

# Regular City Council Minutes of

9/12/2022 - Minutes

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

## 2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were physically present.

## 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and all in attendance stated the pledge of allegiance together.

## 4. PRESENTATIONS

### 4.I. Proclamation

Mayor Bell and Councilmember Carlson issued a proclamation to the La Marque Fire and Police Departments and thanked them for their service followed by a moment of silence for all those lost on September 11, 2001.

### 4.II. Citizen Recognition

Councilmember Carlson recognized Anriah Filer and gifted her a \$25 Amazon Gift Card for doing the right thing when she found credit cards after a citizen's wallet was stolen.

### 4.III. Texas General Land Office

Melissa Washington, Manager, Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator gave a brief presentation regarding actions taken by the General Land Office after Hurricane Harvey. Ms. Washington identified a timeline of how the funds were administered, the differentiation between Disaster Recovery and Mitigation projects, compliance and regulations, consequences of noncompliance, and the availability of the General Land Office if any assistance is needed.

Councilmember Yancy identified that Ms. Washington has been an amazing resource.

Public Works Director Rick Sailer, Nick Finan, Client Services Consultant (Grantworks) and Ashton Crow, Client Services (Grantworks\_ Representative spoke at the request of Ms. Washington to update the community of the current projects. Project D208, "Sewer & Manholes" was allocated approximately \$7.49 million dollars and is 25% completed. Project D223 "Wastewater Treatment Plant & Lift Stations" was allocated approximately \$48.9 million dollars and is 30% complete. Project C287 "Westlawn Drainage" was allocated approximately \$1.44 million dollars and is 45% complete. The closeout date of all projects falls within January 2025.

## 5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Allen Honish (2609 Meadow Lane), spoke representing the La Marque West Texas City Little League, he states that the community has failed to support the children at Bobby Beach Park. He is asking the community to support the league at Bobby Beach Park. He will be at the park Saturday morning from 9 am to noon to receive volunteers and give tours of the facility.

Robert Michetich (24 N. Curlew St), spoke regarding the Waterworth presentation given at the water rate workshop earlier in the day. He has asked the council to exhaust grant sources first, and for a thorough proposal to be considered. He gave a proposal to rename the Library after Geraldine Sam in honor of her love for the children.

Joseph Lowry (2503 Cedar Dr.), sates he keeps hearing rumors of a "vendetta" and he has no vendetta against any elected official, just an issue with corruption.

## 6. MINUTES

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 7. ORDINANCES

### 7.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0013

City Attorney Knebel gave a brief overview of the justification of why this committee is being disbanded. Ultimately stating that they have not met in over 9 years.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0013. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 8. RESOLUTIONS- CONSENT

Mayor Pro Tem requested all resolutions be pulled for discussion.

### 8.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0072

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding if the penalty is being paid. It was clarified that the agreed order would be allowing the City to complete a project in lieu of paying the penalty.

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0072. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 8.II. Resolution No. R-2022-0073

Mayor Pro Tem asked clarifying questions regarding the usage of the pump.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0073. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 8.III. Resolution No. R-2022-0074

Mayor Pro Tem clarified if Highland Bayou Park is considered Galveston Bay, it was clarified that the park is a part of the Galveston Bay area.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0074 Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 9. CITY MANAGER REPORT

9.I. TCEQ Settlement

There was no discussion.

9.II. Public Information Center

Councilmember Yancy requested an updated count of Public Information Requests.

9.III. Capital Improvement Projects Update

There was no discussion.

9.IV. ARPA Update

City Manager Garcia gave a brief overview of the results of the Community ARPA survey.

10. APPOINTMENTS

City Manager nominated Morris Martin to be reappointed to the Civil Service Commission.

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve the nomination. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.I. Water Rate Workshop Recap

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked for clarity regarding the statistic of \$25 million in potential capital projects and identified potential funding. He asked for a scope of work for the \$25 million if funding sources have been identified he would like to see them, and how much of the funding is debt. Mayor Pro Tem addressed that there may be additional funding of up to \$1 million to assist with this area, he requested that this be explored before continuing with setting new rates. He proposed this as a means to buy additional time to continue the conversation with the community.

City Manager Garcia rebutted with the fact that there is still extreme need even if these monies are utilized.

After much discussion, Councilmember McAuliffe summarized that Mayor Pro Tem Compian requests, at the next discussion, an option that does not include a rate increase, as well as some data regarding the difference between the average water bill under today's rates, and each of the proposed plans without the addition of any additional capital improvements.

Councilmember Carlson requested that accommodations be made for our senior citizens and those on fixed incomes.

Councilmember Yancy stated that she does not want to kick this can down the road any longer, and council needs to act quickly.

11.II. Items For The Good Of The Order

Councilmember Yancy announced that resident Tonia Griffin has been nominated for a Texas City La Marque Chamber of Commerce Women in Leadership Award and shared her congratulations.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian announced that a rain barrel presentation will be held at the West Side Fire Station at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

Councilmember Carlson reiterated a point made during Citizens Participation, that volunteers are needed at Bobby Beach Park and will be received on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the field from 9 am - 12 pm.

Mayor Bell reminded the community that we are in hurricane season. He urged everyone to be mindful and do their due diligence.

## 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*\*\*Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.*

12.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

12.II. Section 551.072 (Deliberations About Real Property)

12.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

12.IV. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

## 13. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

*\*\*Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and Reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:44 p.m.*

13.I. Section 551.072 (Deliberations About Real Property)

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to authorize the City Manager to facilitate discussions relating to the property. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.II. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.III. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

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

*\*\*Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.*