

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: February 12, 2019

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  
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Victor Worrell, Councilmember Place 5

ALSO PRESENT: Pete Sepulveda, CCRMA  
Kyra Hudson, Citizen  
Mitzy Flaig, Citizen  
Maribel Valdez, Citizen  
Julio Barrera, Port Isabel  
Flora Badillo  
Laura Stathopoulos, Citizen  
Rusty Justice, Citizen  
Felicia Justice, Citizen  
Bud Sherman, Citizen  
Donna Sherman, Citizen  
Anselmo Gonzalez, Citizen  
Kathy Bardisbanian, Citizen  
Vincent Embry, Port Isabel  
Nick Lopez, Citizen  
Jose Cuevas, Citizen  
Cesia Monroy  
Jessica Rodriguez, Citizen  
Orlando Rodriguez, Citizen  
Stacy Gonzalez  
Julissa Mireles, Citizen

John Smith  
Maria Helmke, Citizen  
Melissa Aguilar, Citizen  
Martha McClain, 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 Elias Lopez and Nikolas Stathopoulos.

**3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** – Council Member Worrell was absent.

**Mayor Houston made a motion to excuse Council Member Worrell from the February 12, 2019 meeting, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve. Motion carried.**

**4. RECOGNITION** – To recognize the members of the Derry Running Club. (City Manager)

**Maribel Valdez recognized kids from the Derry Running Club with Mayor Houston presenting them with a medal.**

**Mayor Houston presented Nikolas Stathopoulos with a proclamation for his Eagle Scout achievement. His project was a seating area at the Laguna Madre Humane Society in Port Isabel.**

**5. OPEN FORUM:** None

**6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:** All matters listed under this item are considered to be routine by the Council and will be enacted for approval by one motion. There will not be a separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

**a) MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2019 Town Council Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

**b) MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2019 Town Council Audit Committee Meeting. (City Secretary)

- c) **RACIAL PROFILE REPORT** – Consideration and action to accept the Laguna Vista Police Department 2018 Racial Profile Report. (Police Chief)

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows; (a) approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2019 Town Council Regular Meeting, (b) approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2019 Town Council Audit Committee Meeting, (c) approval of the 2018 Racial Profile Report for the Laguna Vista Police Department, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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

- a) **SECOND ACCESS PROJECT** – Update by CCRMA Executive Director Pete Sepulveda on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Access Project. (City Manager)

**Pete Sepulveda informed the Council that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Access Project is still on hold, since 2017. He stated they are waiting to see what happens when the legislative session ends in May 2019. Because we are not part of an MPO we cannot tap into any federal funding. There is a consideration to merge the 3 MPOs in the valley and then an amendment can be submitted for the project.**

- b) **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-02** – To approve Resolution Number 2019-02 requesting the members of the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session of the State of Texas to support legislation that provides stewardship, health and well-being, connectivity for local and state parks. (City Manager)

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-02 requesting the members of the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session of the State of Texas to support legislation that provides stewardship, health and well-being, connectivity for local and state parks, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- c) **TAX RESALE** – Consideration and action to approve the bid(s) for the property described by the legal description as Lot 7, Block 492, Original Townsite of the Town of Laguna Vista, struck off to Cameron County, for itself and other taxing jurisdictions from a tax resale conducted on November 6, 2018. (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the bid for the property described by the legal description as Lot 7, Block 492, Original townsite of the Town of Laguna Vista, struck off to Cameron County, for itself and other**

**taxing jurisdictions from a tax resale conducted on November 6, 2018, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- d) **701 SANTA ISABEL BLVD 2-STORY BUILDING** – Discussion on leasing and/or purchasing the 2-story building, located at 701 Santa Isabel Blvd, for a new City Hall. (City Manager)

**Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee of 4 to 5 people to review options for the City Hall building, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston and Council Member Davalos voted “aye” to approve. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez and Smith voted “nay” to approve, motion failed.**

**Council Member Carter made a motion to authorize the City Manager to start negotiations with Mr. Harbin about the lease and or purchase of the building at 701 Santa Isabel Blvd, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston voted “nay” to approve motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- e) **ADA ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT** – Consideration and action to authorize the City Manager to submit a request to the CDC Board to consider funding the accessibility improvements to the Marina. (City Manager)

**Council Member Carter made a motion to authorize the City Manager to submit a request to the CDC Board to consider funding the accessibility improvements to the Marina, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston voted “nay” to approve motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos and Gonzalez voted “aye” to approve. Council Member Smith abstained from voting. Motion carried.**

- f) **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-03** – First Reading – To consider Ordinance Number 2019-03 repealing Ordinance Number 2007-31 and regulating the collection and disposal of garbage, yard trash and other waste within the limits of the Town of Laguna Vista, providing requirements for customers and requiring containers for the disposal of garbage, requiring disposal of waste on a regular basis by the franchise collection agency, and providing a penalty for violation of the Ordinance. (City Manager)

**There was a short discussion concerning the fine amount, and time frame given to the property owner to move brush when in violation. Also, the time frame that Republic Services picks up the brush and bulk should be more consistent.**

**No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance Number 2019-03 repealing Ordinance Number 2007-31.**

- g) **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-04** – First Reading – To consider Ordinance Number 2019-04 repealing Ordinance Number 2015-19 and establishing new nuisance abatement procedures for property maintenance; repealing any ordinances in conflict with this ordinance and providing penalties for violation of its provisions. (City Manager)

**No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance Number 2019-04 repealing Ordinance Number 2015-19.**

- h) **OVERLAY DISTRICT** – Consideration and action to authorize the City Manager to prepare an overlay district ordinance to require certain improvements to businesses opening in Laguna Vista. (Council Members Smith and Howard)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to authorize the City Manager to prepare an overlay district ordinance to require certain improvements to businesses opening in Laguna Vista, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- i) **TRI CITY MEETING** – Consideration and action to authorize the City Manager to contact the cities of Port Isabel and South Padre Island about scheduling a Tri-City Meeting. (City Manager)

**Mayor Houston made a motion to authorize the City Manager to contact the cities of Port Isabel and South Padre Island about scheduling a semi-annual Tri-City Meeting, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- j) **ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS** – Consideration and action to appoint a resident to the following advisory board:

- i. CDC Board (1)

**Council Member Howard made a motion to appoint Christopher Romero to the CDC Board, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- k) **FIREWORK DISPLAY CDC FUNDING** – Consideration and action to consider the recommendation of the CDC Board to fund the firework display in the amount of \$6,200. (City Manager)

**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the recommendation of the CDC Board to fund the firework display in the amount of \$6,200, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- l) **CDC BYLAWS** – Consideration and action to consider the recommendation of the CDC Board to amend the CDC bylaws. (City Manager)

**Mayor Houston made a motion to reject the recommendation from the CDC Board to amend the CDC bylaws concerning the schedule of CDC meetings, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- m) **MARCH 2019 COUNCIL MEETING** – Consideration and action to reschedule the March 2019 Town Council meeting. (Mayor Houston)

**Council Member Howard made a motion to reschedule the March 2019 Town Council Meeting to Tuesday, March 5, 2019, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- n) **CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- i. The Second Annual “Du It By the Bay” Duathlon

**Rolando Vela informed the Council that the Second Annual Du It By the Bay was a great success. We didn’t have the numbers from last year, but it was a good turnout.**

- ii. Laguna Vista Live – Music By The Bay

**Rolando Vela stated that the Music By the Bay is set for Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 6:00 – 10:00 pm. We will have vendors available.**

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:53 pm, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary