

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: July 11, 2017
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter, Mayor Pro Tem
Johvonne Howard, Councilmember Place 2
Frank Davalos, Jr., Councilmember Place 3
Rolando Gonzalez, Councilmember Place 4
Gary Meschi, Councilmember Place 5
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Ricardo Morado, City Attorney
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Walter Birdwell, Citizen
Victor Worrell, Citizen
Jeremiah Lopez, Citizen
Arden Curts, Citizen
Rudy Garcia, Citizen
Wanda Reyes, Citizen
Magdalena Gonzalez, Citizen
Janie Petty, Citizen
Maile Worrell, Citizen
Jerry Harbin, Citizen
David Lohse, Citizen
David Christopher, Citizen
Richard Lane, Citizen
Rusty Justice, Citizen
Felicia Justice, Citizen
Robert Guerra, Brownsville
Martha McClain, Citizen
Henry Etheridge, 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 Boy Scout Jeremiah Lopez

3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – all present.

4. PRESENTATION – Presentation of Resolution Number 2017-14 to former Council Member Wanda Reyes for her years of service. (Mayor Houston)

Mayor Houston presented the plaque with Resolution Number 2017-14 to former Council Member Wanda Reyes for her years of service.

5. OPEN FORUM:

Victor Worrell addressed the Council concerning bullying of Council Members. He stated that there are rumors around town that the marina property is a tax property, which it is not. The marina increases the value of all property in Laguna Vista. If a barrier is put up for access to the marina, this will create problems with parking. We need to leave the marina as it is. Vote your conscious and don't be bullied by others.

Walter Birdwell addressed the Council concerning the L.V.R.A. lease agreement. He stated that he has researched the issue and finds that the association does not make a good case to keep the lease. There is a lot of misinformation about the LVRA. I thought about joining but the officers from LVRA told me that they are not interested in developing a fishing pier. The LVRA has not done any improvements to the property. To the new council members; you should consider all the residents of Laguna Vista.

Arden Curts addressed the Council concerning public safety. He stated that his wife was attacked by 2 pit bulls in December 2016. The pit bulls are still here in Lakewood Drive. The judge stated that the dogs would be returned to the owner if he relocated them. Ordinance 2007-31 concerning yard trash is not being enforced. At the corner of Broadway and Lakewood the SPIGC maintenance building is filthy, with debris, trash, brush and old vehicles. Why are they not cited and made to get the area cleaned up? In September 2016 my wife fell and it took 3 weeks to get public works to fill the holes. It was a temporary job because the cold patch is now gone and the holes are there again. We need proper street repairs done concerning this matter.

Jeremiah Lopez addressed the Council thanking them for allowing him to attend the meeting and that he is here to support his community.

Rudy Garcia addressed the Council stating that on April 12, 2016, the Council unanimously approved an LVRA lease agreement, after coming of out executive session.

This lease gave the LVRA a 25 year extension and opened up 150’ for public access to the marina. I have not seen an amendment or rescinding of that original agreement, so it still stands. If the lease you are going to discuss in executive session is not that original lease, than it shouldn’t be discussed. You need to rescind the original lease. This is a decisive issue over 150’ of property that the citizens of Laguna Vista are asking to use. People say that people move to Laguna Vista because of the marina, but people also move here because of the quality of life, the parks, etc. Someone mentioned that opening the marina area is a danger for kids, the playground equipment is a danger to kids also, but we don’t deny them the use of the swings, and monkey bars.

Wanda Reyes addressed the Council concerning the LVRA lease and challenging them to do the right thing for all the citizens of Laguna Vista, not just a small group. The LVRA pays very very little and has gotten away with it for many years. The lease was already in place that the Council issued and here we are again revising the lease. People are asking for access and that’s not asking for much. Let them have access to walk in, if they choose to. Again, I challenge you to do the right thing, do what’s fair.

Richard Lane addressed the Council concerning the coral vines for the butterflies, stating that it is a good thing, however these vines also attract bees.

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 June 13, 2017 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2017 Regular Meeting, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Meschi voted “aye” to approve. Council Member Smith abstained from voted. Motion carried.

- B. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017 - 15** – Second Reading – To approve Ordinance Number 2017-15 – amending Ordinance 2014-17, requiring a two-car garage for all new single family residential construction. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2017-15 amending Ordinance 2014-17 requiring a two-car garage for all new single family residential construction, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- C. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-16** – Second Reading – To approve Ordinance Number 2017-16, repealing Ordinance Number 10-59 concerning livestock. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2017-16 repealing Ordinance Number 10-59 concerning livestock, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- D. **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-17** – To approve Resolution Number 2017-17 approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan. (City Manager)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2017-17 approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- E. **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-18** – To approve Resolution Number 2017-18 suspending the July 20, 2017 effective date of the statement of the intent of Texas Gas Service Company to increase rates within incorporated areas of its service territory to permit the Town time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2017-18 suspending the July 20, 2017 effective date of the statement of the intent of Texas Gas Service Company to increase rates within incorporated areas of its service territory to permit the Town time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- F. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-19** – First Reading – To consider Ordinance Number 2017-19 amending the 2016-17 budget. (City Manager)

With the consensus of the Council, Mayor Houston moved Ordinance Number 2017-19 to discuss after executive session. No action was taken.

After executive session Rolando Vela stated that he would revised the budget amendments for the 2016-17 Budget.

- G. **FY 2017-18 BUDGET** – Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget. (City Manager)

Rolando Vela explained to the Council that the preliminary budget numbers for the 2017-18 Budget were handed out tonight. This is a bare bone budget, that does not include any capital outlay items. He also presented figures for 3% and 5% salary increases for all employees. There will be a budget workshop in August 2017.

H. MUNICIPAL JUDGES – Consideration and action to authorize the Staff to go out for RFQs for the position of Municipal Judge and Alternate Municipal Judge. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to authorize the Staff to go out for RFQs for the position of Municipal Judge, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

I. RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY – Consideration and action to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Rails-to-Trail Conservancy and the Town of Laguna Vista. (City Manager)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Rails-to-Trail Conservancy and the Town of Laguna Vista, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

J. MONARCH PLEDGE – Consideration and action in support of the Monarch Pledge to consider planting vines, i.e. coral vines, on all gazebos in parks. (Council Members Smith and Gonzalez)

Council Member Smith made a motion in support of the Monarch Pledge and to plant vines, i.e. coral vines, on all gazebos in parks, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

K. ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Consideration and action to appoint residents to the following advisory boards: (City Manager)

- i. Ad Hoc Charter Committee (7)

Mayor Houston made a motion to table the Ad Hoc Charter Committee appointments item, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Gonzalez and Meschi voted “aye” to approve. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, and Smith voted “nay,” motion failed.

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Victor Worrell to the Ad Hoc Charter Committee, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Jacqui Witsell to the Ad Hoc Charter Committee, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint Richard Hinojosa to the Ad Hoc Charter Committee, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Gonzalez, and Meschi voted “aye” to approve. Council Member Carter, Davalos and Smith voted “nay,” motion carried.

Council Member Howard made a motion to appoint David Carpenter to the Ad Hoc Committee, Council Members Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to table his appointment for the Ad Hoc Committee, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Carter made a motion to table his appointment for the Ad Hoc Committee, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Meschi made a motion to table his appointment for the Ad Hoc Committee, Mayor Houston seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

ii. CDC Board (3)

Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint Jacqui Witsell to the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation (CDC), Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Council Member Davalos asked if Ms. Witsell applied for the CDC position. Ms. Witsell stated that she did not get her application in on time. Mayor Houston withdrew the motion. No action was taken.

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint David Lohse to the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation (CDC), Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve. Mayor Houston voted “nay,” motion carried.

L. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- i. Independence Day Parade and Celebration

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the July 1st celebration was a great success. The 5k run was held at 7 am, with about 100 participants. The parade and music by the bay was from 5 – 10 pm.


- ii. “Back to School” Run/Walk

Rolando Vela stated that Sonia Harry who works for the school district has suggested a Back to School Run/Walk. This would be held August 19, 2017 at 7 am. Participants would donate school supplies in lieu of a registration fee. The school supplies will then be given to the kids in need.

- iii. Laguna Vista Run/Walk October 28, 2017

Rolando Vela stated that another Run/Walk is tentatively scheduled for October 28, 2017 at 7 am. Tee shirts, bibs, and medals will be issued at this run. The Lone Star National Bank has a running team and will be bring their inflatable to the run.

M. 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 City Attorney regarding legal issues pertaining to:

 Marina Lease

 Brownsville ETJ Litigation

Council Member Davalos made a motion to go into executive session at 7:20 pm, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, pursuant to Section §551.071; consultation with City Attorney regarding legal issues pertaining to: Marina Lease and Brownsville ETJ Litigation; also pursuant to Section §551.074 Personnel Matters concerning the City Secretary, Council Member Smith. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Town Council came out of executive session at 8:55 pm.

N. OPEN SESSION – Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session. **Council Member Carter made a motion to authorize the City Attorney to revise the L.V.R.A. marina lease as instructed in executive session, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, and Gonzalez voted “aye” to approve. Council Member Meschi voted “nay.” Council Member Smith abstained from voting. Motion carried.**

O. L.V.R.A. LEASE – Consideration and possible action on approval of a lease agreement with the L.V.R.A. to lease the marina property.
No action was taken on the L.V.R.A. Lease agreement.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:58 pm, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Meschi and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary



This document was created with the Win2PDF "print to PDF" printer available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>

This version of Win2PDF 10 is for evaluation and non-commercial use only.

This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.

<http://www.win2pdf.com/purchase/>