

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

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: MARCH 19, 2018
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
Victor Worrell, Councilmember Place 5
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Marion Mason, Laguna Atascosa Refuge
Anna Backues, Citizen
Michael Cuellar, Brownsville, Texas
Roy De Los Santos, Pedal To Padre, Inc.
Madeleine Sandefur, Citizen
Javier Ibarra, Citizen
Sonia Martin, Citizen
Aine DeMoss, Citizen
Bill Beaty, Citizen
Silke De Gobeo, Citizen
David Garcia, County Commissioner
Yolanda Birdwell, Citizen
Karen Watt, Citizen
Maria Galasso, Citizen
Rusty Justice, Citizen
Felicia Justice, Citizen
Joanna Ward, Citizen
Stephanie Wilson, 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 Pastor Gary Stone.

3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – All Present

4. PRESENTATION – To present check to the AMIKids from the proceeds of the Du It by the Bay Duathlon event. (City Manager)

Karen Watt, along with Stephanie Wilson presented a check to the AMIKids Director Javier Ibarra. The proceeds came from the Du It by the Bay Duathlon event entry fees, 100% of the proceeds were donated to the AMIKids. Approximately \$3500 was collected.

5. PROCLAMATION – A proclamation recognizing the Port Isabel High School Basketball Team on reaching the Regional Quarter Finals. (Council Member Howard and Mayor Houston)

Mayor Houston presented a proclamation to the Port Isabel High School Basketball team and Coach Gilbert Rodriguez. The basketball team reached Regional Quarter Finals for the school year 2017-18.

6. OPEN FORUM:

Anna Backues addressed the Council to express thanks for their nomination and selection for her to the RGV Wall of Fame. She encouraged the Council to continue this event every year.

Madeleine Sandefur addressed the Council urging them to vote on the item concerning the TCEQ hearing for the LNG, LLC.

David Lohse addressed the Council to consider coming up with an agreement for the workshop next week with the LVRA and finally put this item to rest.

Council Member Howard arrived for the meeting at 6:14 pm.

Bill Beaty addressed the Council also concerning the TCEQ and asking the Council go forward on filing for the hearing concerning LNG.

Marion Mason addressed the Council in reference to the tourist center that will be built. She stated that the Laguna Atascosa Refuge wants to be involved and a part of the tourist center. They would be able to hold classes and promote the refuge for tourism.

Maria Galasso addressed the Council also urging them to file for the hearing with TCEQ against the LNG.

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

- A. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-10** – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-10 repealing Ordinance Number 2017-04 to update the animal control regulations. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to table Ordinance Number 2018-10, repealing Ordinance Number 2017-04, until the April 2018 meeting, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- B. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-11** – First reading – Consideration of the first reading of Ordinance Number 2018-11 approving negotiations for Texas Gas Service cost of service adjustment (COSA). (City Manager)

No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance Number 2018-11.

- C. **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2018-12** – Consideration and action to approve Resolution Number 2018-12 approving the temporary closure of Highway 100 for the Pedal to Padre event on May 6, 2018. (City Manager)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2018-12 approving the temporary closure of Highway 100 for the Pedal to Padre event on May 6, 2018, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith, voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- D. **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2018 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2018 Regular Council Meeting, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- E. **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** – Consideration and action to allow Laguna Vista Mayor, or her designee, to serve as a scoring member of the County Standing Committee on the Request for Proposals for the South Texas Ecotourism Center and Master Plan of the proposed site. (Mayor Houston)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to allow the Mayor, or her designee to serve as a scoring member of the County Standing Committee on the Request for Proposals for the South Texas Ecotourism Center and Master Plan of the proposed site, Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

Council Member Worrell made an amended motion to allow the Mayor, or a designee appointed by the Town Council to serve as a scoring member of the County Standing Committee on the Request for Proposals for the South Texas Ecotourism Center and Master Plan of the proposed site, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- F. **TCEQ HEARING** - Discussion and potential action for the Town of Laguna Vista to request a contested hearing before TCEQ on the air quality permit submitted by Rio Grande LNG, LLC. (Council Members Howard and Worrell)

Council Member Howard made a motion to authorize the City Manager to request a contested hearing before TCEQ on the air quality permit submitted by Rio Grande LNG, LLC, with a cap of \$10,000 allowed for litigation, if needed, Council Member Smith seconded the motion.

Council Member Worrell made an amended motion to authorize the City Manager to request a contested hearing before TCEQ on the air quality permit submitted by Rio Grande LNG, LLC, with a cap of \$5,000 allowed for litigation, if needed, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- G. **ADVISORY BOARD** – Consideration and action to appoint residents to the following advisory boards: (City Manager)

- i. Ethics Board (1)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to appoint Silke De Gobeo to the Ethics Board for a two year term, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members, Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Amy Shanks to the Ethics Board for a two year term, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

ii. Board of Adjustments (1)
No appointment was made for the Board of Adjustments.

iii. Planning and Zoning Commission (2)
No appointments were made for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

H. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

i. Easter Egg Hunt by the Bay

Rolando Vela stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is set for Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 10 AM. Kids are invited to participate.

ii. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for UTRGV Health Clinic

Rolando Vela informed the Council that he is working with UTRGV Health Clinic to set a date and time for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the clinic. The surrounding communities will be invited.

I. **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 Worrell made a motion to go into executive session at 7:12 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 Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Town Council came out of executive session at 8:39 pm.

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

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to authorize City Attorney to modify the marina lease as discussed in executive session, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Worrell voted “aye” to approve. Council Member Smith abstained from voting. Motion carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Houston made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:40 pm, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary