
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING: DECEMBER 12, 2022

AGENDA ITEM _____

DATE: 12/8/22

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: SUSAN LANG, FINANCE DIRECTOR 

SUBJECT: REVIEW RESULTS OF CYBER SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Background:

The city's vulnerability to cyber threats is undoubtably always at the forefront of our thoughts. While keenly aware of the past incident, there is always room for improvement and/or confirmation of our current ability to detect, prevent and respond to cyber threats.

Over the past year and a half of my tenure with the City, I have been asked on multiple occasions if we feel we are protected enough. I have researched and had numerous telephone calls with experts with our insurance provider, have increased our cyber insurance levels, have questioned our existing managed service provider, and have had to learn more about information technology infrastructure then I thought possible in a short period of time. While we have accomplished so much in a short period of time, I still felt the need to have a second opinion from independent professionals who were more knowledgeable than our existing pool of talent.

While attending a quarterly networking meeting of the Government Finance Officer's Association of Texas for the Coastal Bend Chapter, I heard a presentation about the increase in threats and attacks against local governments, and how the presenter's company was in negotiations with our insurance provider (TML) to provide cyber assessments for all of their customers who have or request the separate coverage. Because TML has been such a strong partner for almost all cities in Texas for so many years, I felt this was one more step on the road for us to ensure we are knowledgeable and prepared for the increase in threats.

I made contact with the presenter, VC3, that same day (September 30, 2022) and proceeded to gain further information on the cyber security assessment, met with them again at the TML conference on October 5, 2022, and arranged a meeting for all City attendees to discuss their services. The Mayor and I met with VC3 for two hours, and the cyber assessment was offered to the City at no cost, as if their arrangement with TML was finalized, and proceeded to schedule the assessment.

Scans of the City's network infrastructure were performed in October and November and detailed questionnaires were filled out by our IT managed services provider and city staff to complete the assessment. The results are presented as an attachment to this memo, but highlights include:

- Of the twelve key areas of compliance, the city is fully compliant in 3 areas, questionable and/or cannot confirm 3 areas, and non-compliant in 6 areas.

Recommendation:

None – this is presented as information.

Budgetary Impact:

None

Action:

None