

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: August 11, 2015

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter – Councilmember Place 1
Wanda Reyes-Rice – Mayor Pro-Tem
Frank Davalos, Jr., - Councilmember Place 3
Leti Keplinger, Councilmember Place 4
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Meschi, Councilmember Place 5

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Hushen, Cameron County Emergency Mgmt.
Angela Johnson, Citizen
Virginia Hebet, Citizen
Chris De Gobeo, Citizen
Silke De Gobeo, Citizen
Robert Rodriguez, Citizen
Richard Lane, Citizen
Martha McClain, Citizen
James Hunter, Rancho Viejo
Victor Warrell, 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 Keplinger.
3. **Roll Call/Excused Absences** – Council Member Meshi was absent and was excused at the July 14, 2015 meeting, for the August and September meetings.
4. **OPEN FORUM:**

Chris De Gobeo addressed the Council regarding former Mayor Hap Fairhart. He stated that Hap Fairhart was mayor 20 years ago, and during his tenure the town received grants for a fire station, and library. The SPI Golf Club was also established while he was in office. He explained that Mr. Fairhart’s health is not well and won’t be with us much longer. He suggested having something in the city named after Hap Fairhart to show our appreciation.

Tom Hushen introduced himself, he is the new Cameron County Emergency Management Coordinator. He will be holding classes for disaster emergency management and a class for elected officials covering hurricane preparedness.

5. **RECOGNITION** – Acceptance and recognition of donation of American Flags by Chris de Gobeo to be flown at the Veterans Memorial Park. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston presented Chris De Gobeo with a certificate of appreciation for his donation of 5 flags for Veterans Memorial Park.

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 July 14, 2015 Regular Meeting.
- b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2015 Workshop Meeting.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows; (a) approval of the minutes for the Town Council meeting on July 14, 2015; (b) approval of the minutes for the Town Council workshop meeting on August 4, 2015, Council Member Keplinger 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. SERVICE AGREEMENT – To approve the service agreement between the Town of Laguna Vista and the Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Madre for \$5,000 funding.
(City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the service agreement between the Town of Laguna Vista and the Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Madre for \$5,000 funding, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. Council Member Davalos abstained. All others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

B. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2015-16 – First Reading – To consider the first reading of Ordinance Number 2015-16 – adopting the 2015-16 Fiscal Year budget.
(City Manager)

Rolando Vela explained that the fund balance presented at the workshop was \$189,000, where it actually is \$104,104. Therefore, cuts of approximately \$60,000 were made to balance the budget. All officers are receiving a \$5,880 increase and other regular employees will receive a 5% increase, with the exception of the City Manager, City Secretary and Police Chief.

Council Member Carter asked what some of the line items were cut. Rolando Vela stated that promotional in parks and administration, office supplies in all departments, some other miscellaneous accounts.

Council Member Carter recommended that a resolution be prepared for the Beach Blvd street improvements, the Brownsville ETJ litigation and the Polaris come out of the reserve account.

C. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2015-17 – First Reading – To consider the first reading of Ordinance Number 2015-17 – adopting the 2015 ad valorem property tax rate.
(City Manager)

Rolando Vela stated that the ad valorem property tax rate will remain the same as 2014, which is \$ 0.337290. M&O will be \$0.305113 and I&S will be \$0.032177.

D. HANDS FREE ORDINANCE – To authorize the City Manager to prepare a hands free ordinance. (Council Members Davalos and Smith)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to authorize the City Manager to prepare a hands free ordinance, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter and Rice opposed motion. Motion tied and did not carry.

E. PHASE II TRAIL PARK IMPROVEMENTS – To take action to return the \$17,700.00 budgeted for Phase II Trail Park Improvements to the Community Development Corporation. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to return the \$17,700.00, to the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation (CDC), budgeted for the Phase II Trail Park Improvements, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

F. ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS – To make appointments to the following advisory boards: (City Manager)

i. Board of Ethics (2)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Nancy Franz, for a two year term, to the Board of Ethics Board, Mayor Houston seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

ii. Board of Adjustments (5)

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to appoint Arden Curts, for a two year term, to the Board of Adjustments Board, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Terry Volz, for a two year term, to the Board of Adjustments Board, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint John Sipp, for a two year term, to the Board of Adjustments Board, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

iii. Community Development Corporation (2)

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Richard Hinojosa for a two year term, to the Community Development Corporation (CDC), Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Steve Muschenheim, for a two year term, to the Community Development Corporation (CDC), Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

iv. Planning and Zoning Commission (2)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Chad Garrett, for a two year term, to the Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Marc Davis, for a two year term, to the Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

v. Library Board (1)

Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint David Christopher, for a two year term, to the Library Board, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the fund balance on the Certificates of Obligation account is \$47,145. The signs at Roloff Park have been installed.

Mayor stated that the signs are posted on the Restroom wall, however should be somewhere in the pavilion area. Rolando Vela stated he would order smaller signs to fit on the columns at the basketball court.

H. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

i. “Movie Night” By the Bay

Rolando Vela stated that we will start “Movie Night” sometime this fall, probably in October. People will be able to bring their lawn chairs or blankets to watch the movie.

ii. Ebony Lane Street Improvements

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the Ebony Lane street improvements begin last week. The project should be complete within 4 months, weather permitting.

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 Town Attorney regarding ETJ Litigation with Brownsville.



Council Member Keplinger made a motion to go into executive session at 7:04 pm, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, pursuant to Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney regarding ETJ Litigation with Brownsville, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council came out of executive session at 7:26 pm.

J. OPEN SESSION – Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken as a result of executive session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:27 pm, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary