

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: April 12, 2016  
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

Rolando Vela, City Manager  
Ricardo Morado, City Attorney  
Tony David, Police Chief  
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

ALSO PRESENT: Arden Curts, Citizen  
Veronica Rodgers, Boys & Girls Club  
Russell Owen, Citizen  
Cheryl Owen, Citizen  
Juan Lopez, Point Isabel ISD  
Lorena Hernandez, Point Isabel ISD  
Joe Vega, Port Isabel  
David Garza, Cameron County Commissioner  
Victor Worrell, Citizen  
Janie Petty, Citizen  
Carol Schierenbeck, Citizen  
Owen Schierenbeck, Citizen  
Richard Lane, Citizen  
Martha McClain, Citizen  
Henry Etheridge, Citizen  
Elizabeth Etheridge, Citizen  
Chris De Gobeo, Citizen  
Silke De Gobeo, 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** was led by Council Member Rice.

**3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** – Council Member Smith was absent.

**Mayor Houston made a motion to excuse Council Member Smith, due to a family emergency, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**4. OPEN FORUM:**

Arden Curts addressed the Council concerning 1 Lakewood Drive, the house that burnt down in February 2015. He stated that the property needs to be cleaned up. There debris and trash everywhere, that makes for an eyesore in the community.

David Garza expressed thanks to the Council for their approval of the 23 acres easement for the county project. He stated that the grant application will be submitted tomorrow. The project is shovel ready, once the grant is approved.

Richard Lane addressed the Council concerning the tap water used at the park fountains. He stated that this water should be filtered, because of its contamination.

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

**A. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2016-03** – To approve Resolution Number 2016-03 Designating April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month. (Mayor Houston)  
**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2016-03 designating April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**B. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN** – Presentation on the active transportation plan and to authorize the expenditure of \$10,000 from the health waiver grant to participate in this regional plan. (City Manager)  
**Mayor Houston made a motion to commit \$5,000 from the 2015-16 Health grant for the Brownsville Active Transportation Plan, and the additional \$5,000 from the 2016-17 Health Grant, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

C. **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2016 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2016 Town Council regular meeting, with a correction to item 6J motion, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

D. **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF LAGUNA MADRE** – Discussion and potential action on request for funding from the Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Madre. (City Manager)

**Council Member Davalos excused himself from the meeting and stated that he is the President for the Boys and Girls Club and has filed a Conflict of Interest form with the City Secretary. Council Member Davalos left at this time.**

**Mayor Houston made a motion to discuss and consider budgeting \$5,000 at the 2015-16 budget amendment meeting, next month, for a service agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Madre, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

E. **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2016-04** – To approve Resolution Number 2016-04, designating April 2016 as Fair Housing Month. (City Manager)

**Council Member Keplinger made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2014-04 designating April 2016 as Fair Housing Month, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

F. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2016-05** – First Reading – Discussion of Ordinance Number 2016-05 adopting the ICC 2012 Building Codes for the Town of Laguna Vista. (City Secretary)

**No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance Number 2016-05.**

G. **LAGUNA VISTA CARES CAMPAIGN** – Discussion on initiating a “Don’t Drive Distracted” campaign under Laguna Vista CARES. (Council Members Reyes-Rice and Meschi)

**Council Member Rice made a motion to approve to include the Don’t Drive Distracted” campaign under the Laguna Vista CARES, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

H. **RECYCLING ROLL-OFF CONTAINER** – Discussion and potential action on setting up a recycling roll-off container in Laguna Vista. (Mayor Houston)  
**No action was taken on the recycling roll-off container item.**

I. **EVENT PLANNER** – Discussion on hiring an event planner for community events. (Mayor Houston)

**No action was taken on the Event Planner item.**

**J. MUNICIPAL JUDGE** – Consideration and action to accept the resignation of Municipal Judge Jeremy SoRelle. (City Manager)  
**Mayor Houston made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Judge Jeremy Sorelle, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**K. MUNICIPAL JUDGE** – Consideration and action on the appointment of a Municipal Judge. (City Manager)  
**Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Charles Mattingly, Jr., to fill the unexpired term, until November 2017, of municipal judge, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. Council Member Davalos opposed motion, all others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**L. INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT** – Consideration and action on the interlocal cooperation agreement between the County of Cameron and the Town of Laguna Vista for street repairs to Harding Boulevard. (City Manager)  
**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the interlocal cooperation agreement between the Town and County of Cameron for street repairs to Harding boulevard for \$2,500, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**M. 2011 CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION** – Update on the 2011 Certificates of Obligation. (City Manager)  
**Rolando Vela reported no activity for the month, fund balance is \$47,185.**

**N. SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT** – Presentation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Performance Report (Jan. 2016 – March 2016). (City Manager)  
**Rolando Vela presented the second quarter financial report. In the General Fund we have collected 85% of our revenues. We have received reimbursement for the Border Star Police Grant and the Health Grant, these funds are reimbursement from last year’s expenditures. Sales tax collection is at 50%.**

**O. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

i. Laguna Vista Live: Music by the Bay, April 16  
**Rolando Vela stated that The Agency will be playing at the music fest scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2016, from 5 – 9:00 pm.**

ii. Memorial Day, May 30  
**The Memorial Day parade and ceremony will be Monday, May 30, 2016 at 5:00 pm. The guest speaker will be a World War II Veteran from Brownsville, Texas. We will also have the flag that was brought back from Vietnam.**

**P. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – There will be an Executive Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, pursuant to Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney regarding:

**✚ Town Marina and LVRA**

**✚ Potential litigation regarding short term rental ordinance**

**✚ ETJ Litigation**

**Council Member Rice made a motion to go into executive session at 7:52 pm, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney regarding, Town Marina and LVRA, Potential litigation regarding short term rental ordinance, and ETJ Litigation, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**Town Council came out of executive session at 8:27 pm.**

**Q. OPEN SESSION** – Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.

**Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the Laguna Vista Recreational Association (LVRA) lease in current form, and direct the Town Attorney to forward the lease agreement to the LVRA, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:29 pm, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary