

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §
TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: April 14, 2015
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter, Mayor Pro-Tem
Wanda Reyes-Rice – Councilmember Place 2
Frank Davalos, Jr., - Councilmember Place 3
Leti Keplinger, Councilmember Place 4
Gary Meschi, Councilmember Place 5
Richard Hinojosa, Councilmember Place 6

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Rice, Citizen
Chris De Disbach, Citizen
Richard Lane, Citizen
Jose Francisco Calderon, Citizen
Rene Valdez, Citizen
Yolanda Birdwell, Citizen
Esteban Pena, Citizen
Stephanie Wilson, Citizen
Lily O. Torres, Citizen
Jacob Baker, Citizen
Don Ceglar, Citizen
Jim Hunter, Royston, Rayzor, LLP
Rogelio Ortiz, Jr., Linebarger Goggan Blair, LLP
Nancy, Port Isabel
Leonard, Port Isabel
Roberto Rodriguez, Citizen
Steve Muschenheim, Citizen
Martha McClain, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Invocation was led by Matthew Valdez and Pledge was led by 2nd graders in attendance.

3. **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

4. **PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

- a) **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH** – A proclamation recognizing May 2015 as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month.

Mayor Houston presented the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month Proclamation to Bikers for Christ Organization.

5. **OPEN FORUM:**

Esteban Pena addressed the Council about installing a street light near or at 1221 Palo Blanco Drive. He stated that there is a section of the street that is very dark because there is a large gap between the two street lights.

Virginia Guillot addressed the Council about the proposed Wind Farms between Bayview and Laguna Vista. She stated that there will be 35 turbines, 450 feet tall within a quarter mile of SPI Golf Club. She requested that the Town Council state opposing the wind farm turbines, because they are funded by Federal and Local Tax dollars.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action on each of the following items:

- A. **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2015 Special Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2015 Special Council meeting, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- B. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2015-02** – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2015-02, repealing and replacing Ordinance Number 2012-19, with reference to the Board of Ethics, in particular Article V, Section 20(c). (City Attorney)

Council Member Meschi made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2015-02, repealing and replacing Ordinance Number

2012-19, with reference to the Board of Ethics, in particular Article V, Section 20(c), Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

C. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-10 – To approve Resolution Number 2015-10 Designating April 2015 as Autism Awareness Month. (Mayor Houston)
Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2015-10 designating April 2015 as Autism Awareness Month, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

D. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-11 – To approve Resolution Number 2015-11 Adopting the Section 3 Policy pertaining to the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG). (City Manager)
Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2015-11, adopting the Section 3 Policy pertaining to the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG), Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

E. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-12 – To approve Resolution Number 2015-12 expressing full support for the bills filed or to be filed in the 84th Texas Legislature by Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. and Representatives Rene Oliveira and Eddie Lucio III to allow the voters of Cameron County to choose to create a Cameron County Healthcare District through a future local election. (City Manager)
Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to table item Resolution Number 2015-12 expressing full support for the bills filed or to be filed in the 84th Texas Legislature by Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. and Representatives Rene Oliveira and Eddie Lucio III to allow the voters of Cameron County to choose to create a Cameron County Healthcare District through a future local election, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

F. T.M.R.S. PORTAL USE AGREEMENT – To approve the Town Portal Use Agreement between the Town of Laguna Vista and the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) and appointing the City Portal Administrator. (City Secretary)
Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the Texas Municipal Retirement System Portal Use Agreement, and appoint the Alma Deckard, as the City Portal Administrator, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

G. MUNICIPAL COURT COLLECTIONS – To approve the collection contract between the Town and Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, for municipal court collections. (City Manager)

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to approve the collection contract between the Town and Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, for municipal court collections, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

H. CDC FUNDING – PHASE II TRAIL PROJECT – To consider the recommendation of the Community Development Corporation (CDC) to return the \$17,700 originally funded for Phase II Trail Park. (Mayor Houston)
Council Member Rice made a motion to table the item CDC Funding – Phase II Trail Project to consider the recommendation of the Community Development Corporation (CDC) to return the \$17,700 originally funded for Phase II Trail Park, Council Member Hinojosa seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

I. SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – Presentation on the 2nd Quarter Financial Performance Report (Jan. 2015 – Mar. 2015). (City Manager)
Rolando Vela reported that property tax collection is at 96.61% in revenues. The Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) account has a balance of \$61,754. We are expecting approximately \$20,000 in reimbursement from grants. Rifles and patrol bikes were unbudgeted items purchase this fiscal year. The Interest & Sinking Fund has a balance of \$113,978.

Council Member Carter questioned why the street improvement funds of \$330,000 disbursed from the public works department did not get budgeted. He expressed concern that the budget amendment should be done before the funds are spent.

J. 2011 CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION – Update on the 2011 Certificates of Obligation. (City Manager)
Rolando Vela informed the Council that the Certificates of Obligation account has a balance of \$55,726. Two fire hydrants were repaired during this month.

K. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- i. Update on Street Improvements**
Rolando Vela stated that bids requests are out for the street improvements between Hibiscus, and Ebony Lane to FM 510. There will be speed humps on Ebony Lane also.
- ii. Fourth of July Parade and Picnic**
Rolando Vela stated that the July 4th Parade and Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 4th from 5 – 9 pm. We are working on vendors for the event.
- iii. “Laguna Vista Cares” – No Texting and Driving Campaign**

Rolando Vela stated that May will be Don't Text and Drive awareness month. Police officers will be handing out postcards, reminding drivers not to text and drive. We will have an event to kick off the month awareness, with bumper stickers and thumb bands to give out.

- L. EXECUTIVE SESSION – There will be an Executive Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney to seek advice in legal matters.

⚖️ Litigation Relating To Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to go into executive session at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney to seek advice in legal matters – Litigation relating to Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, Council Member Hinojosa seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Town Council came out of executive session at 7:20 pm.

- M. OPEN SESSION – Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.

No action was taken as a result of executive session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Davalos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:21 pm, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary