

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: April 9, 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
Victor Worrell, Councilmember Place 5
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO, PRESENT: Bill Beaty, Citizen
Marcela Hancock, Port Isabel
Wanda Reyes, Citizen
Silke De Gobeo, Citizen
Sylvia Garza-Perez, Cameron County Clerk
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 Pastor Stone from Anchor of Life Church. Mayor Houston asked for a moment of silence for DPS Trooper Moises Sanchez that is in the hospital.
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** – Council Member Carter arrived late for meeting.

4. OPEN FORUM:

Bill Beaty addressed the Council concerning the Master Parks Plan Survey. He felt that the walking trail should be mentioned about the many birders that stop there. He stated that there is an E-Bird website where the walking trail is listed as having 240 species of birds spotted. There are birders that come from all over the country to our walking trail.

5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: All matters listed under this item are 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 of the March 5, 2019 Special Meeting. (City Secretary)

b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019 Special Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows; (a) approval of the minutes for the March 5, 2019 Special Meeting and (b) approval of the minutes for the March 14, 2019 Special Meeting, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

A. **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-10** – Consideration and action to approve Resolution Number 2019-10 promoting April 2019 as National Autism Awareness month. (Mayor Houston)

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-10 promoting April 2019 as National Autism Awareness month, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

B. **2020 CENSUS** – Presentation by County Clerk Sylvia Garza-Perez on the 2020 Census. (City Manager)

Sylvia Garza-Perez addressed the Council informing them that the 2020 Census begins March 23, 2020 and ends July 24, 2020. Everyone will receive a mailout and then must go online to complete the census

information. Telephone lines will be available for people that are not able to go online.

Sylvia Garza-Perez stated that it is imperative that every citizen complete the census information. Every house that does not get counted can cost approximately \$95,000 of funds lost.

Sylvia Garza-Perez asked for any assistance in promoting the 2020 census to the citizens of Laguna Vista.

- C. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-11** – Consideration and action to approve Resolution Number 2019-11 a Joint Resolution of the Commissioners Court of Cameron County, Texas and of the Town Council of Laguna Vista, Texas authorizing and approving the reservation by the Town of Laguna Vista of a Utility Easement for infrastructure improvements on the 10 acres donated by the Town for the South Texas Eco Tourism Center. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-11 a Joint Resolution of the Commissioners Court of Cameron County, Texas and of the Town Council of Laguna Vista, Texas authorizing and approving the reservation by the Town of Laguna Vista of a Utility Easement for infrastructure improvements on the 10 acres donated by the Town for the South Texas Eco Tourism Center, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- D. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-04** – Second Reading – To approve the second reading of 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)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2019-04 repealing Ordinance Number 2015-09 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, with a correction to Section 8(d) changing “may” to “shall,” Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- E. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-12** – Consideration and action to approve Resolution Number 2019-12 designating April 2019 as Fair Housing Month. (City Manager)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-12 designating April 2019 as Fair Housing Month, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- F. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-13** – Consideration and action to approve Resolution Number 2019-13 authorizing the Police Chief to submit grant application Number 3186904 to the Texas Governor’s Office for the solicitation of Operation Stone Garden 2019-20. (Police Chief)

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-13 authorizing the Police Chief to submit grant application Number 3186904 to the Texas Governor’s Office for the solicitation of Operation Stone Garden 2019-20, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- G. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-14** – Consideration and action to approve Resolution Number 2019-14 opposing HB 347 and any Senate companions to this legislation. (City Manager)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-14 opposing HB 347 and any Senate companions to this legislation, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- H. TDA GRANT APPLICATION** – Discussion on the Staff’s plan to submit a Texas Community Development Block Grant application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the purchase of a fire rescue truck or a fire truck. (Fire Chief)

No action was taken concerning the TDA Grant application for the purchase of a fire rescue truck or a fire truck.

- I. CDC BOARD EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS** – Consideration and action to consider appointing two (2) ex-officio members to the Community Development Corporation Board from amongst the Town Council. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Council Member Worrell as ex-officio member to the Community Development Corporation Board, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Council Member Howard as ex-officio member to the Community Development Corporation Board, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- J. LAGUNA MADRE YOUTH CENTER** – Consideration and action to consider the service agreement between the Town of Laguna Vista and the Laguna Madre Youth Center for possible funding. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos recused himself from the meeting during the agenda item Laguna Madre Youth Center.

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the service agreement between the Town of Laguna Vista and the Laguna Madre Youth Center for possible funding of \$5,000, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve. Council Member Davalos abstained from voting, motion carried.

- K. ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS** – Consideration and action to appoint residents to the following advisory boards: (City Manager)

- i. CDC Board (2)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Terri Galloway to the Community Development Corporation (CDC), Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Cristin Howard to the Community Development Corporation (CDC), Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- ii. Parks Board (5)

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Kirstin Sipple to the Parks Board, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Karen Watt to the Parks Board, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Howard made a motion to appoint Irene Hernandez to the Parks Board, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Stephanie Wilson to the Parks Board, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Howard made a motion to appoint Duvie Alcozer to the Parks Board, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

iii. Library Board (4)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Maria Hinojosa to the Library Board, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Anna Backues to the Library Board, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

iv. Ad Hoc Charter Committee (1) - Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos’ appointment

Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Therese Eaton to the Ad Hoc Charter Committee, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- L. **ANNEXATION** – Discussion and possible action on whether the Town Council wishes to initiate annexation proceedings. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter arrived for meeting at 6:55 pm.

Council Member Smith made a motion to instruct the City Manager to initiate the Parcel I & II annexation procedures, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- M. REPLATTING** – Consideration and action to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to replat Lots 6 and 7, Block 417 of the Original Townsite. (City Manager)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to replat Lots 6 and 7, Block 417 of the Original Townsite, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- N. REPLATTING** – Consideration and action to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to replat Lots 3 and 6, Block 554 of the Original Townsite. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to replat Lots 3 and 6, Block 554 of the Original Townsite, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- O. ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS** – Consideration and action to resubmit the accessibility improvement plan to the CDC Board. (Council Member Carter and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to resubmit the accessibility improvement plan to the CDC Board, Council Member Carter 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.

- P. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** – Consideration and possible action to hold a workshop to discuss amending or revising the Comprehensive Plan. (Council Member Howard and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

Council Member Howard made a motion to hold a workshop sometime in June 2019 to discuss amending or revising the Comprehensive Plan, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- Q. TOWN SIGNAGE** – Consideration and approval to authorize the City Manager to submit formal request to the CDC for funding of the signage. (Council Member Howard and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

Council Member Smith made a motion to table the Town Signage funding until the overlay ordinance is complete, Council Member Howard seconded

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

- R. ACTING TOWN MANAGER** – When the City Manager is out of the office, an acting Town Manager needs to be formally appointed (3.04). (Council Member Howard and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

No action was taken on the acting Town Manager agenda item.

- S. PERSONNEL POLICIES** – Consideration and action to revise the personnel policies; and approve. (Council Member Howard and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

Council Member Carter made a motion to instruct Staff to revise the personnel policies and return to the Town Council for approval, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- T. ART IN THE PARK** – Consideration and action to establish “Art in the Park” event once a month during the Summer to promote local artists. (Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos and Council Member Howard)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to instruct the Parks Board to schedule Art in the Park events between June – August 2019, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Member Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- U. JOINT WORKSHOP WITH CDC BOARD** – To discuss priority projects between CDC and Town Council. (Council Member Howard and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

Council Member Carter made a motion to schedule a Joint Workshop with the CDC Board on May 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm, after the Regular Town Council meeting, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- V. LEGAL SERVICES** – Consideration and possible action to go out for proposals for City Attorney. (Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos and Council Member Howard)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to instruct the City Manager to go out for proposals of qualifications for City Attorney, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, and Worrell voted “aye” to approve motion. Mayor Houston and Council Member Smith voted “nay,” motion carried.

W. CHARTER AD-HOC COMMITTEE – To review and recommend amendments:
(Council Member Howard and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

- i. 4.01 (b)
- ii. 6.03
- iii. Others recommended

Council Member Smith made a motion to instruct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance for the amendment to the Home Rule Charter, Sections 6.03 – changing the 51% and 2.06 C (1) add wording with the provision to provide appointment for term of less than 12 months, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

X. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- i. Laguna Vista Live: Music by the Bay

Rolando Vela stated that the Music by the Bay on Saturday was a great success. The band did a great job, everyone enjoyed the music.

- ii. Easter Egg Hunt by the Bay

Rolando Vela mentioned that the Easter Egg Hunt is set for Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Y. 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 §551.074 to deliberate the evaluation of a Public Officer or Employee:
(Council Member Howard and Mayor Pro-Tem Davalos)

 **City Manager – Rolando Vela**

Council Member Davalos made a motion to go into executive session at 8:38 pm, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, pursuant to Section §551.074 to deliberate the evaluation of a Public Office or Employee – City Manager Rolando Vela, Council Member Smith 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 9:46 pm.

Z. 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 Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:47 pm, Council Member Gonzalez 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