

## 9/20/2022 - Minutes

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

### 2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were present.

### 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell gave the invocation and City Manager Garcia led the pledge.

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

#### 4.I. Proclamation

Mayor Bell and Councilmember McAuliffe presented Councilmember Brown's daughter with a proclamation honoring his life and service to the community. She spoke on behalf of the family. Mayor, Councilmember McAuliffe, and City Manager Garcia shared their words of encouragement with the members of Councilmember Brown's family.

#### 4.II. Staff Recognition

Councilmember Carlson recognized Utility Billing Customer Service Representative Myrna Sanchez and presented her with a token of appreciation after a resident shared an outstanding customer service experience that she had.

### 5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew), shared his disapproval of the proposed franchise fee ordinance and deemed the practice unethical.

Charlotte Westerledge (825 Shady Lane), shared concerns regarding a ditch at the corner of Banana and Maple that needs to be cut, the roadway project at Highway 3, and asking for transparency regarding the rationale behind the mayoral recall initiative.

Re'Chard Loftis (209 Johnson), spoke to the condition of Bobby Beach and asked that the community work together to help build the location up so that it can be utilized for the children. Asked if there is anything the city or Keep La Marque Beautiful could do to assist.

James Ross (1104 Ave D), spoke regarding the proposed water rates and feels that if allowed he could assist with creating a better rate structure that not only helps the city recover the funds needed but also assists the person who does not utilize large amounts of water.

Joseph Lowry (2305 Cedar Dr), shared his concern regarding the required signatures for a recall petition.

### 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

*\*\*Mayor Bell recessed the meeting at 6:48 p.m. and opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.*

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

There was no public participation.

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

Eva Livy (2808 Fannin), questioned "2022 Tax Year", what timeline does this include and how can the City draft a budget based on taxes that have not been collected yet.

6.III. Ordinance No. O-2022-0015

City Attorney Knebel clarified for the public that this is a special public hearing to receive public input prior to the first reading of the Redistricting Ordinance being passed.

Charlotte Westerledge (825 Shady Lane), questioned why the City is redistricting.

7. ORDINANCES

*\*\*Mayor Bell closed the Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m. and reconvened the special meeting.*

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0011

*\*\*Councilmember Carlson exit at 6:57 p.m. and returns at 6:58 p.m.*

Councilmember McAuliffe asked for the ability to see the amendments made during the budget process. A lengthy conversation regarding an interfund transfer line item in the budget proposal ensued. Mayor Pro Tem Compian clarified the difference between an enterprise fund, reserves, and a debt service fund. He shared that the average cost of running our water and sewer program is an estimated 5 million dollars, historically the city has used reserves to satisfy this need. However, the reserve fund is running into a "danger zone," and the process must change. He referenced the City of Fort Worth and how they utilize a similar, if not the same, structure. He stated that the City needs to do a better job of explaining the process.

*\*\*Councilmember McAuliffe exits at 7:16 pm and returns at 7:18 pm*

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0011. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion.

Councilmember Carlson questioned the rationale behind adding two additional fire personnel, shown as engineer positions, when "there are other departments who need way more help." The City Manager identified that they were partially funded and not for the full year.

City Attorney Knebel and City Clerk Nance identified that any changes made to the budget at this point in the process would require additional public hearings and notice, both of which could result in a charter violation.

MOTION PASSED 4 AYES 1 NAY (MAYOR).

7.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0012

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-2022-0012. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded. MOTION PASSES WITH 3 AYES AND 2 NAYS.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: JOE COMPIAN, KIMBERLEY YANCY, CASEY MCAULIFFE

NAYS: KEITH BELL, MICHAEL CARLSON

7.III. Ordinance No. O-2022-0014

Removed from consideration.

7.IV. Ordinance No. O-2022-0015

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0015. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion.

Councilmember Carlson questioned the area in the proposed below District C that is now District B. It was determined that this area was districted this way as to correlate with census blocks.

Mayor Pro Tem identified that for the first time all of District B will be on the West side of the city.

Discussions relating to moving all of the area known as Delany Cove into District A.

Mayor Pro Tem amended his initial motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0015 amending the map to include the western section of Delany Cove to District A.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. RESOLUTIONS- CONSENT

*\*\*Mayor Pro Tem pulled item 8.III from consent consideration.*

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to approve the consent agenda, excluding item 8.III. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0075

Approved via consent.

8.II. Resolution No. R-2022-0076

Approved via consent.

8.III. Resolution No. R-2022-0077

Mayor Pro Tem identified that the name of the grant is deceptive. The City is not looking to eliminate railroads but is developing pedestrian crossings at the railroads.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-0077. Councilmember McAuliffe second. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.IV. Resolution No. R-2022-0078

Approved via consent.

8.V. Resolution No. R-2022-0079

Approved via consent.

8.VI. Resolution No. R-2022-0080

Approved via consent.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Naming Rights Within The City

*\*\*Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the meeting at ?? and returned to the meeting at 8:05 p.m.*

After a brief discussion, Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to direct the City Manager to formulate a policy for naming city property. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Carlson shared his support for renaming the library in honor of former Mayor Sam.

MOTION PASSED WITH 4 AYES AND 1 NAY (MAYOR PRO TEM COMPIAN).

9.II. Items For The Good Of The Order

Mayor Keith Bell presented a representative of the family of Mayor Geraldine Sam with a proclamation honoring her life and service to the City of La Marque.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian announced that next year he will have been a resident of the community for 60 years, and over that time, there have been disagreements, but we need to be more kind to each other. He also thanked Kathy Keith, the La Marque Fire Department, and for their assistance with the Rain Barrel Project, where they distributed 40 rain barrels that were provided by Coca-Cola and a seminar for rainwater collection.

Councilmember Carlson thanked Mr. Michetich for his proposal for the renaming of the library. He thanked the staff for the great work that they do every day and enjoyed being able to recognize staff. He believes we all can get along and work together.

Councilmember Yancy reminded everyone that on October 8 and also October 15, the city would be celebrating National (Day) Out.

Mayor Bell thanked everyone who came out to participate in government tonight. He spoke of some of the positive advancements in the city, such as roadwork, a downtown revitalization project, new subdivisions, and a reduction in crime; the city is still the second fastest-growing city in the county. He also mentioned the new event venue development that is being constructed on the former dog track property and the advancements in tourism and job availability that the project will bring, the sewer system rehabilitation project, and "many more" on the way.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

10.I. Water Rate Project Update

City Manager Garcia and Public Works Director Rick Sailer gave an informative presentation regarding water rates as discussed with Waterworth.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*\*\*Mayor Bell recessed the special meeting and entered executive session at 8:45 p.m.*

11.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

12. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

*\*\*Mayor Bell closed the executive session and reconvened the special meeting at 9:45 p.m.*

12.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

No action was taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

*\*\*Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.*

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Keith Bell

Mayor

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Kierra K. Nance, TRMC

City Clerk