

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: April 14, 2020
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

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

Alan Ozuna, City Attorney
Ed Meza, City Manager
Tony David, Police Chief
Ricky Gonzalez, Police Lt.
Ana Hernandez, City Secretary
Rendie Gonzales, Assistant City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Call to Order** – Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Council Member Rolando Gonzalez
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** – All Present
- 4. OPEN FORUM:**

Mayor Houston presented Council Member Frank Davalos Jr. with a Proclamation for his years of service from to the Town of Laguna Vista.

5. PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Houston presented a proclamation designating the month of April as National Autism Awareness Month.

6. PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Houston presented a proclamation designating the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

7. PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Houston presented a proclamation designating April 15, 2020 as a Day of Prayer in the Town of Laguna Vista.

8. 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 be 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 seperately.

- a) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)
- b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2020 Special Emergency Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- c) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2020 Special Emergency Council 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 10, 2020 Regular Meeting; (b) approval of the minutes for the March 24, 2020 Special Emergency Council Meeting; (c) approval of the minutes for the March 26, 2020 Special Emergency Council Meeting, Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

- a) **ECO – TOURISM** – Presentation from Cameron County Commissioner David Garza on ECO-TOURISM CENTER. (Mayor Houston)

Commissioner Garza gave an update on ECO-TOURISM Center. Mr.

Garza stated that the contract for the project was awarded for \$9.162 million. He also mentioned that \$740,000 has been spent on expenses for items such architectural work, utilities, studies, and surveys. A contract was awarded for \$1.286 million to Scott Clark design group. He stated that the Eco-Tourism Center will include an amphitheater, pond, native landscaping, bird blinds, a play area, picnic areas and much more. He commended the county commissioners and judge for moving forward despite the pandemic. Noble Texas Builders will be awarded with this project. Mr. Garza stated they have worked with him before and they are very pleased with his work.

- b) RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-10** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution Number 2020-10 designating April 2020 as Fair Housing Month. (City Manager E. Meza)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-10 designating April 2020 as Fair Housing Month, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- c) REPLAT** - Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to replat Original Townsite, Block 554, Lots 7,10, & 11. (City Manager E. Meza)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to replat Original Townsite, Block 554, Lots 7,10, & 11, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- d) RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-11** – Consideration and possible action to deny AEP Texas Inc.’s application for rate increase and related matters. (City Manager E. Meza)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to deny AEP Texas Inc’s application for a rate increase and related matters, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- e) NOVEMBER ELECTION** – Consideration and possible action to instruct the City Manager and Town Attorney to consider every avenue available to ensure our

November election goes forward. (Council Members Smith and Worrell)

No Action Taken

- f) **PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES** – Consideration and possible action to and possible action to adopt procedural guidelines. (Council Member Smith and Worrell)

Council Member Worrell stated that it's generally accepted that the chair has an additional influence due to her position therefore, Mayor should vote last when roll call vote is taken. He also stated that when the Mayor votes first each subsequent vote is either with or against the Mayor. The Mayor also asked about roll call and when it was changed Council Member Davalos said it's stated in the charter and he brought it up a couple of year's ago.

Council Member Worrell made a motion to adopt a procedural guideline where the Mayor will be called after the council in any vote requiring a roll call, Council Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Smith voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

- g) **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Executive closed session regarding any matter listed on the agenda in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the the Texas Government Code, 551.071, consultation with legal counsel, and Section 551.074, personnel matters:

- Consultation with Town Attorney regarding legal issues related to COVID-19 issue.
- Consultation with Tow Attornye regarding legal issues related to Town Personnel Policy.
- Personnel matter related to City Manager's agreement.

Council Member Davalos made a motion to go into executive session at 6:45 pm in accordance with the Open Meeting Act as authorized by the Texas Government Code, 551.071, consultation with legal counsel, and Section551.074, personnel matters, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members, Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

Town Council came out of Executive Session at 7.:44 p.m.

- h) **OPEN SESSION** – Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.
- i) **COVID-19 EMERGENCY** – Consideration and possible action in response to COVID-19 emergency. (City Manager E. Meza)

Council Member Carter made a motion to ammend the town’s emergency order to specify that in accordance with Governor Abbot & Attorney General Paxton’s orders & rulings that outdoor activities include but not limited to hiking, biking, fishing, and golfing are not prohibited by the town’s order providing people abide by social distancing and wear appropriate protection. Council Member Smith seconded. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” motion carried.

- j) **Personnel Policy** – No Action Taken

- k) **CITY MANAGER AGREEMENT** – Consideration and possible action regarding City Manager agreement. (City Manager E. Meza)

Council Member Davalos made a motion to accept the City Manager agreement. Council Member Carter seconded. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” motion carried.

l) CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- COVID-19

Mr Meza stated that we registered with WEB-EOC, we are also filling out DSO to see how much money we spent during this pandemic. Mr. Meza also said the Town was registered with Texas Emergency Management for even more funding. He states the he continues updating the Council and Citizens based on the information he gathers during conferences. He is using all venues email, facebook, and Next Door.

- CITY HALL PROJECTS -

Mr. Meza pointed out the that Board Room had been painted by Public Works, they are also cleaning alleys. Different projects are being worked on to enhance Laguna Vista.

- FIRE HYDRANTS –

Mr. Meza informed Council about water shut off that will take place while fire hydrants are being maintained. Notices were distributed to inform citizens.

Public comments off of facebook:

Laura Helke – Appreciates your service to the town Frank T. Davalos Jr.

Pura Mireles – is watching

Christina Esquivel – Yes, thank you

Laura Remi Flores – No one is wearing masks can't understand what they're saying

Isabel Valdez – Thank you for your service to the Town of Laguna Vista Frank T. Davalos Jr.

Norman Esquivel – Thank you for your outstanding work for the Town of Laguna Vista. Great Job!!

Stephanie Wilson – Thank you for recognizing Autism Awareness Month

Christina Esparza - We will miss your service to the Town but we are so happy for you to be joining PIISD School Board

Christina Esquivel – Can you put the camera to whoever is talking we can't hear them clearly

Tom Keeland – Very sorry but we cannot understand what Commissioner Garza is saying

10. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Davalos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:53 p.m., Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Ana Hernandez, City Secretary