

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: July 10, 2018
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Frank Davalos, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem
Michael Carter, Councilmember Place 1
Johvonne Howard, Councilmember Place 2
Rolando Gonzalez, Councilmember Place 4
Victor Worrell, Councilmember Place 5
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Ricardo Morado, City Attorney
Steve Reyes, Police Sgt.
Ricky Gonzalez, Police Lt.
Zack Tamayo, Fire Chief
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

ALSO PRESENT: Amy Shanks, Citizen
Harvey Anderson, Citizen
Lisa Kunin, Citizen
Bud Sherman, Citizen
Donna Sherman, Citizen
Silke De Gobeo, Citizen
Jack Blundell, Citizen
Terrie Salinas, LRGVDC
Omar Rodriguez, Republic Services
Maria Galasso, Citizen
Martha McClain, Citizen
Herb Houston, Laguna Madre Water District Director
Jim Hunter, Brownsville Attorney

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 – All present.**
4. **OPEN FORUM:**

Amy Shanks addressed the Council stating that her vehicle and garage were broken into and just purchased \$15,000 worth of security equipment for their house. She was informed that there are certain shifts during the week that only has one police officer on duty. Is it possible to make sure we have more than one officer on duty? Perhaps a neighborhood watch program would help neighbors in the community to be involved.

Lisa Kunin addressed the Council stated that she lives on Mango Court and directly behind her house is the SPI Golf Club property. She stated she came and spoke with Rolando Vela and the property was finally mowed. However, she is told that the SPI Golf Club claims that they do not have to mow it because it is undeveloped property. According to the tall grass ordinance, it does not exclude any property. All property must be kept mowed. This property is a nuisance and needs to be maintained.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action on each of the following items:
 - A. **CURBSIDE RECYCLING** – Presentation by Republic Services on costs associated with providing curbside recycling. (Mayor Houston)

Council Member Carter arrived for meeting at 6:21 pm.

Omar Rodriguez addressed the Council concerning curbside recycling in Laguna Vista. He explained that it is not cost effective because of the cost to process the recycled items, because the closest plant to distribute recycled material is in Corpus Christi. It now takes manpower to sort through the different plastic items and recycle bins that are contaminated with other materials.

He stated that South Padre Island has a voluntary recycle program and they only have 7 accounts. If Laguna Vista decided to do a mandatory recycle program, Republic Services will have to purchase a new truck, which will increase the monthly bill to the consumer.

He had a short video that Rolando Vela will put on the Town's website for citizens to view.

- B. **LRGVDC AGREEMENT** – Consider approval to authorize the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) to provide grant administration services for EDA Public Works grant opportunity. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) to provide grant administration services

for EDA Public Works grant opportunity, with the addition to Section 4 compensation; provision upon EDA awarding the grant, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- C. **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2018 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2018 Regular Meeting, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- D. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-18** – Second Reading – To approve Ordinance Number 2018-18, an ordinance defining noise nuisances, specifying certain acts or failures to act constituting a nuisance, establishing a procedure for the abatement of these nuisances and providing penalties for violation of its provisions. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-18, an ordinance defining noise nuisances, specifying certain acts, or failures to act constituting a nuisance, establishing a procedure for the abatement of these nuisances and providing penalties for violation of its provisions, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- E. **FY 2018-2019 BUDGET** – Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget. (City Manager)

Rolando Vela explained to the Council that the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget distributed has preliminary numbers and does not include the property tax projections. He stated that a workshop would be scheduled for the first week in August, to review the final numbers for the budget.

Council Member Carter asked Rolando Vela to prepare salary increase number by departments for 2%.

No action was taken on the presentation of the 2018-19 Fiscal Year budget.

- F. **EIGHT ACRES** – Discussion and potential action to authorize the City Manager to work with our state legislators to file legislation to acquire the eight acres of vacant property adjacent to Bridgeview Condominiums for a park. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to authorize the City Manager to work with our state legislators to file legislation to acquire the eight acres of vacant property adjacent to Bridgeview Condominiums for a park, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- G. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT** – Consideration and action to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the Town and Cameron County for the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center. (City Manager)

Council Member Howard made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the Town and Cameron County for the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- H. HOME RULE CHARTER AMENDMENT** – Discussion and possible action on the Town’s ability to enforce Article 1 of the Home Rule Charter. (Council Members Worrell and Gonzalez)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to create an ordinance to enforce Article 1 of the Home Rule Charter, if possible, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- I. POLICE SUB-STATION** – Consideration and action to consider a request by the South Padre Island Golf Club Community Association to establish a police sub-station at the guard house of the SPI Golf Club. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to proceed with an agreement between the Town and the SPI Golf Club concerning the police sub-station at the guard house of the SPI Golf Club, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, Mayor Houston and Council Member Davalos voted “nay” to oppose. Council Member Carter abstained from voting. Motion carried.

- J. LMWD PROPOSED RATE INCREASE** – Consideration and action to oppose any rate increases being proposed by the Laguna Madre Water District. (Council Members Carter and Gonzalez)

No action was taken on the LMWD proposed rate increase.

- K. FIRE DEPT. FUNDRAISER** – Consideration and action to authorize staff and committee to initiate a 5K Fundraiser to benefit the Laguna Vista Volunteer Fire Department. (Council Member Davalos and Mayor Houston)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to authorize staff and committee to initiate a 5K Fundraiser to benefit the Laguna Vista Volunteer Fire Department, Mayor Houston seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

L. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

i. Town Hall Meeting with Representative Elect Alex Dominguez
Rolando Vela informed the Council that Representative Elect Alex Dominguez will be holding a community meeting, at city hall on Monday, August 20, 2018 from 6 – 8:00 pm.

ii. UTRGV Health Clinic Ribbon Cutting
Rolando Vela stated that the UTRGV Health Clinic ribbon cutting and grand opening will be held Wednesday, July 25, 2018 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

- 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:

-  Brownsville ETJ Litigation
-  Marina Lease

Council Member Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 7:53 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: Brownsville ETJ Litigation and Marina Lease, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Smith left meeting during executive session.

Town Council came out of executive session at 8:54 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 proposed lease as instructed in executive session, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members

Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Worrell voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Davalos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:55 pm, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Worrell voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary