

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

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL/WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN
COUNCIL

DATE: August 27, 2019
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter, Councilmember Place 1
Johvonne Howard, Councilmember Place 2
Frank Davalos, Jr., Councilmember Place 3
Rolando Gonzalez, Councilmember Place 4
Victor Worrell, Mayor Pro-Tem
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Alexia Garza, Assistant to the City Manager
Tony David, Police Chief
Robert Drapela, Fire Chief
Willie Martinez, Public Works Supervisor
Pura Mireles, Library Director
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Margie Jacobs, Laguna Madre Youth Center

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 Smith.
3. **Roll Call/Excused Absences** – All Present
4. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action on each of the following items:

a) 2019-20 BUDGET – Discussion of the 2019-20 fiscal year budget. (City Manager)

Rolando Vela reviewed the salary increases with 1, 3 and 5% amounts. Currently the proposed budget is revenues over by \$152,982 to expenditures.

Chief David addressed the Council explaining the need for an additional officer. He stated that normally during the late shift or graveyard shift there is only one officer on duty. If the officer has an arrest this ties him up for 1-2 hours, and that means that no one is patrolling the town.

Chief David stated that when he began working here, they had 49 burglaries on the books for that year. Our crime rate has drastically dropped, to 1-2 burglaries per year.

The officers handle animal control, first responders, traffic, warrants, code enforcement and prepare cases for the District Attorney's Office.

The officers work 10-hour shifts, and that is covered with Border Star and Stonegarden Grants. If we did not have those grants our overtime amount would double.

Chief Drapela addressed the Council stating that there are 13 hydrants that need repairs. The fire truck needs repairs that will cost an estimate of \$6,000. There is also the fire station repairs that need to be completed.

Pura Mireles stated that the library roof needs repairs because the roof leaks when it rains.

Council Member Davalos asked how much the Friends of the Library had in funds? Pura Mireles stated that they have about \$3,000. The Library Money Market account has about \$3,700.

Willie Martinez stated that they were using the green truck from the police department, however, they have spent \$10,000 in repairs. They are now using the black truck that also belongs to the police department. The black truck has problems with the transmission and the roof leaks every time it rains.

Rolando Vela stated that on administration, we want to renovate the front office. We want to make the entrance a friendlier area for citizens.

Margie Jacobs addressed the Council concerning the Laguna Madre Youth Center (LMYC). There is a gentleman from Port Isabel that has offered a grant to the LMYC for \$30,000, with the condition that the City of PI, City of SPI and Town of Laguna Vista also contribute. Margie Jacobs stated that they are asking each city to contribute \$10,000 each.

Council Member Smith asked to review certain line items from each department.

It was the consensus of the Council that \$16,00 for the Library roof and paint repairs, \$15,000 for the Fire Station repairs, and the \$5,000 for the City Hall renovations be submitted to the CDC for funding.

After reviewing the line items from each department, the following changes were made.

Administration

Change 60190 (Bldg. Maint)	\$ 0.0
Change 60270 (Water Services)	\$5,000
Change 60340 (Bldg. Insurance)	\$25,000
Change 60360 (Travel)	\$7,000
Change 6030 (Training & Ed)	\$1,000
Change 60440 (Legal Services)	\$40,000
Change 60450 (Advertisements)	\$6,000

Police Dept.

Change 60260 (Electric Services)	\$1,700
Change 60300 (Communications)	\$10,500

Fire Dept.

Change 60200 (Vehicle Maint.)	\$15,000
Change 60270 (Water Services)	\$1,500

EMS – No Change

Library Dept.

Change 60130 (Food & Ice)	\$500
Change 60135 (Promotional)	\$1,000
Change 60160 (Other Supplies)	\$500
Change 60190 (Bldg. Maint.)	\$2,000
Change 60300 (Communications)	\$4,650

Parks Dept.

Change 60110 (Botanical Supplies)	\$0.0
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Building Dept. – No Change

Municipal Court - No Change

Public Works Dept.

Change 60190 (Bldg. Maint.)	\$3,000
Change 60240 (Street Signs)	\$500

Animal Control – No Change

- b) 2019 TAX RATE** – Discussion, consideration and action to set the 2019 ad valorem tax rate and set public hearing date and time. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to set the proposed 2019 tax rate at \$0.354124, with \$0.312574 for M&O and \$0.032550 for I&S, and that the two public hearings be set for Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM, and Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Davalos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:49 PM, Council Member Smith 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