



**CITY OF LAMARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MINUTES
of
November 14, 2022**

Minutes of a **Regular Meeting** held in the **Council Chambers** at **1109-B Bayou Road La Marque, Texas as well as via videoconference hosted through Zoom** on **November 14, 2022**, beginning at **6:00 PM** :

11/14/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were present.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Daniel Silva of Resonate Church gave the invocation and Councilmember McAuliffe led the pledge.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.I. Proclamation

Veteran Pastor Daniel Silva (Navy) and Veteran Staff member Kathleen Van Stavern (Development Services Director), member of the Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars #8248 accepted the proclamation for Veteran's Day.

4.II. Proclamation

Members of the family of Larry Walker received a proclamation in his honor and shared words of remembrance and gratitude.

4.III. Staff Recognition

Finance Director Suzy Kou's completion of the Certified Public Manager's Program at Arizona State University was acknowledged and celebrated. Ms. Kou shared her experience in the program.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

5.I. 2022 Shoplifting Report

Chief Randall Aragon gave a brief report regarding shoplifting within the city, which accounts for 75% of

larcenies in the city. Vinny M., Walmart Market Asset Protection, gave a synopsis of steps Walmart is taking to deter shoplifting.

6. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Clarence Caldwell (3603 Prairie St), spoke regarding an ongoing neighbor dispute.

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew), spoke regarding Item 8.3 and item 12 (financial summary), and shared concerns regarding the utility fund expenditures.

Re'Chard Loftis (309 Johnson), spoke regarding Donation Boxes, requesting that they be "outlawed". He also spoke to "appointments" and asked that the council appoint members that will show up and be active. He closed, by speaking about some misunderstandings regarding the Council-Manager form of government.

7. MINUTES

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

8. ORDINANCES

8.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0016

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0016, reducing the speed limit in a construction zone as requested by the Texas Department of Transportation. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.II. Ordinance No. O-2022-0017

City Clerk Kierra Nance gave a brief overview of the program, and its intended purpose.

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O-2022-0017, establishing a reasonable time limit on the amount of personnel time to respond to public information requests. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Yancy thanked Mayor Pro Tem Compian for bringing this item to the Council.

8.III. Ordinance No. O-2022-0018

City Manager Garcia and Public Works Director Rick Sailer clarified Council questions regarding expenditures related to the increased rates described in Ordinance No. O-2022-0018.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian recommended amending prescribed water and sewer rates at a rate of half of the City Manager's proposed rate, with a secondary increase of the remaining 50% to be assessed beginning October 1, 2023, with an additional 3.5% inflation rate. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion.

Councilmember McAuliffe shared discomfort with passing such a large adjustment to the ordinance without having the opportunity to review the impact of these changes.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to table this item until the November 21, 2022, Special

Meeting. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. RESOLUTIONS

9.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0092

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0092, authorizing an agreement with CGI Digital. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.II. Resolution No. R-2022-0093

After brief discussion, Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0093, authorizing the sale of real estate along Highway 3 to the Gulf Coast Water Authority for a public purpose. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.III. Resolution No. R-2022-0094

After a brief summary from City Manager Garcia, Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0094, approving a Change Order in the amount of \$177,799.20 from Lucas Construction. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.IV. Resolution No. R-2022-0095

After a brief summary from City Manager Garcia, Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0095, awarding Bid LM #02-23 to American Janitorial Services for janitorial services in the amount of 32,040.00. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.V. Resolution No. R-2022-0096

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0096, reappointing James Osteen and Randall Aragon to the Galveston County Animal Services Advisory Committee. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.VI. Resolution No. R-2022-0097

After a brief summary from City Manager Garcia, Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2022-0097, awarding Bid LM #03-23 to Core and Main for water and sewer material purchase for an amount not to exceed \$55000.00. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.VII. Resolution No. R-2022-0098

Councilmember Yancy made a motion to designate Joe Compian as the city's representative to the Houston- Galveston Area Council 2023 General Assembly. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to designate Kimberley Yancy as the city's alternate representative to the Houston- Galveston Area Council 2023 General Assembly. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. APPOINTMENTS

Tamara Smith was nominated to be the District B position for the Parks Board.

Ariel Nixon Guillory was nominated to the District C position for the Board of Adjustments.

David Pennington was nominated to the District D position for the Building Standards Commission.

Nominations were approved unanimously.

11. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager's report stood as submitted.

11.I. Library Statistics

11.II. Local Park Grants Program Acceptance

11.III. Engineer's Report

12. Financial Summary

The financial summary stood as submitted.

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.I. Quarterly Investments

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Reports. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Mayor Pro Tem Compian exited the room at 8:21 p.m. and returned at 8:24 p.m.*

MOTION PASSED WITH 4 AYES AND 0 NAYS.

13.II. SETH Grant

***Councilmember Carlson exited the room at 8:25 p.m. and returned 8:29 p.m.*

After a brief discussion, Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to accept the City Manager's recommendation for proposed projects for submission to the Southeast Texas Housing Authority, with the amendment of transferring \$5000 from rebuilding homes to fire support and changing rental assistance to senior rental assistance. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.III. Naming Policy

No action was taken.

13.IV. CDBG MIT-MOD Allocation Project

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to authorize the development and preparation of the CDBG-MIT Regional Method of Distribution (MOD) application for Water Improvements. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.V. City Tax Assessor

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to proceed with contracting Texas City Independent School District for Tax Assessment services. Councilmember Yancy seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.VI. Lien Amnesty Program

No action was taken on this item.

13.VII. Donation Boxes

Council asked City Attorney if it is possible to ban donation boxes from the City, the question was clarified while the intention may be noble, if these items become a nuisance an ordinance can be drafted to mitigate and regulate these items.

A brief discussion including City Manager, City Attorney, and Development Services Director, regarding permitting fees, areas of interest regarding regulation, and penalty ensued.

No action was taken on this item.

13.VIII. Upcoming Events

13.VIII.i. Arbor Day

Event announcement. No action was taken.

13.VIII.ii. Special Meeting

Meeting announcement. No action was taken.

13.VIII.iii. Thanksgiving City Closure

Event announcement. No action was taken.

13.VIII.iv. Christmas Parade

Event announcement. No action was taken.

13.VIII.v. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Event announcement. No action was taken.

13.VIII.vi. Next Regular Meeting

Meeting announcement. No action was taken.

13.IX. Items For The Good Of The Order

Councilmember Carlson thanked City Manager and Staff for their hard work and Parks Board for the hard work that went into Master Parks Plan. He highly encouraged everyone to get involved in their city.

Councilmember McAuliffe thanked staff and volunteers and all they do.

Councilmember Yancy asked that a new grant, Community Heart and Soul Seed Grant be brought to a future meeting. She mentioned a series of Thanksgiving community events and shared her excitement for all that is coming to the city. She closed by sharing her appreciation of the staff for the great work they have done in the midst of adversity, and her hope for reclaiming the positive identity of historic La Marque.

Mayor Bell thanked everyone who participated in the 2nd Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast and the firefighters on duty who cooked breakfast. He thanked all who voted in the November election, and thanked all that voted against the recall while apologizing to those who voted for the recall for not fully sharing his vision and passion for this city.

City Manager Garcia mentioned the Word Power Church groundbreaking that was attended last Thursday and Mayor shared his excitement for their arrival.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the Regular Meeting and entered into Executive Session at 9:13 p.m.*

14.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

14.II. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

15. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 9:20 p.m.*

15.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

Councilmember McAuliffe approve the settlement as proposed. Councilmember Carlson seconded.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15.II. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

No action was taken.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.*

Keith Bell

Mayor

Kierra K. Nance, TRMC

City Clerk