

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

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor  
Ken Irwin, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Rita Garcia, Alderwoman  
Steve Muschenheim, Alderman  
William Schnier, Alderman  
Leti Keplinger, Alderwoman  
  
Janice Cassidy, Town Attorney  
Rolando Vela, City Manager  
Terri Galloway, Interim Fire Chief  
Robert McGinnis, Police Chief  
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Carole Benham, Citizen  
Herb Houston, Citizen  
Stan Backues, Citizen  
Donna Sherman, Citizen  
Bud Sherman, Citizen  
Susanna Schelbert, Citizen  
Fernando Lopez, Citizen  
Barbara Everson, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Roll Call – All present.

3. Open Forum:

Susanna Schelbert addressed the Board concerning Home Rule Charter Committee Member John Thobe. She stated that she did not like how John was being treated. He has been very valuable to the committee and has done lots of work. Nobody listens to him in the committee, but he does have valuable information. I think we should just let a dead dog lay. Those emails are two years ago.

Stan Backues addressed the Board concerning John Thobe sending him threatening emails. He read an email that John Thobe sent to him, telling him he was not going to resign and "what was he going to do about it?" He stated that Mr. Thobe has repeatedly sent emails to committee members without going through the Chairman and only sending them to certain Charter members. He distributed copies of a letter from Vice-Chairman Rudy Garcia to the Board.

4. NEW BUSINESS – To discuss the resignation letter from Mary Hartman, Home Rule Charter Committee Chair, and any possible action to resolve her concerns including but not limited to removing or replacing Charter Committee Members

Alderswoman Keplinger stated that special meeting was called to address the resignation of Home Rule Charter Committee Chairman Mary Hartman and any unprofessional conduct occurring in the Charter Committee. She is concerned about ramifications by the Department of Justice. She hopes that all the work that the committee has done is not degenerated because of conduct by committee members. She stated that the Charter Committee members should act in a responsible manner and not send unprofessional emails to other members. This gets nothing accomplished and is unnecessary, unethical and hurts morale.

Alderman Irwin stated that the Charter Committee must sell the charter to the citizens to get it approved.

Alderman Muschenheim stated that if the Chairman wants to resign, we should let her resign.

Carole Benham asked how the citizens will know what's in the charter. Jan Cassidy stated that there will be public hearings and the final charter will be mailed out to every registered voter.

Rolando Vela stated that it will be the Charter Committee that will have to sell the charter and promoted it to the citizens.

Herb Houston directed comments to Alderman Irwin and Alderswoman Garcia. Mayor repeatedly asked him to refrain. Alderman Irwin asked that Herb Houston be removed from the board room. Chief McGinnis approached Herb Houston concerning the disruption.

5. ADJOURNMENT

**Alderman Muschenheim made a motion to adjourn meeting at 5:46 p.m., second by Alderman Schnier. All voted “aye” to adjourn, motion carried.**

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary