

5/17/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Keith Bell Mayor

Kimberley Yancy Councilmember District A (435 Riverwind Dr. Pearl, Mississippi 39208)

Joe Compian Mayor-Pro-Tem District B

Michael Carlson Councilmember District C

Casey Mc Auliffe Councilmember District D

STAFF:

Cesar Garcia City Manger

Gus Knebel Consulting City Attorney

Kierra Nance City Clerk

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell led the Invocation and Councilmember Carlson led the Pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Eva Livy (2808 Fannin)- Spoke in relation to Resolution No. R-2022-0027 asking for full disclosure for what the funds will be utilized for stating that it's not the amount that is being considered that makes her uneasy it is not knowing what the money will be spent for.

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew)- Spoke to his displeasure that Resolution No. R-2022-0027 was placed on a consent agenda and wants to see a full list of capital expenditures before any additional money is spent.

Terry Pettijohn (41 Borondo Stretch)- Spoke about his objection to the Certification of the tax rollback citing discrepancies with the required qualifying documentation of the petitioner.

Justin Pulliam (Rosenberg, TX) - Appreciates open floor policy and transparency in the meeting, runs a "Corruption Report" and keeps an eye out around the state for things going on in local government. He asked anyone who has any evidence of corruption or misdeeds to reach out to him because he hasn't been able to find anything and would like to see, otherwise if he personally did not like something going on in the government and he was qualified to change it he would "throw his hat in the ring" and challenge a sitting official in the next election. He also states that while city government should be fiscally responsible they have an obligation to provide benevolent services.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Mayor Bell closed the special meeting and entered into Public Hearings at 5:10 p.m.

**Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearings and reconvened the Special meeting at 5:24 p.m.

5.I. Ordinance No. O-2021-0018

Re'chard Loftis (309 Johnson)- States he has been a part of "The Great Chicken Debate" since about 2010, he hopes that the city gets it right this time and is not pleased with how some of this has been handled citing his neighbor's disregard for city code. He hopes that this new ordinance will give him some sort of relief.

Joe Wilson (1440 Howell)- Thanked everyone who has worked on this issue, assuming the ordinance will pass. The initial claim against him was dismissed however it was refiled, and although he doesn't want to go through it again, he will.

Justin McDonald (3 Pine Cir)- Curious as to why intercity locations would allow chickens.

Abril Rubio (305 Martin Luther King Dr.)- Please get this issue resolved.

5.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0004

Eva Livy- The City has not been able to enforce fireworks violations in the past how will this ordinance be any different? Fireworks are like gunshots, by the time it is reported and someone makes it there, it's over.

6. ORDINANCES

Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing and reentered the Special meeting at 5:24 p.m.

6.I. Ordinance No. O-2021-0018

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-0018. Councilmember Carlson seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0004

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-0004. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that sparklers be removed from Section 29-6(a) paragraph 2 and moved to D(1), exceptions. Fire Chief Merryman shared reasons why the item remained in the section it is found, including that sparklers cannot be suppressed by water, could be a concern for public safety, and also is a leading cause of injury for children under 5.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. RESOLUTIONS- CONSENT

Mayor Bell pulled item 7.1 for discussion.

7.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0027

Brad Angst, Stifel gave a presentation on how the City's budget would be affected by each proposed certificate rate.

City Manager Garcia opened the floor for public discourse, acknowledging that interest rates are rising and that the community has asked the City to find solutions to our community opportunities.

After a lengthy discussion regarding growth calculations, allocations, capital exposures, the proper use of COs, the meaning of passing the Notice of Intent Resolution, overages and underage on projects, payment structures, the possibility of an election, itemization of projects,

It was determined that the present public was in favor of pursuing better streets, water, and a public safety building but wanted to be more involved and aware of how this is being handled.

7.II. Resolution No. R-2022-0028

Councilman Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0028. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.I. Redistricting

Bob Heath gave a brief synopsis of what the Council is charged with in redrawing maps. Council shared their initial thoughts on the drafted maps by Bickerstaff and asked that the lines be redrawn not to divide neighborhoods and that those in similar geography and demographics be allowed to remain in the same district.

Councilmembers Carlson and McAuliffe were designated as a Redistricting Committee to assist with drawing additional drafts of the map.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive Session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Yancy acknowledged the importance of Memorial Day and thanked all that participated in the democratic process. She stated that she will continue to do what the good people of District A elected her to do and wants to continue with fairness and equity because hate and divisiveness get us nowhere. She sends her prayers to the people of Buffalo. Every decision made is in consideration of the children and future of La Marque.

Councilmember Carlson asked that the community remember WHY we celebrate Memorial Day, it is for those who gave their lives for their country. Also, there was a tragedy in the community over the past week, and asked the community not to make it political and keep in mind that residents lost their lives.

Mayor Pro Tem announced the Bayou Clean-up this upcoming Saturday at Highland Bayou Park and Galveston's version of Hurricane Huddle on the same Saturday. He also stated that the La Marque Hurricane Huddle would be held on May 28, 2022. God bless everyone in the great City of La Marque.

Mayor Bell acknowledged all those who gave their lives for our freedom and Commissioner Ken Clark's passing. He followed that with the congratulations of Robin Armstrong for being appointed to fill his unexpired term. He closed with an excerpt of the Gettysburg Address. God Bless.

City Manager Garcia announced a food giveaway at City Hall, partnering with the Salvation Army to donate

200 boxes of food on Saturday, and announced a final draft of the ARPÀ Survey will be sent to Council shortly.

Councilman Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.