaissance District and adoption of La Marque Renaissance District Development Guidelines

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

- g. Discussion/possible action regarding adoption of City of La Marque Social Media Policy.

Being the first task when first employed, Ms. Merritt explained the importance for employees to adopt a Social Media Policy.



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- ** Councilmember Lane made a motion to adopt the City of La Marque Social Media Policy.
- ** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(9) APPOINTMENTS/NOMINATIONS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. **R-2018-0022** designating members of the City Council as Representative and Official Alternate to the General Assembly of the Houston-Galveston Area Council for year 2019
 - ** Councilmember Lane nominated Councilmember Michetich to serve as Representative and adopt Resolution No. **R-2018-0022** designating members of the City Council as Representative and Official Alternate to the General Assembly of the Houston-Galveston Area Council for year 2019
 - ** Mayor Pro-Tem Bell nominated Councilwoman Mc Auliffe as Alternate. **NOMINATIONS STOOD AS SUBMITTED.**
- b. Discussion/possible action regarding submission of candidate choices for Places 11-14 to the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) Board of Trustees
 - ** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe made a motion to approve the submission of the candidate choices for Places 11-14 to the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) Board of Trustees
 - ** Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- c. Discussion/possible action regarding appointments and/or reappointments to fill various positions of the Boards and Commissions
 - ** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe reappointed Larry Walker to the Parks Board.
 - ** Councilmember Michetich seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(10) EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

(11) REQUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Mc Auliffe thanked Council for a productive Workshop conducted earlier. Told everyone to be safe.
Councilmember Michetich thanked everyone for attending and encouraged persons to apply for positions to the Boards and Commissions
Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked the Interim City Manager to provide to City Council legal - alternative meeting settings (anything that the State would deem legal whether it be video-conferencing or teleconferencing) so that it could be



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provided at some time for the Boards and Commissions to use and possibly attract more folks to volunteer but that do not have time or don't have sitters, that might be able to meet from home through other technology.

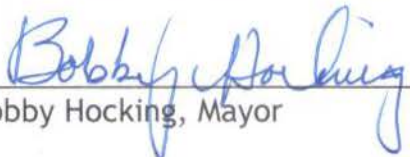
He then welcomed Charlene Warren to the Interim City Manager position, "She has been Ms. Buttlers' right hand for the past three years. She is more than capable of steering the City and directing staff until a permanent replacement is found. But also I want to thank Carol Buttler who has guided the City through difficult times. We went from having a significant deficit to having a significant surplus. We have been on the verge of opening a new Fire Station and have added several staff persons in key positions. She has been responsible for innovating many of our departments, and responsible for our logo and re-brand. We owe Ms. Buttler a debt of gratitude that we cannot pay. I will always remember her for being the right City Manager at the right time and so we wish her a happy and healthy retirement and we wish her the opportunity to live her life to the best of her abilities and we wish you well."

Mayor Hocking concurred. Reminded all of a special scheduled meeting for the following night. They are keeping an eye on a rain event that has potential of coming into the Gulf, but will cause some rain but be out by the end of the weekend. Has plans of taking his wife to Colorado for her birthday, and hopes the weather will cooperate.

(12) **ADJOURNMENT**

** Councilwoman Mc Auliffe made a motion to adjourn the Regular meeting at 7:06 p.m.

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



Bobby Hocking, Mayor

ATTEST:



Robin Eldridge, TRMC
City Clerk

This unofficial copy of the minutes from the above meeting are posted for convenience only. Executed or certified copies of the minutes can be requested by contacting the City Clerk.