

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

MINUTES OF A Workshop MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: August 4, 2015
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter – Councilmember Place 1
Wanda Reyes-Rice – Mayor Pro-Tem
Frank Davalos, Jr., - Councilmember Place 3
Leti Keplinger, Councilmember Place 4
Gary Meschi, Councilmember Place 5
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Tony David, Police Chief
Julio Olguin, Fire Chief
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

ALSO PRESENT: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Houston.

3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – All members present.

4. BUDGET – 2015-16 – Discussion of the 2015-16 Fiscal Year Budget.

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the property tax collection as of today is at 99%.

Currently the Interest & Sinking Fund has a balance of \$117,000, with a payment of \$81,000 due in September. The General Fund has a cash in bank balance of \$417,197.

The proposed budget submitted to the Council is a barebones budget with no salary increase and no capital outlay purchases.

Chief David is requesting an extra police officer be added to the department. He is also requesting a new patrol unit and a Polaris to be used in areas that a patrol unit cannot enter.

Chief David indicated that the starting salary of a police officer in Los Fresnos is \$32,000 and South Padre Island is \$38,000.

Rolando Vela stated that we have one public works employee at part-time that he is requesting be made full-time. The patrol unit will cost approximately \$33,025. And the Polaris will run \$9,950.

The Capital improvements include, 1 patrol unit for 33,025., , 1 Polaris for \$9,950, 1 Wave Runner for \$10,500, 1 public works tractor for \$9,300, \$20,000 for the Brush truck grant match, Beach Blvd street improvements for \$269,000 and legal litigation fees the Brownsville ETJ for \$50,000.

Council Member Meschi asked why the PD wants a Wave Runner, opposed to a boat, which would not cost that much more and probably be safer. Chief David stated that he was trying to keep the amount as low as possible.

Council Member Keplinger stated she was concerned about where we will store all this new equipment. Chief Olguin stated that the Polaris and wave runner could be stored at the fire station.

Rolando Vela explained that there is \$189,111. Fund balance include the reserve account funds.

Council Member Carter recommended a 5.0% increase to all regular employees and increasing all police officer to a minimum of \$35,000 annual salary.

Council Member Meschi stated that he agreed on the baseline, however some employees should be based on merits. He does not believe on a blanket salary increase, you may have some employees that are not carrying their own weight.

Chief David explained that most of the officers have a TCOLE Master license or in process of obtaining that level.

Council Member Davalos suggested a 7% increase for employees.

Council Member Smith stated that she thought a 3% increase was adequate.

Council Member Carter stated that the school district is giving a 4% increase to regular employees and 3% to teachers, Los Fresnos is giving a 4% and Brownsville is giving a 3% increase.

After a short discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to apply the 5.0% increase to regular employees and all officers will increase by \$5,880, with the minimum salary at \$35,000.00.

It was the consensus of the Council that the Payroll increase, Polaris, patrol unit, and tractor be paid from the fund balance. The fire truck \$20,000 grant match will be paid from the Reserve Account. The Wave runner/boat will be earmarked for a future purchase.

5. TAX RATE – Discussion of the 2015 Ad Valorem Property Tax rate.

Rolando Vela explained that the current tax rate is \$0.337290. The new effective rate is 0.340892, with a rollback rate of 0.361892.

Council Member Carter suggested leaving the tax rate at \$0.337290. However, next year we will need to consider raising the tax rate, because the effective rate will continue to drop and the rollback rate will be closer each year.

6. TAX RATE – Consideration and action to approval to set the 2015 Ad Valorem Property Tax rate.

Council Member Rice made a motion to set the 2015 Ad Valorem Property Tax rate at \$ 0.337290, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:36 pm, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary