

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: August 8, 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
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Meschi

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Worrell, Citizen
David Lohse, Citizen
Richard Lane, Citizen
Rusty Justice, Citizen
Felicia Justice, Citizen
Marolyn Scott, Citizen
Charlene Adler, Citizen
Bruce Lounsbery, Citizen
Ralston Casswell, 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 Mayor Houston.
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** – Council Member Meschi was absent.
- 4. OPEN FORUM:**

David Lohse addressed the Council expressing thanks to Town Attorney Morado for working with the LVRA attorney in revising the lease. He stated that because the marina is defined as a private organization it is exempt from any ADA regulations.

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

A. **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2017 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2017 Regular Meeting with a correction to item “H” that advertisement is only for the municipal judge, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

B. **CDC FUNDING – 2018 GUIDE to South Padre Island** – Consideration and action to accept the recommendation from the CDC Board to advertise in the 2018 Guide to South Padre Island for \$4,297. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to accept the recommendation from the CDC Board to advertise in the 2018 Guide to South Padre Island for \$4,297, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston and Council Member Howard voted “aye” to approve. Council Members Carter, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “nay” to approve, motion failed.

C. **CDC FUNDING – SIREN TOWER** – Consideration and action to accept the recommendation from the CDC Board to make improvements to the siren tower not to exceed \$5,600. (City Manager)

Council Member Howard made a motion to accept the recommendation from the CDC Board to make improvements to the siren tower not to exceed \$5,600, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

D. **CDC 2017-18 BUDGET** – Consideration and action to adopt the CDC Budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to adopt the CDC Budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

E. **CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** – Consideration and action to enter into a contract with Alma Deckard for professional services. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to enter into a contract with Alma Deckard for professional services, Council Member Smith seconded the

motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

F. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-19 – Second Reading – To approve Ordinance Number 2017-19 amending the 2016-17 budget. (City Manager)
Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2017-19 amending the 2016-17 budget, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

G. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-20 – To approve Resolution Number 2017-20 authorizing the Police Chief to submit a grant application to the Texas Governor’s Office for the BG18 Rifle Resistant Body Armor Grant Number 3439301. (Chief David)
Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2017-20 authorizing the Police Chief to submit a grant application to the Texas Governor’s Office for the BG18 Rifle Resistant Body Armor Grant Number 3439301, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

H. RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER – To accept the resignation of Council Member Place 5, Gary Meschi. (City Manager)
Mayor Houston made a motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Place 5, Gary Meschi, with regrets, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “nay” to approve, motion failed.

I. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-21 - To approve Resolution Number 2017-21 to order a Special Election for November 7, 2017 election ballot to fill the unexpired term of Council Member, Place 5. (City Secretary)
Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2017-21 to order a Special Election for November 7, 2017 election ballot to fill the unexpired term of Council Member Place 5, Mayor Houston seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

J. NOTICE OF ELECTION – Approval of the Notice of Election for the November 7, 2017 Special Election for the Town. (City Secretary)
Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the Notice of Election for the November 7, 2017 Special Election for the Town, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

K. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-22 – First Reading – To consider Ordinance Number 2017-22 adopting the 2017-18 fiscal year budget. (City Manager)

Rolando Vela reviewed the various options available for the 2017 ad valorem tax rate to the Council. No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance Number 2017-22.

L. 2017 TAX RATE – Discussion of 2017 ad valorem tax rate, setting proposed tax rate and scheduling public hearing dates. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to propose setting the 2017 ad valorem tax rate at \$0.354124, and setting the dates for two public hearings on August 22, 2017 and August 29, 2017, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

M. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-23 – First Reading – To consider Ordinance Number 2017-23 adopting the 2017 ad valorem tax rate. (City Manager)
No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance Number 2017-23.

N. ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Consideration and action to appoint residents to the following advisory board. (City Manager)

i. Ad Hoc Charter Committee (3)

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

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

ii. CDC Board (3)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Lindsey Zimmerman to the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation Board (CDC) for a two year term, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to appoint Sonia Harry to the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation Board (CDC) for a two year term, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Jacque Witsell to the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation Board (CDC) for a two year term, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston,

Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

O. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

i. “Back to School” Run/Walk – August 19
Rolando Vela informed the Council that the Brownsville Herald ran an article about the “Back to School” Run/Walk on August 19, 2017. The entry fee will be school supplies for the kids. There will be raffles for both teachers and students. We hope everybody comes out to promote wellness and provide school supplies for the kids in the Laguna Madre area.

ii. Orange Lane Street Improvements
Rolando Vela stated that the Orange Lane Improvements are underway and should be complete in about 2-3 weeks.

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 City Attorney regarding legal issues pertaining to:



Marina Lease

Council Member Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 7:32 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, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Town Council came out of executive session at 8:18 pm.

Q. OPEN SESSION – Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.
No action was taken from Executive Session.

R. 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 LVRA Lease.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:19 pm, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary