

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: November 12, 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

Alan Ozuna, City Attorney  
Tony David, City Manager  
Ricky Gonzalez, Police Lt.  
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Petra Schultz, AEP Representative  
Rusty Justice, Citizen  
Richard Lane, 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 Rusty Justice.**
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – All present.**
- 4. OPEN FORUM: None**

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 October 15, 2019 Special Meeting. (City Secretary)
  - b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019 Special Meeting. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows, (a) approval of the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Special Meeting with the correction that Council Members Carter and Worrell opposed motion for Resolution Number 2019-30, (b) approval of the minutes of the October 22, 2019 Special Meeting, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, 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 2019-31** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution Number 2019-31 supporting the annexation of the Laguna Madre area into the Rio Grande Valley MPO. (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-31 supporting the annexation of the Laguna Madre area into the Rio Grande Valley MPO, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- b) **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-32** – To approve Resolution Number 2019-32 casting a vote for the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors Position 9. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2019-32 casting a vote for Alan Ozuna for the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors Position 9, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- c) **LOS FRESNOS EMS** – Consideration and possible action to approve the contract with the City of Los Fresnos for EMS Services, when required as a backup. (City Manager)

**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the contract with City of Los Fresnos for EMS Services, when required as a backup, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- d) PORT ISABEL EMS AGREEMENT** – Consideration and possible action to approve the contract with the City of Port Isabel for EMS Services for the 2019-20 fiscal year. (City Manager)

Council Member Davalos wanted to go on record, in reference to the letter from City of Port Isabel’s City Manager Jared Hockema, that the Town Council did not decline to participate on the ambulance grant, they were never informed.

**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the contract with the City of Port Isabel for EMS Services for the 2019-20 fiscal year for \$50,000, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- e) PORT ISABEL DISPATCH/JAIL USE** – Consideration and possible action to approve the contract with the City of Port Isabel for Dispatch and Jail Use. (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the contract with the City of Port Isabel for Dispatch and Jail Use for \$20,000 for the fiscal year 2019-20, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- f) RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS** – To formally approve the City Manager’s residency outside of Laguna Vista, pursuant to Section 3.02 of the Home Rule Charter. (Council Members Davalos and Smith)

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the City Manager’s residency outside of Laguna Vista, pursuant to Section 3.02 of the Home Rule Charter, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- g) CDC GENERAL MANAGER** - Consideration and action to appoint Tony David as the General Manager for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation. (City Secretary)

**Mayor Houston made a motion to appoint City Manager Tony David as the General Manager for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- h) CDC FINANCE MANAGER** - Consideration and action to appoint Alma Deckard as the Finance Manager for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Worrell made a motion to appoint Alma Deckard as the Finance Manager for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- i) CDC SECRETARY** - Consideration and action to appoint Alma Deckard as the Corporation Secretary for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Howard made a motion to appoint Ana Hernandez as the Corporation Secretary for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- j) AMBASSADOR** – Consideration and possible action to appoint a member of the Town Council that acts as an ambassador between the Council and Town Staff. (Council Members Smith and Worrell)

**Council Member Howard made a motion to instruct the City Attorney to prepare guidelines and parameters of the position of Ambassador, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Howard, Gonzalez and Smith voted “aye” to approve. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Davalos, and Worrell voted “nay.” Motion failed.**

**Council Member Worrell made a motion to nominate Council Member Smith to the position of Ambassador, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Member Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, and Gonzalez voted “nay.” Motion failed.**

- k) FIRE DEPT. TRAVEL** – Consideration and possible action to approve travel for two firemen to Lufkin to secure free fire gear from Texas A&M Helping Hands. (Fire Chief)

**Council Member Howard made a motion to approve the travel for two firemen to Lufkin to secure free fire gear from Texas A&M Helping Hands Program, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- l) AEP EASEMENT** – Consideration and possible action to approve two easements, #1A and #1C request from AEP. (City Manager)

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the two easements #1A and #1C requested from AEP, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- m) REPLATTING** – Consideration and possible action regarding recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to replat the Paradise Cove Subdivision, Block 3, Lots 35 & 36. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Howard made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to replat the Paradise Cove Subdivision, Block 3, Lots 35 & 36, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- n) EDA GRANT** – Consideration and possible action to authorize staff to go out for RFQs for engineer services for the EDA Grant. (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to authorize staff to go out for RFQs for engineer services for the EDA Grant, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- o) TCDP 2019-2020** – Consideration and possible action to authorize to procure the general administration services for the TCDP 2019-2020 Grant. (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to authorize to procure the general administration services to Carlos Mondragon for the TCDP 2019-20 Grant, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- p) TCDP 2019-2020** – Consideration and possible action to designate the scoring committee to review proposals for the TCDP 2019-2020 Grant. (City Manager)

**Mayor Houston made a motion to designate the City Manager, City Secretary and Council Member Smith to the scoring committee to review proposals for the TCDP 2019-20 Grant, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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

i. Board of Adjustments (3)

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to appoint Rafael Salazar to the Board of Adjustments, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

ii. Ethics Board – (1)

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

iii. Library Board – (4)

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

**r) CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

i. Christmas Tree Lighting Event – December 5, 2019

**Tony David informed the Council that the Christmas Tree Lighting Event is set for Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 5:30 PM.**

ii. Library Grant

**Tony David stated that Library Director Pura Mireles applied for a grant from Ladd and Katherine Hancher Library Foundation. She received a check for \$10,237 this week for 3 computer sets for the stations.**

iii. Police Dept. Body Cameras

**Tony David informed the Council that the police department recently purchased 10 body cameras. They were purchased from the Police Forfeiture Account, which is no cost to the Town.**

- s) **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Executive closed session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, regarding any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to Section 551.071 - consultation with Town Attorney; 551.072 - deliberation regarding real property; 551.074 - deliberation regarding personnel matters; and 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.

 **Deliberation concerning City Manager’s Contract**

- t) **Council Member Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 7:33 PM, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, regarding any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to Section 551.071 - consultation with Town Attorney; 551.072 - deliberation regarding real property; 551.074 - deliberation regarding personnel matters; and 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations – Deliberation concerning City Manager’s Contract, Council Member Davalos 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 7:54 PM.**

- u) **CITY MANAGER’S CONTRACT** – Consideration and possible action on the City Manager’s Contract. (City Attorney)

**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve the City Manager’s Contract, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Worrell made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:55 PM, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary