

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: September 9, 2014

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter, Mayor Pro-Tem
Wanda Reyes-Rice – Councilmember Place 2
Frank Davalos, Jr., - Councilmember Place 3
Leti Keplinger, Councilmember Place 4
Gary Meschi, Councilmember Place 5
Richard Hinojosa, Councilmember Place 6

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: David Alex, CCRMA
Pete Sepulveda, CCRMA
Norris Fletcher, Citizen
Carole Benham, Citizen
Arden Curts, Citizen
Dianna Harvill, Citizen
Richard Lane, Citizen
Roxanne Guenzel, Citizen
Robin Davis, Citizen
Herb Houston, Citizen
Gabriella Bocanergra, Citizen
Kathleen Cullison, Citizen
Marc Davis, 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 Council Member Rice.

3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – All members present.

4. OPEN FORUM:

Dianne Harvill addressed the Council with regard to the agenda item for the CDC funding for the SPI Guide. She encouraged the Council to approve the funding for the town's ad in the SPI Guide. Any new business looking into Laguna Vista will see this ad and it will look favorably on the community.

Roxanne Guenzel addressed the Council with regard to the CDC funding for the SPI Guide. Both she and Dianne Harvill are employed with the SPI Chamber of Commerce and both reside in Laguna Vista. The cost of \$4,117 for 75,000 copies is approximately 5 1/2 cents per ad. People that see the ad may become interested in Laguna Vista and move here. She asked that the Council honor the approval of the funding from the CDC.

Gabriella Bocanegra addressed the Council with regard to the fire department. She asked that the Council consider having the consultant that is working on the police department organization also review the fire department. She stated that she wanted a fire chief that has EMS and fire experience, which Chief McGinnis did not. The lights at the fire station have not worked in many months and it is pitch dark there at night. We need garage door openers installed to close the door when we leave for a call. The grass has not been mowed and is very high. With the new bridge coming in on Holly Road, I think that we need a new fire station built to house EMS and fire fighters. The fire station is in need of repairs.

5. 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 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 August 12, 2014 Regular Meeting.

b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2014 Special Meeting.

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows; (a) approval of the minutes for the Town Council regular meeting on August 12 2014, (b) approval of the minutes for the Town Council special meeting on August 18, 2014, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

- A. SECOND ACCESS PROJECT** – Presentation by CCRMA Executive Director Pete Sepulveda on the 2nd Access Project. (City Manager)

David Alex, Chairman from the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority introduced Pete Sepulveda the Executive Director for the CCRMA.

Pete Sepulveda addressed the Council, reviewing the infrastructure projects underway throughout the county. He explained that the growth population within the next 10 years is expected to reach 7 million in the valley. The I-69 Interstate in Olmito should be complete with the next 24 months.

- B. PUBLIC HEARING** – A public hearing on the proposed 2014-15 fiscal year budget. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston opened the public hearing on the proposed 2014-15 fiscal year budget.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Mayor Houston closed the public hearing.

- C. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2014-29** – A resolution recognizing former Council Member Rita Garcia for her years of service. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2014-29 recognizing former Council Member Rita Garcia, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- D. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-23** – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-23 adopting the 2013-14 Fiscal Year budget amendment. (City Manager)

Kathleen Cullison addressed the Council, explaining that her and her service dog were

attacked by a pit bull in March 2014. Her dog had to have surgery that cost approximately \$5,000. The City of Port Isabel is asking for a \$45,000 contract for animal control and she stated that she did not understand why the Town made an offer of \$1,000 a month. We desperately need animal control in Town. How did you all find \$85,000 to pay a health exercise instructor? This is ridiculous.

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-23 adopting the 2013-14 fiscal year budget amendment, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

E. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-24 – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-24 repealing Ordinance Number 03-70 and establishing the Library Board to be an advisory board. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-24 repealing Ordinance Number 03-70 and establishing the Library board to be an advisory board, Council Member Hinojosa seconded the motion. Council Member Rice opposed motion, all others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

F. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-26 – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-26 adopting the 2014-15 Fiscal Year Budget. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-26 adopting the 2014-15 fiscal year budget, along with reserving \$300,000 from the fund balance to complete the street improvements on Palm Blvd and Mesquite Drive, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

G. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-25 – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-25 adopting the 2014 ad valorem property tax rate. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2014-25 adopting the 2014 ad valorem property tax rate of \$.337290, Council Member Hinojosa seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

H. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-30 – First Reading – To consider the first reading of Ordinance Number 2014-30 repealing Ordinance 2014-18 and 2014-19 with regard to Parks rules and regulations. (City Manager)

Council Member Meschi asked that a use of profanity be added to Section 6 – Prohibited Acts.

No action was taken on the first reading.

- I. C.D.C. FUNDING** – To approve the Community Development Corporation funding for the 2015 SPI Guide, for \$4,117.00. (City Manager)
Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the Community Development Corporation funding for the 2015 SPI Guide, for \$4,117. Motion died for lack of a second.
- J. NOVEMBER MEETING** - To reschedule the November Town Council Meeting. (City Manager)
Council Member Keplinger made a motion to reschedule the regular November 2014 Council meeting from November 11, 2014 to Monday, November 3, 2014 at 6 pm, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.
- K. TXCDBG CONTRACT 712181** – To award the contract in the amount of \$28,095.50 to G&T Paving, Inc. for street improvements to Hallam Street. (City Manager)
Council Member Davalos made a motion to award the TXCDBG Project 712181 contract to G&T Paving for \$28,095.50 for street improvements to Hallam Street, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.
- L. STREET IMPROVEMENTS** – To authorize the City Manager to initiate the advertising process to secure sealed bids for the street improvements to Palm Blvd. and Mesquite Drive. (City Manager)
Mayor Houston made a motion to authorize the City Manager to initiate the advertising process to secure sealed bids for the street improvements to Palm Blvd. and Mesquite Drive, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.
- M. PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL** – To adopt the revised personnel policy manual for the Town of Laguna Vista employees. (City Manager)
Council Member Carter made a motion to adopt the revised personnel policy manual for the Town employees, Mayor Houston seconded the motion. Council Members Hinojosa and Meschi abstained from voting. All others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.
- N. IT AGREEMENT** – To approve the agreement with Net Link, Inc. for IT services. (City Manager)
Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to approve the agreement with

Net Link, Inc. for the IT services for the 2014-15 fiscal year, for \$12,600, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

O. TRAVEL POLICY – To adopt a travel policy for the members of the Town Council. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to adopt the travel policy for the members of the Town Council, and incorporate this policy into the governance policy, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve

P. C.D.C. PRESIDENT – To appoint the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation President for a one-year term, pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation Bylaws. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint John Patton as President for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation for a one-year term, pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the CDC bylaws, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Q. C.D.C. VICE-PRESIDENT – To appoint the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation Vice-President for a one-year term, pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation Bylaws. (City Manager)

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Steve Muschenheim as Vice-President for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation for a one-year term, pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the CDC bylaws, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

R. ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS – To appoint members to the following advisory boards: (Mayor Houston)

1) Board of Adjustments (3 vacancies)

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Humberto Hinojosa to the Board of Adjustment Board for a two-year term, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

2) Parks & Recreation Board (1 vacancy)

Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint Kent Mallquist to the Parks & Recreation Board for a two-year term, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Member Davalos opposed motion. All others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

3) Library Board (4 vacancies, if ordinance is adopted)

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Anna Backues to the Library Board for a one-year term, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to appoint Terri Galloway to the Library Board for a two-year term, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Beverly Matoush to the Library Board for a one-year term, Council Member Hinojosa seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint Jeanette Weil to the Library Board for a two-year term, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Lala Hinojosa to the Library Board for a one-year term, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

S. 2011 CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION – Update on the 2011 Certificates of Obligation. (City Manager)

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the fire hydrant on Mesquite Drive will be installed within the next 2 weeks. It was discovered that the water line was only 4 inches, and a 6 inch water line is needed for a hydrant. The Laguna Madre Water District has agreed to replace the 4 inch line to a 6 inch line and will allow the Town to tap into that line for the hydrant. We are still working on obtaining an easement for the hydrant on Palm Blvd.

Currently the Certificates of Obligation have a balance of \$55,000.

T. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

1) Neighborhood Meetings

Rolando Vela informed the Council that three neighborhood meetings have been held. The advantage of holding these community meetings is to inform citizens of projects that the Town is doing. Also, to inform them that there are limitations on how much the Town can complete.

Arden Curts will be hosting a meeting on September 10, 2014 in the Lakewood area.

2) Upcoming Community Events

Rolando Vela announced the following community events:

- 📅 Tuesday, October 7, 2014 – National Night Out Event will be in Roloff Park from 6 – 9:00 pm.**
- 📅 Saturday, November 8, 2014 – Music by the Bay will be from 5 – 9:00 pm.**
- 📅 Tuesday, November 11, 2014 – Veterans Ceremony at 5:30 pm**
- 📅 Friday, November 28, 2014 – Kick off of Christmas Home Decorating Contest.**
- 📅 Monday, December 1, 2014 – Tree lighting Ceremony**

3) Republic Services – change of collection schedule/audit

Rolando Vela that Republic Services has change the waste collection days from Monday and Thursday to Tuesday and Friday, effective September 9, 2014.

- U. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - There will be an Executive Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney to seek advice in legal matters.

📅 Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction potential litigation

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to go into executive session at 8:18 pm, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney to seek advice in legal matters concerning the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction potential litigation, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council came out of executive session at 9:02 pm.

- V. **OPEN SESSION** - Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.

Council Member Carter made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to proceed as directed in executive session, with regard to the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction potential litigation, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:05 pm, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary