

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

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: August 16, 2016
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter, Councilmember Place 1
Wanda Reyes-Rice, Councilmember Place 2
Frank Davalos, Jr., Councilmember Place 3
Leti Keplinger, Mayor ProTem
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 5:35 pm.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Meschi.

3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – All present

4. 2016-17 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET - Discussion of the 2016-17 Fiscal Year Budget.
(City Manager)

Rolando Vela reviewed salary increase for certain employees, a wish list of items from the different departments and retirement rate changes.

The Council discussed the options of salary increases for employees in the Public Works, Library Dept. and office clerk. It was the consensus of the Council to increase employees, from public works, library dept. and city hall office clerk, \$2 per hourly rate, with the exception of the Library Clerk that will be increased to meeting the minimum hourly rate of \$11.45.

Rolando Vela explained that the Police Dept. is requesting a patrol unit and a new vehicle for the police chief, and consideration of ticket writers for the police officers.

Chief David explained that \$20,000 will purchase 4-5 ticket writers. Currently the officers manually write out the citations, then they have to enter the citation into the police program to track the citations. The citations are then turned into municipal court and have to be entered into the court system again. The ticket writers will eliminate the officers having to manually write out citation, and officers and municipal court having to enter each citation into the system 2 different times. Also, if an individual has outstanding warrants this will show up in the ticker writer at the time of the traffic stop.

Julio Olguin explained about the paging system needed for the Fire Dept. Lately, they have been having problems with the dispatch radio contact to the volunteer firemen. The current system notifies the firemen via phone text, however the radio system located at the Port Isabel PD dispatch is not compatible to the E-text system. Sometimes, they do not receive the message for a call. The new paging system is a piece of equipment that will be added to the dispatch system and comes with five pagers. We will still continue to use the E-text system for those firemen that don't have the pager.

Rolando Vela explained that Leo Garza, our IT person stated that we are due for a new server and new computers. These are part of the wish list.

Rolando Vela reminded the Council of the \$275,000 appropriated for Beach Blvd improvements last year from fund balance.

It was the consensus of the Council that the balance of the capital outlay items would be paid from the Reserve account. Capital items are the carport for the police units, patrol unit, police chief unit, paging system for the fire dept., the ticket writers for the officers, and the computers and server needed in city hall.

The Council agreed to increase the match for the Texas Municipal Retirement System from 1.5 to 2 based on the employee contribution. Council also agreed to a one time retention check for all fulltime employees, amount is estimated at \$650 to allow for payroll deductions and leave \$500 to the employee.

5. **2016 TAX RATE** – Discussion of the 2016-17 ad valorem property tax rate. (City Manager)

There was a short discussion on whether to reduce the Interest and Sinking by the surplus of \$20,000, approximately \$108,434 will be needed for the 2017 payments. It was the consensus of the Council to go with Option E, which will be a tax rate of \$0.344124.

- 6. 2016 TAX RATE** – Consideration and action on approval to set the 2016 Ad Valorem Property Tax rate. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to set the 2016 ad valorem tax rate at \$0.344124, with the breakdown of \$0.305474 for M&O and \$0.038650, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Record vote was as follows:

Mayor Houston – Yes

Council Member Carter – Yes

Council Member Rice – Yes

Council Member Davalos – Yes

Council Member Keplinger – Yes

Council Member Meschi – Yes

Council Member Smith – Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Meschi made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:55 pm, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary