



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
Of
JULY 15, 2019**

Special City Council Meeting Minutes of the City of La Marque City Council held on Monday, July 15, 2019, 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 6:00 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:

Charles "Tink" Jackson	City Manager
Robin Eldridge	City Clerk
Ellis Ortego	City Attorney

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hocking asked for blessings for the meeting.

Mayor Hocking pointed out a typo in the year in the caption of the agenda, it was posted in the newspaper correctly, but following the City Attorneys advice, asked Council to refrain from taking any votes or action on item 4d., the Resolution for medical services patient billing and collection.

(4) NEW BUSINESS

- a. City Manager to present the Proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget of the City of La Marque

City Manager Charles “Tink” Jackson presented the proposed FY 2019-2020 and asked that if anyone had any questions, to address those before the beginning of the budget workshops which begin next Monday.

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding the Community Development Block Grant-DR (CDBG-DR) applications and the projects tied to them

Alice Ashley of Provision Specialized Resources, LLC gave a review of two grants available, each one being 1.5 million dollars, one for acquisitions and the other for local infrastructure. The requirement is that seventy percent be used to benefit low to moderate income areas. (Replacing approximately 4000 linear feet of pipe along Merrie and Melody streets in the Westward Subdivision for drainage improvements and looking into acquiring 48 acres on the southwest side of the Gulf Freeway); “With the acquisition, it is required to do an additional housing activity and job training, senior citizens activities are eligible. One thing we were looking at would be to reach out to College of the Mainland and do some type of auto cad drafting job training for young adults. Once completed, the full application will be placed online, in the Library, in City Hall and at the Public Works Office. Citizens will have a thirty-day public comment period. Then on August 19th, have a public hearing, at which time ask Council for the final approval for submittal of the grant application (s).”

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

City Manager Charles “Tink” Jackson recommended the reappointment of Lucy Glenn and appointment of Samuel Swain to the Civil Service Commission. The appointment was seconded by Councilwoman Mc Auliffe. The appointment and reappointment stood as recommended

Councilmember Lane reappointed Bobby Hocking to the Economic Development Corporation. The appointment and reappointments stood as recommended.

- d. Discussion/possible action regarding adopting Resolution No. R-2019-0017, amending Resolution No. R-2014-007, Exhibit “A” on current emergency medical services patient billing and collection policy

Fire Chief Todd Weidman provided an overview of the current resolution that was adopted in 2014. “Currently, the resolution only allows initial collection efforts for out-of-district patients up to reporting delinquent accounts to credit reporting agencies. For in-district patients, the city does not allow those accounts to be reported to the credit reporting agencies. No further investigation in regards to pursuing litigation for in or out of district patients. As noted on the information sheets, almost two million dollars has been deemed uncollectible over the previous five years. Due to the financial impact and strain this places on other taxpayers, a recommendation is made to afford the City the ability to reserve the right to report to credit reporting agencies

and pursue collection efforts all delinquent accounts deemed necessary. Moving forward the City will be looking at the revenue for transports to ensure we are recouping the customary charges. Due to the upcoming expansion project on I-45, it has been noted that activities involving accidents tend to increase.

Further discussion included the fact that previously and currently citizens of La Marque were not billed for ambulatory services. A breakdown of delinquent accounts totaling 1.9 Million dollars hasn't been broken down to separate the in-district and out-of-district account yet. Discussion continued providing information that there are cases of persons traveling from other cities and or states being involved in accidents and requiring services to be rendered for medical treatment and or ambulatory transportation from La Marque that cannot be recouped under the current policy. This resolution would allow time to research other ways and means to recuperate some of this money from outstanding and/or delinquent accounts, to see what the best practices are with the insurance companies, then bring it back to Council with a definitive plan.

Councilmember Michetich made a motion to adjourn the Special Called meeting at 7:18 p.m. Councilmember Lane seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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.