

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: August 13, 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
Alan Ozuna, City Attorney
Tony David, Police Chief
Robert Drapela, Fire Chief
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

ALSO PRESENT: Carole Benham, Citizen
Jaime Garza, TCEQ
Julie Eldridge, TCEQ
Cory Chism, TCEQ
David Ramirez, TCEQ
Jason Starkey, Citizen
Sielke De Gobeo, Citizen
Bubba Vann, Citizen
Thomas Reich, Citizen
Thomas Reich II, 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 Pastor Sonia Gonzalez from Maranatha Worship Center.

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

4. **OPEN FORUM:**

David Lohse addressed the Council explaining that all the renovations that will be done to the marina will bring it to compliance of the American Disability Act (ADA).

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

a) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 regular meeting, with the correction that Council Member Smith was absent, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

b) **CAMS** – A presentation by TCEQ Officials on the Continuous Ambient Monitoring System. (City Manager)

Julie Eldridge and Cory Chism did a brief presentation to the Council for the process of the Continuous Ambient Monitoring System (CAMS).

Julie Eldridge explained that installation of the CAMS is based on population and air quality in the region.

Cory Chism stated that there are 230 CAMS throughout the State, more than half are owned by TCEQ. The goal for TCEQ is to meet Federal requirements for the air quality control. They are expensive systems and there are different ways to fund them. They required setup cost can be \$150,000 – 300,000 to deploy a new site, and ongoing operation and maintenance of sites. Some funding is done through third parties, such as government entities, universities, and private entities.

c) **FIRE STATION IMPROVEMENTS** – Update on the improvements to the Fire Station by the SPI Golf Club. (City Manager)

Jason Starsky addressed the Council explaining that the SPI Golf Club will be making improvements to the fire station. He provided a list of improvements needed at the fire station. He stated that he did a walk through with the fire chief and is concerned about all the needs at the fire station.

The SPI Golf Club will be hosting a Golf Tournament and 100% of the proceeds will go to the fire station improvements. Gallery Built Homes will be donating some funds towards the improvements, we already have \$7,000 and hope to raise another \$7,000 from the golf tournament.

We are asking the Council to budget \$15,000 for the 2019-20 fiscal year to finish off the improvements needed. We hope to have the improvements completed by the end of October for the open house.

Council Member Howard stated that the CDC already approved \$7,000 for fire station improvements. Is it possible to go back to the CDC and ask them for additional funds?

Council Member Carter suggested amending the current budget and not have to wait until next year's budget. Rolando Vela stated that he would look into the budget amendment.

- d) YOUTH DUATHLON** – Consideration and action on the sponsorship of the Youth Duathlon hosted by the Laguna Madre Gator Chasers Triathlon Club and the Power Watt Coaching, LLC on Saturday, September 21, 2019. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the sponsorship of the Youth Duathlon hosted by the Laguna Madre Gator Chasers Triathlon Club and the Power Watt Coaching, LLC on Saturday, September 21, 2019, providing police traffic control and use of Roloff Park, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- e) CDC BOARD MEMBER** – Consideration and action to appoint a resident to the CDC board. (City Manager)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to appoint James Vann to the CDC Board, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- f) RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-24** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution Number 2019-24 finding AEP Texas Inc's requested increase to its electric transmission and distribution rates and charges. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-24 finding AEP Texas Inc's requested increase to its electric transmission and distribution rates and charges, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- g) RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-25** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution Number 2019-25 to nominate a director to the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors Position 9. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-25 to nominate Alan Ozuna to the Cameron Appraisal District board of Directors Position 9, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- h) BUDGET WORKSHOP** – Consideration and action to schedule a budget workshop. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting/Budget Workshop on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 6:00 pm, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- i) ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-26** – First Reading – To consider Ordinance Number 2019-26 adopting the 2019-20 fiscal year budget. (City Manager)

No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance 2019-26.

- j) ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-27** – First Reading – To consider Ordinance Number 2019-27 adopting the 2019 ad valorem tax rate for Laguna Vista. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter stated that because we had an increase in valuations, we can keep the current tax rate and still generate additional revenue.

There was a short discussion concerning the tax rate, with consideration to lower the I & S balance because it will have a surplus at the end of this year.

No action was taken on first reading of Ordinance 2019-27.

- k) MARINA ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS – CDC FUNDING** – Consideration and action to approve the recommendation of the CDC Board to fund the Marina Accessibility Improvements in the amount of \$25,611. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the recommendation of the CDC Board to fund the Marina Accessibility Improvements in the amount of \$25,611, 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.

- l) CDC BOARD TRAINING** – Consideration and possible action regarding training for the Community Development Corporation (CDC) Board of Directors. (Council Members Davalos and Worrell)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the training for the Community Development Corporation (CDC) Board of Directors, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- m) DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS** – Consideration and action to authorize the City Manager to apply for drainage improvements funding to the Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas General Land Office. (City Manager)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to authorize the City Manager to apply for drainage improvements funding to the Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas General Land Office, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

n) CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- i. Laguna Vista Live: Music by the Bay, Saturday, November 9, 2019

Rolando Vela stated that a Music by the Bay is set for Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 6 – 10 PM. A Country Western band from Raymondville will be playing.

- ii. Veterans Day Ceremony, Monday, November 11, 2019

Rolando Vela stated that the Veterans Ceremony will be held on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

- iii. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Thursday, December 5, 2019

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is set for Thursday, December 5, 2019 with festivities beginning at 5:30 pm.

- o) 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 appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee:

🚩 City Manager – Rolando Vela

Council Member Davalos made a motion to go into executive session at 7:24 pm, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, pursuant to Section §551.074 to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee: City Manager – Rolando Vela, Council Member Smith seconded the motion.

Town Council came out of executive session at 7:50 pm.

p) OPEN SESSION - Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.

No action was taken as a result of executive session.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:51 pm, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary