



**1111 Bayou Road  
La Marque, Texas  
409-938-9202**

**CITY OF LA MARQUE  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
of  
MARCH 14, 2022**

Minutes of a City Council Special Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 1109 Bayou Road, La Marque, Texas as well as via teleconference - ZOOM and via YouTube. The council will meet for the purpose of considering the following agenda:

**(1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Keith Bell	Mayor
Kimberley Yancy	Councilmember District A
Joe Compian	Mayor-Pro-Tem District B
Michael Carlson	Councilmember District C
Casey Mc Auliffe	Councilmember District D (1111 Bayou La Marque, TX 77568)

**STAFF:**

Randall Aragon	Interim City Manger
Gus Knebel	Consulting City Attorney
Kierra Nance	City Clerk

**(3) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Margarite Williams (Red Cross) gave the invocation and Councilman Carlson led the pledge.

**(4) PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATION**

- a. Gene Crow- 2021 Detective of the Year
- b. Michael Turner- 2021 Officer of the Year
- c. Sheila Maya- 2021 Civilian Employee of the Year
- d. Proclamation- Stop the Violence Week
- e. Proclamation- Abundant Life
- f. Proclamation- Red Cross
- g. Public Safety Building Update - Alec Luong

Mayor Bell, Chief Aragon, and Lieutenant Price presented awards to the respective Police Department members. Mayor Bell presented proclamations for Stop the Violence Week, American Red Cross Week, and Abundant Life Christian Center.

Alec Luong gave a presentation to the community giving a summary of the work that has been done in relation to the Public Safety Building process as well as a timeline moving forward providing (5) options for Council to consider.

**(5) CITIZENS PARTICIPATION (Limited to three minutes per person)**

Comments from the public will be heard at this time. Any person with city-related business who has signed up may speak to Council on a specific agenda item (limited to three (3) minutes) should give the Mayor your name and the item you wish to speak about. In compliance with Texas Open Meeting Act, the city may not deliberate on comments. Personal attacks will not be allowed, and personnel matters should be addressed to the City Manager during normal business hours. **Press \*6 to mute or unmute if you are participating by telephone, press the unmute button if attending via zoom on a smartphone, tablet, or computer, or stand if attending in person, and the Mayor will call on you in turn.**

\*\* Councilmember Carlson left the room at 7:01 p.m.

Lindsey Gonzales (Apache Field Ln) and Re'chard Loftis spoke on behalf of Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission and presented (4) new street sign designs. Keep La Marque Beautiful Commission is willing to utilize the \$1 voluntary donations made by the citizens through utility billing to offset costs of this project.

\*\* Councilmember Carlson returned at 7:04 p.m.

Mary Limones (2709 John St) and Katrina Cruz (Hitchcock, TX) started a division of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a growing nonprofit organization with the goal of making a difference in the community and the future of our youth. The organization will be hosting the first Mainland Cinco De Mayo program in the City of La Marque on May 7, 2022.

Terri Leo Wilson is a republican ticket candidate for the House District 3, spoke of her platform in education, eliminating property taxes, and protecting coastal communities.

Delon Delafosse (222 Edgar)- announced herself as a proud citizen and graduate of La Marque. Thanked Council, namely Councilwoman Yancy for the work that they have done, especially in District A. Spoke as a new member of Community Own Safety working towards ensuring that public safety is not defunded and thanked Mayor and Council for their commitment to public safety.

**(6) CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Special City Council Minutes 01.24.2022
- b. Special City Council Minutes 02.17.2022

- c. Discussion/ possible action regarding adopting **Resolution No. R-2022-0006**, reappointing Georgia Meyer Barzilay to the Board of Directors of the Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation- City Clerk K. Nance
- d. Discussion/ possible action regarding accepting the quarterly investment reports for Fourth Quarter 2021- Finance Director S. Kou

\*\* Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve items 6a and 6b. Councilmember McAuliffe seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Pro Tem requested items 6c and 6d be pulled for discussion. Requesting that an annual report be given by SETH to make the community better aware of the services they provide. He also addressed Finance Director Kou regarding the negative balance showed for the utility fund. Finance Director Kou clarified.

\*\* Mayor Pro-Tem Compian made a motion to approve items 6c and 6d. Councilmember Carlson seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **(7) NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion/ Possible action regarding adopting **Ordinance No. O-2022-0003**, establishing a Public Safety Building Committee, providing an effective date, and making other provisions related to the subject- Legal G. Knebel

Mayor Pro-Tem asked questions relating to the role of the alternate, if appointed. Mayor has no problem with appointing alternates as long as the majority of the majority of decisions are made by the active appointed members.

Mayor asked Lieutenants Gandy and Price to briefly discuss the role of a new Public Safety Building in the reduction of crime. It provides for a better working environment, breeds confidence in the community, relaxes citizens when they need to come in during some of the most difficult times in their lives, better evidence storage, and assists in recruitment and retention of officers.

Councilmember Carlson spoke to the fears of sacrificing quality for speed. Architect Luong, spoke to the “speed” being from completely relocating staff in order to be efficient in the process.

\*\* Mayor Pro-Tem Compian made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. O-2022-0003**, establishing a Public Safety Building Committee, providing an effective date, and making other provisions related to the subject with the amendment of (2) alternate members appointed by the mayor. Councilmember Carlson seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discussion/ possible action regarding authorizing certain officers of the City to sign and endorse agreements relating to Texas Global Opioid Settlements covered by the Texas Abatement Fund Council and Settlement Allocation Term Sheet- Legal G. Knebel

\*\* Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to authorize certain officers of the City to sign and endorse agreements relating to Texas Global Opioid Settlements covered by the Texas Abatement Fund Council and Settlement Allocation Term Sheet. Councilmember Carlson seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Discussion/ possible action regarding the City of La Marque 5-year Strategic Plan- EDC Director A. Getty

Councilmember McAuliffe requested an official review of the progress, achievements, and shortfalls of the previous Strategic Plan.

Councilmember recalled requesting a Master City Plan in December which he believes will better serve drafting the Strategic Plan. After a brief discussion, Council agreed that a Comprehensive Plan is necessary although it is not a requirement for this particular plan.

Councilmember Yancy asked that the Strategic Plan be more focused on business. Requesting that the EDC be more aggressive and intentional in driving business and seconded Councilmember McAuliffe's sentiment of needing the facts relating to what has already been accomplished.

Mayor Pro-Tem agrees to both the need for a Comprehensive Plan as well as a final report on the previous Strategic Plan.

Mayor Bell noted some things about the 2015 plan including the lack of resources, noting Priority 1 which included committing \$1 million to infrastructure, strengths that included low crime rates, police chief, low property values and taxes, and weaknesses that included a grossly inadequate infrastructure, an appearance of high crime, inadequate street lighting, low community pride, and a divided community, among others.

\*\* Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to authorize a final report on the previous Strategic Plan. Councilmember Carlson seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- d. Discussion/ possible action regarding the interior remodel of 1130 1<sup>st</sup> Street- EDC Director A. Getty

Councilmember Carlson and Mayor Pro-Tem Compian asked clarifying questions.

\*\* Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to authorize the interior remodel of 1130 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Councilmember Yancy seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- e. Discussion/ provide direction regarding updating city zoning maps- Mayor Pro Tem J. Compian

Mayor Pro-Tem clarified that this is a follow-up item as stated upon original passing that it would be reviewed. He requested a collaborative effort with the community to simplify the zoning ordinance and making it more productive and business friendly.

Mayor Bell asked Mayor Pro-Tem to bring a proposed procedure for Council to review and finalize to the next meeting.

\*\* No action was taken on this item.

- f. Discussion/ possible action regarding AARP Community Challenge Grant (deadline March 22<sup>nd</sup>)- Mayor Pro Tem J. Compian

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian explained the Grant process and offered his services to assist with the application.

\*\* Councilmember Carlson made a motion to authorize Mayor Pro-Tem Compian to proceed with the AARP Community Challenge Grant. Councilmember Yancy seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- g. Discussion / possible action regarding membership to Sister Cities International- Mayor Pro Tem J. Compian

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian explained the organization and the desire to participate as originally introduced by Councilmember Yancy.

\*\* Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to join Sister Cities International. Councilmember Yancy seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- h. Discussion/ possible action regarding membership to National Civic League- Mayor Pro Tem J. Compian

Mayor Pro-Tem spoke to the benefits of joining the National Civic League including additional cost savings resources and “All American City” designations.

\*\* Councilmember McAuliffe made a motion to authorize membership to the National Civic League. Councilmember Carlson seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **(8) REPORTS**

- a. Annual Racial Profiling Report- Police Chief R. Aragon/ Lieutenant G. Price

Chief Aragon and Lieutenant Price presented their annual report noting that it was very similar to the 2020 report.

- b. State of Texas Broadband Public Hearing by the Texas Broadband Development Office- Mayor Pro Tem J. Compian

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian attended the first Public Hearing of the Texas Broadband Development Office in Prairie View, TX and provided a report on the information given.

**(9) APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding appointments and/or reappointments to fill various positions of the Boards and Commissions - Mayor K. Bell

\*\* Mayor Pro-Tem appointed former Councilmember Chris Lane as an alternate to the Charter Review Committee. Seconded by Councilmember McAuliffe. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**(10) 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 many 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) as well as the following items:

- a. Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters)- Discussion relating to City Manager Contract negotiations
- b. Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) - Discussion relating to Cause No. 20-CV-0633 *La Marque Economic Development Corporation et. al. vs. Texas City Terminal Railway Company* in the 122<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Galveston County, Texas

\*\* Mayor Bell closed the Regular meeting at 9:07 p.m. and entered Executive Session at 9: 08 p.m.

\*\* Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 11:02 p.m.

**(11) ACTION - EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Discussion/ possible action regarding City Manager Contract- Legal G. Knebel

\*\* Councilmember Carlson made a motion to approve City Manager Contract. Mayor Pro-Tem Compian seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**(12) REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember McAuliffe stated Happy Vernal Equinox, congratulated Councilmember Yancy for the success of Stop the Violence Week.

Councilmember Yancy thanked all the volunteers, sponsors, and District A for their support for Stop the Violence Week. She stated that a written report will be submitted on this report. Councilmember Yancy thanked all the phenomenal women for all of their work during Women's History Month and pledged to continue doing the work the community voted for her to do.

Councilman Carlson also stated Happy Women’s History Month and St. Patrick’s Day. Congratulations to Fire Chief Merryman and Public Works Director Sailer on their promotions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Compian expressed his sincere thanks to Police Chief Aragon and Price for their engagement with a family in need. He stated that one of the simplest ways to assist the families in the Ukraine is to make a small donation to the Red Cross or make donations to the local Greek Orthodox Diocese.

Mayor Bell spoke to the pleasure of being an elected official and thanked the public for all of the well wishes. He encouraged the rest of Council with words from Theodore Rosevelt “It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”

Mayor announced that we are amid a Tax Rollback election, and the council is available to entertain any comments, concerns, and plans. He spoke to many decisions needing to be made. Mayor Bell introduced Cesar Garcia to the public and a reception will be held at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

### **(13) ADJOURNMENT**

\*\* Councilmember Yancy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Compian seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\*\* Meeting adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

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*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*

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