

# City Council Special Meeting of

9/6/2022 - Minutes

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

## 2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were present with Councilmembers Kimberley Yancy (1600 Lamar St. Houston, TX) and Casey McAuliffe (2101 Main St La Marque, TX) attending virtually.

## 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave the invocation and Councilmember Carlson led the pledge.

## 4. PRESENTATIONS

### 4.I. Proclamations

Mayor Bell presented a proclamation to Mayor Geraldine Sam's son honoring her life and service within the City.

There was not a representative of the Brown family in attendance, Mayor Bell asked to present this item at another time when they can be present.

### 4.II. Introduction

County Commissioner gave the public a brief introduction of himself and informed the public that he is "just a phone call away".

## 5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Joseph Lowry (2503 Cedar Dr), states that there was a "\$1000" reward placed on the names and whereabouts of his family and not once did Council speak against it. Thanked Mr. Hobgood for

Carol Johnson (2808 Fannin), brought Resolution No. (7.11), thinks this is absolutely amazing, brought the signature page to Council's attention as City Manager's name is wrong.

Eva Livy(2808 Fannin), about 4.5 months ago she made a comment regarding yield signs on Lake Road, and now there are stop signs in their place, although there are still a few more to fix.

David Pennington (924 Cypress), 7.II he is confused about the amount that it will cost the City to participate in this project. There are 45 covered agencies yet the contract only shows two participating agencies, Galveston and La Marque. Requesting that the Council opt out of this agreement due to budgetary constraints and the needs of the department.

James Osteen(2012 Jeridona), questioned the budget attachment on Ordinance No. O-2022-0011, and shared technical concerns

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew), 7.7 and 7.8 requested that they are pulled and discussed.

James Ross (414 Ave D), spoke regarding items 7.1 and 8.3. He questioned a tax rate election to be held in November as he saw on the Tax Assessor Collector's website. He also agreed with the idea of issuing a "cap" on reserve funds as it would prevent "robbing Peter to pay Paul".

## 6. ORDINANCES

### 6.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0011

After a brief discussion regarding the language in the ordinance ensued. Mayor Pro Tem made a request to amend the language in the ordinance to change the tense of the language from past tense to present.

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0011 amending the language from past to present tense. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 6.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0012

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. -2022-0012. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED

AYES: Kimberley Yancy, Joe Compian, Michael Carlson, Casey McAuliffe

NAY: Keith Bell

## 7. RESOLUTIONS- CONSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requested that the items be taken individually.

### 7.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0064

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0064 adding "if needed" language to the Runoff Election clause. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 7.II. Resolution No. R-2022-0065

Representatives from the La Marque Police Department (Chief Aragon, Lieutenant Gandy, and Special Agent O'Connor), and the Auto Crimes Task Force (Lieutenant Barrel) shared the benefits of the program. The County reimburses the salary of the participating officer, La Marque was selected for the grant program in part due to the salary rate of the officer, the officer works primarily on cases within the City. Special Agent O'Connor gave a brief report regarding his position.

*\*\*Councilmember McAuliffe exited the meeting at 7:01 p.m.*

Councilmember Carlson clarified questions regarding what would be lost if the grant is not accepted. Officers present identified that it would entail losing an investigator, losing access to specialized databases, and increasing the workload of the department for starters.

Councilmember Yancy clarified questions regarding reimbursements, to which base salary is covered by the grant and additional benefits are covered by the city.

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0065 providing a change in the contract to reflect Cesar Garcia as City Manager. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.III. Resolution No. R-2022-0066

Fire Chief Merryman gave a brief synopsis of the process and reasoning for the contract, sharing some of the benefits the city will receive.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0066 adding "La" to La Marque in the contract. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.IV. Resolution No. R-2022-0067

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0067. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.V. Resolution No. R-2022-0068

After a brief discussion Councilmember Carlson questioned if this should be identified as a capital expenditure. City Manager identified proposing a capital expenditure to purchase this equipment.

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0068. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.VI. Resolution No. R-2022-0069

After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0069. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.VII. Resolution No. R-2022-0070

After a brief discussion regarding the origination of this project. Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0070 citing the current status of all required operating documents. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.VIII. Resolution No. R-2022-0071

Public Works Director identified that the delays were due to a delayed start caused by the City and the Public Works department's decision to complete another project before beginning this project.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0071 providing that all required financing and operating documents are current. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.I. Safe Streets And Roads For All Grants

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve submitting a letter of support for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.II. Friends Of La Marque

After a brief description of the process by the City Manager, Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve the submission of an application to participate in the H-GAC Corporation for Regional

Excellence. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 8.III. Reserve Fund

Councilmember Carlson began a discussion regarding the City's disaster reserve fund. He proposed keeping the mandatory 90-day reserve fund but releasing any overages back into the general fund to help alleviate some budgetary constraints.

Finance Director Kou asked clarifying questions regarding the source of funds being questioned. She also cautioned Council to consider the implications of reducing the disaster fund in the event of an emergency. Finance Director Kou informed Council that any changes to this would require a change to the financial policy, which could be brought to Council at a later date.

Councilmember Carlson requested that the totals designated for reserve be brought back to Council for review before moving forward with this discussion.

No action was taken on this item.

#### 8.IV. Items For The Good Of The Order

City Manager Garcia shared his sentiments and thoughts with Jackson, MI for their water troubles and identified their situation as a cautionary tale of what happens when a municipality doesn't address their waterline system . He also requested a Workshop to discuss water rates prior to the next meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian requests a joint meeting between the City of La Marque, Drainage District #1, and Drainage District #2 to discuss where the city's stormwater goes.

Councilmember Yancy thanked City Manager for assisting the citizens in Delany Cove with repairing a sidewalk. She requests a \$500 donation to the La Marque Middle School from her district's discretionary fund, to be utilized for the Cougar Dolls and a pencil dispensary machine.

Councilmember Carlson announced that the La Marque Girls Softball Association is having an open practice on Thursday at Mahan Park from 6-7:30. Has a surprise for a citizen, paid out of pocket, at the next council meeting. This is his personal way to show that we appreciate what happens in La Marque. Thank you everyone for doing the "good stuff and the right stuff".

Mayor Bell called a workshop to be held before the regular council meeting on September 12, 2022, for the purpose of discussing water rates.

#### 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

#### 10. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no action taken.

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

*\*\*Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.*

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Keith  
Bell,  
Mayor

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Kierra K. Nance, TRMC City Clerk