

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

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP SESSION OF THE LAGUNA VISTA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

DATE: AUGUST 11, 2009

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor  
Richard Hinojosa, Mayor Protem  
Rita Garcia, Alderwoman  
Ken Irwin, Alderman  
Steve Muschenheim, Alderman  
William Schnier, Alderman

Janice Cassidy, Town Attorney  
Rolando Vela, City Manager  
Pura Mireles, Library Director  
Robert McGinnis, Police Chief  
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Carl Phillips, Island Breeze  
Terri L. Galloway, Citizen  
Betty Bell, Citizen  
Clyde Machen, Citizen  
Susie Schelbert, Citizen  
Carole A. Benham, Citizen  
Glen Benham, Citizen  
Bud Sherman, Citizen  
Donna Sherman, Citizen  
Richard Lane, Citizen  
Rudy H. Garcia, Citizen  
Norna Minkler, Citizen  
Andrew Minkler, Citizen

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. OPEN FORUM: None

3. ETHICS POLICY – Discussion concerning the ethics policy.

After a short discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have staff incorporate the Ethics Policy Ordinance into the Board and Commission Handbook.

4. HOME RULE CHARTER COMMITTEE – Discussion on the appointment process for the Home Rule Charter Committee.

Alderman Irwin and Alderwoman Garcia felt that there was not sufficient time given for citizens to apply because of the short publication notice.

Alderman Schnier felt that 15 members might be too large a group. He also stated that he attended the TML Newly Elected Orientation and specifically asked TML Attorney Mueller if 15 was a required number of members for the charter committee. Ms. Mueller stated that TML Attorney's interpretation was that a minimum of 15 members are required.

Alderwoman Garcia suggested using the 15 members from the 20 applicants and appointing the other five citizens to other boards that have vacancies.

Alderman Muschenheim stated that if 15 is the required number, that what we should appoint.

Janice Cassidy stated that the statute does not say that there is a minimum of 15 members. It does state that if an election is held for the charter committee members, it must be at least 15 members.

Alderman Hinojosa stated that the advertisement stated the board would appoint 18 members of which three would be alternates. We should do what the advertisement stated.

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It was the consensus of the board to appoint the 20 applicants to the charter committee, with no alternates.

5. **ADVISORY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS** – Discussion on the appointment process for the Town's Advisory Boards and Commissions.

Rolando Vela explained that the various boards are appointed in different manners, some by the Board of Aldermen, and some by recommendation from the particular board. It is his goal to have one standardized process for board appointments.

Alderman Irwin stated that we need more citizen involvement to have a more influential role in the community.

Alderman Hinojosa stated he agrees with standardizing the process.

Rolando Vela stated if the board directs, he could bring a standardized process to the September 2009 meeting.

6. **MEETING LOCATIONS** – Discussion concerning alternative Board of Aldermen meeting locations.

Alderman Schnier placed this item on the agenda, because of the problem that may arise when citizens wishing to attend a meeting exceed the capacity of the boardroom.

Rolando Vela stated that several months ago, the Board of Aldermen voted to have all regular meetings in the city hall boardroom, and any special meetings could be held at different locations throughout the community.

Alderman Irwin felt that the regular monthly meeting should be held at the city hall, and would like to see public hearings held in other locations in the community.

Alderwoman Garcia agreed with Alderman Irwin.

Alderman Schnier stated he was not able to attend a meeting because the room was at capacity and he could not come in. The SPI Golf Club has offered the Clubhouse for meetings,

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7. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION – Discussion and status of the Laguna Vista Strategic Planning Session from October 2007.

Because of the time constraints, it was agreed to postpone the Strategic Planning Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**Alderman Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn meeting at 5:55 p.m., second by Alderman Muschenheim. All voted “aye” to adjourn, motion carried.**

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary