



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP
MINUTES
of
JANUARY 24, 2022**

City Council Special Minutes of the City of La Marque City Council held on Tuesday, January 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. at 1109-B Bayou Road with the following members present:

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the Special Meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

(2) ROLL CALL

Keith Bell

Mayor

Kimberley Yancy

Councilwoman, District A (arrived Via Zoom at 3:54 p.m. from 11705 Oak Hollow Atlanta, GA 30228)

Joe Compian

Councilmember, District B

Michael Carlson

Councilmember, District C

Casey Mc Auliffe

Councilwoman, District D

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Randall Aragon

Interim City Manager

Kierra K. Nance

City Clerk

Gus Knebel

Consulting City Attorney

(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

(4) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION (Limited to three minutes per person)

Julie Lowen (2805 Cedar Dr) spoke to the need for assistance of the City's small homeless population during this winter weather. Ms. Lowen proposed that citizens be allowed to donate the credits received due to the water bill adjustments to a special fund to help those who are less fortunate.

(5) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion relating to allocating funds received from American Rescue Plan Act-Grantworks

Jessica Hissam and Fred Morris introduced themselves as the assigned grant administrator and supervisor respectively for this project, and shared what the role of the grant administrator is, the current status of La Marque's American Rescue Plan projects (the City has not utilized any funds at this time), as well as restrictions relating to projects funds can be utilized for.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian emphasized the necessity of engaging the community in this process, gave a list of projects to consider such as partnering with 501c3 organizations, refurbishing (2) ambulances, offset payroll increases in police and fire due to increased staff time, establishing hotspots in the city, and possibly improving water and wastewater infrastructure by using technology that allows to reline pipes instead of the traditional method of digging up streets to replace them. Mayor Pro Tem asked that the city be innovative in how these dollars are utilized.

Councilmember McAuliffe requested that Council revisited projects that they identified in the past as potentially qualifying projects and verifying if they are or are not acceptable and proposed a timeline of how to establish projects.

Fred Morris suggested that City Council create a "wish list" of projects that they would like to utilize the funds for and provided some projects that other cities have been considering.

Councilmember Carlson stated that he would like to hear from the citizens before Council makes any decisions relating to this fund.

Councilmember Yancy agrees that this should be a collective process.

Mayor Bell stood in agreement with fellow Councilmembers in the opinion of the citizens being involved in the early stages of this process. Mayor recalled some of the items that that Council mentioned they would like to utilize the ARPA funds for in the previous budget workshops including: the machinery to repair potholes (approx. \$250,000), grapple truck (approx.. \$400,000), portable pumps for the wastewater system, lighting within the city (approx. \$500,000), safety lighting for Omega Bay, camera systems to assist with the Safe City Initiative and assist the police department, and equipment for the fire department including front loaders.

Council as a collective decided that a survey would be conducted via online for the residents to give input on what they would like to see identifying residents by addresses not by name to be opened for approximately 14 days. Congruently Interim City Manager and Finance Director will work to create a list of projects that were previously proposed by Council to be reviewed by Grantworks for eligibility. Additionally gathering input and recommendations from Department Heads for projects they believe are necessary with all (4) items to reasonably be reviewed by Council at the March 2022 City Council meeting.

Fred Morris gave a brief breakdown of what the process of choosing projects typically looks like, and it coincided pretty consistently with the process set by council. He cautioned the community to resist the urge to go out and spend money quickly and ensure that they are spending the funds on the most qualified items because the treasury has up to (5) years after the close of the program to audit the purchases and no one wants to find out after the fact that something was purchased that does not meet regulations. He asked that council make a deliberate and comprehensive list to operate from.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked questions relating to reporting requirements and lost revenues calculations which was clarified by Fred Morris.

** Councilmember Carlson exited the room at 4:24 p.m. and did not return**

Finance Director Suzy Kou has identified the projects that Council requested, Directors requested but were not blessed by council during budget sessions, as well as the requirements for the additional grants the city has been awarded. The goal would be to take a look at the full scope of the City's grant funding and identifying what projects are eligible under each funding source. Ms. Kou suggested that we readjust the timeline to first taking a look at the items provided by Council, then following that list with items of importance from the Department heads and using those suggestions to create a survey to present to the citizens. Council agreed.

(6) EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council for the City of La Marque, Texas reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized the Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices) and 551.086 (Economic Development)

(7) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Requests by Mayor and Council Members for items to be placed on future City Council agendas and announcements on city events/community interests TEX. GOV'T CODE §551.415. (b), "items of community interest" includes:

- (1) expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence;
- (2) information regarding holiday schedules;
- (3) an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public office or public employment is not an honorary or salutary recognition for purposes of this subdivision;
- (4) a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body;
- (5) information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality or county; and
- (6) announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality or county that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

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.
