

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: September 11, 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
Tony David, Police Chief
Zack Tamayo, Fire Chief
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Bettina Tolin, Citizen
Joel Lopez, Laguna Madre Water District
Stephanie Wilson, Citizen
Tony Escamilla, Fire Department
Bill Beaty, Citizen
Silke De Gobeo, Citizen
Melinda Giacoma, Citizen
Rusty Justice, Citizen
Corrine Jeter, Citizen
Hamilton Musser, Cornerstone Church

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 Hamilton Musser.
3. **Roll Call/Excused Absences – All Present**
4. **OPEN FORUM:**

Stephanie Wilson addressed the Council with regard to the grant on the agenda for approval of the playground equipment for Roloff Park. She stated that Brownsville is the closest area for a playground for special needs children. She also wanted to mention that the fire department volunteers participated in the Prom event and did a great job.

Bettina Tolin addressed the Council stating that she is a member of the Port Isabel Rotary Club. Each year they select an organization to award a grant to and the National Rotary matches the amount. This year the Laguna Vista Volunteer Fire Department was selected with a \$12,000 grant awarded to them. She stated that they held a 5K run and raised some funds towards the grant. They currently have \$8,000 for the grant and are hoping that the Town will consider matching the balance of the \$4,000 for the grant. The grant will be used to purchase bunker gear equipment for the firefighters.

Tony Escamilla addressed the Council stated that he has been a volunteer fireman for 10 years and owns property in Laguna Vista. The fire department has 29 certified firefighters, where SPI has 24 and Port Isabel has 15. We have 6 EMT certified volunteers, 1 EMT advanced with SWAT response team. He stated that SPI pays their firefighters \$32,000 per year, Laguna Vista pays \$20 per call for compensation.

Tony Escamilla stated that the Good Samaritan law does not apply to police officers and does not cover them. It should not be up to a police officer to decide when to call the fire department first responders, they are not qualified to make that judgement. He stated that he was reprimanded by the Fire Chief because he supposedly was at Walmart with a woman in the middle of the night. That would be sexual harassment and the woman I was with was my wife. I demand an apology from Chief David and the City Manager for questioning my integrity and spreading that rumor.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action on each of the following items:
 - A. **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2018-24** – To approve Resolution Number 2018-24 to convey to the County of Cameron the 10 acres where the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center will be built. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to discuss Resolution Number 2018-24 concerning the 10 acres to Cameron County in executive session later in the agenda, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

B. ROLOFF PARK – To authorize the City Manager to submit the letter of intent to the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation for playground improvements to Roloff Park. (City Manager)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to authorize the City Manager to submit the letter of intent to the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation for playground improvements to Roloff Park, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

C. LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT – To consider a request from the Laguna Madre Water District to install a repeater on the antenna located at the Public Library. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the request from the Laguna Madre Water District to install a repeater on the antenna located at the Public Library, 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 August 14, 2018 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2018 Regular Town Council Meeting, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

E. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-20 – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-20 adopting the 2018-19 fiscal year budget. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-20 adopting the 2018-19 fiscal year budget, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- F. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-21** – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-21 adopting the 2018 ad valorem tax rate. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-21 adopting the 2018 ad valorem tax rate, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- G. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-22** – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-22 prohibiting trespass upon the marina property by any unauthorized person. (City Attorney)

Council Members Worrell made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2018-22 prohibiting trespass upon the marina property by any unauthorized person, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- H. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018 - 25** – First Reading – To consider the first reading of Ordinance Number 2018-25 in repealing Ordinance Number 2004-39 and adopt new rates and fees for the Town of Laguna Vista. (City Manager)

Council Member Worrell stated that Page 4 of Ordinance Number 2018-25 should be correct to read \$200.00 fee for inspections, not each inspection.

No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance Number 2018-25.

- I. RESOLUTION NUMBER CDC2018 - 02** – To approve Resolution Number CDC-2018-02 adopting the 2018-19 budget of the Community Development Corporation. (City Manager)

Council Member Howard made a motion to approve Resolution Number CDC2018-02 adopting the 2018-19 budget of the Community Development Corporation, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell voted “aye” to approve. Council Member Smith stepped out of the board room at the time of voting. Motion carried.

- J. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2018-26** – To approve Resolution Number 2018-26 to oppose the 10% rate increase proposed by the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. (Mayor Houston)

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2018-26 to oppose the 10% rate increase proposed by the Texas Windstorm Insurance

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

K. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – Consideration and action to approve the Memorandum of Understanding among the City of Brownsville and the Town of Laguna Vista on the use of a portion of the 2018 Metropolitan Grants Program for the creation of a mural. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding among the City of Brownsville and the Town of Laguna Vista on the use of a portion of the 2018 Metropolitan Grants Program for the creation of a mural, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

L. BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTION - To cast a vote for the TML Multistate Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool Board of Trustees – TML Region 12. (City Manager)

Council Member Howard made a motion to cast a vote for Wendi J. Delgado for the TML MultiState Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool Board of Trustees – TML Region 12, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

M. BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTION – To cast a vote for the TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to cast a vote for Rick A. Schroder for Place 11 of the TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election, Council Member Howard 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 cast a vote for Bert Lumbreras for Place 12 of the TML intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election, 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 Davalos made a motion to cast a vote for Byron Black for Place 13 of the TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Worrell

seconded the motion, Council Member Smith abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Mayor Houston made a motion to cast a vote for Bert Echterling for Place 14 of the TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election, Council Member Davalos 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.

N. WORKSHOP – To consider scheduling a workshop to discuss development initiatives. (City Manager)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to schedule a workshop to discuss development initiatives on October 16, 2018 after the regular Town Council Meeting, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

O. 2019-2020 TDA SCORE COMMITTEE – Consideration and action to appoint a committee to score the engineering proposals. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint the City Manager, City Secretary and Council Member Smith to the 2019-2020 TDA Score Committee for engineering proposals, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

P. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

i. Firefighters’ Run

Rolando Vela stated that the Firefighters’ Run will be on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 7 AM. This will be the kick off for fire prevention week.

ii. National Night Out

Rolando Vela stated that the National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 from 6 – 8:00 pm, at Roloff Park. Kids are invited to attend.

Q. 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:

And Section §551.074 authorizes certain deliberations about officers and employees of the governmental body to be held in executive session (a) (1) to deliberate the evaluation and duties of the City Manager Rolando Vela.

Council Member Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 7:22 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 Section §551.074 authorizes certain deliberations about officers and employees of the governmental body to be held in executive session (a) (1) to deliberate the evaluation and duties of the City Manager Rolando Vela, Council Member Worrell 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 8:33 pm.

R. OPEN SESSION – Action, if any on the item discussed in Executive Session.

Council Member Carter made a motion, after executive session to approve Resolution Number 2018-24 to convey the 10 acres where the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center will be built to Cameron County, with the changes given to the City Attorney in executive session, 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 Carter made a motion to present the lease to the LVRA as is, Council Member Worrell 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.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:39 pm, Council Member Davalos 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