

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: June 9, 2020
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter, Council Member Place 1
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2
Rolando Gonzalez, Council Member Place 4
Victor Worrell, Mayor Pro-Tem

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nadine Smith, Council Member Place 6

ALSO PRESENT: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) **Call to Order** – Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM
- 2) **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Kennedy & Kellen Houston.
- 3) **Roll Call/Excused Absences** –

Council Member Howard made a motion to excuse Council Member Smith, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Houston voted ‘aye’ to approve, motion carried.
- 4) **OPEN FORUM:** Due to COVID 19 emergency, the Town will live stream the meeting on the Town’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lvtexas/>. Viewers will be allowed to comment during our live stream on any topic. Comments submitted after the close of the

open forum may be read at the end of the meeting. Each commenter will be identified by Facebook username. There is no discussion or formal action taken during this agenda item.

- 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 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 May 12, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020 regular council meeting, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Member Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

- a) **CUP AGREEMENT** – Consideration and possible action regarding confirmation of Community Unity Plan exemption for Arcos Gardens. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter recused himself for this agenda item.

Mr. Ozuna went over the CUP Agreement, he stated a project was brought forth to the P & Z Commission by a developer. The project consists of 22 units in South Padre Island Golf Course on Arcos Gardens. However, this entire area is part of the CUP Agreement which is the result of an agreed consent annexation in 2009. The CUP Agreement creates an exemption from P & Z process for a number of actions as long as the proposal doesn't exceed standards under CUP Agreement, the contract even states that it does not require approval from any other regulatory body. Mr. Ozuna can only assume the developer presented this project to P & Z because he might face problems with banks or other entities because he will not have any signed documents from the city.

Mr. Worrell asked Mr. Ozuna what do we do because we are a public body/agency. Do we acknowledge or just take no action? And acknowledge what?

Mr. Ozuna stated we acknowledge that the proposal is exempt under CUP agreement and we give the City Manager and the Mayor authorization to sing

off on his maps/plats.

Mr. Worrell asked so you have reviewed the proposal and everything is ok?

Mr. Ozuna stated yes and pointed to Section IV, Subsection 3 & 5.

Council Member Worrell made a motion to confirm the exemption of Arcos Gardens under the CUP Agreement authorizing the City Manager and Mayor to sign off on the plats/maps, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- b) ANNEXATION OF AREA FOR SOUTH TEXAS ECO-TOURISM CENTER –** Consideration and possible action to authorize the City Manager to formally submit a petition for annexation of area designated for the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center into the Laguna Madre Water District. (City Manager)

Mr. Ozuna stated to the Council that in November of 2018 the Council took action to request annexation by Laguna Madre Water District (LMWD) for the same area but it was limited to 10 acres. What the LMWD needs is consent into the entire covered area of the LMWD area. They can't do anything unless we petition them into the entire area of the 23 acres. Mr. Ozuna also stated that the term annexation does not mean municipal annexation.

Council Member Worrell asked if the annexation fees were going to be waived.

Mr. Ozuna replied that is still being worked on.

Mr. Meza stated that the County has been surveying the 23 acres as they did with the 10 acres to see if fees can be waived.

Council Member Worrell asked how much it would be if fees were not to be waived.

Mr. Meza stated that they are still working on that.

Council Member Carter asked if the LMWD Board approves this.

Mr. Ozuna replied that it would be considered at one of their meetings.

Council Member Worrell stated that there was a lot of unanswered questions, a lot of unknowns.

Mr. Ozuna stated that the petition does not lock the city in and that a waiver can be included.

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to to authorize the City Manager to formally submit petition, subject to waiver, for annexation of area designated for the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center into the Laguna Madre Water District, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- c) RE-OPENING CITY HALL & CITY PARKS - Consideration and possible action on setting a date for re-opening City and City Parks and related matters to concerning emergency declaration. (City Manager)**

Mr. Meza recommends to wait on re-opening after researching our surrounding area many cities are looking to wait until July some even November. He states the numbers have been increasing especially with the re-opening of the beaches. Los Fresnos Lilbrary did open and they are having problems due to limited staff.

Mr. Worrell asked about the use of the pavillion for the LVRA key exchange and meeting.

Council Member Carter suggested instead for the LVRA to use the large gazebo.

Council Member Howard stated that if we want to host 4th of July it will require a lot of manpower which we don't have. She stated that the risks outweighs the safety of our community

Council Member Carter feels we should just cancel the festivities for this year and that the date picked for the celebration is horrible and due to everything that is going on.

Council Member Gonzalez agrees on cancelling due to all the uncertainty.

Mayor Houston made a motion to cancelling 4th of July Celebration and fireworks display, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council

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

- d) ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS** – Consideration and possible action on appointing residents to the following advisory boards.

- i) CDC Board (2)

Council Member Carter made a motion to re-appoint Sid Ramos to the CDC Board, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

- e) CDC GENERAL MANAGER** – Consideration and action to appoint Ed Meza as the General Manager for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation. (City Secretary)

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

- f) CDC FINANCE MANAGER** – Consideration and action to appoint Ana Hernandez as the Finance Manager for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation. (City Secretary)

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

- g) CDC SECRETARY** – Consideration and action to appoint Rendie Gonzales as the Corporation Secretary for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation. (City Secretary)

Council Member Howard made a motion to appoint Rendie Gonzales as the Corporation Secretary, Mayor Houston seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Houston voted

“aye” to approve motion carried.

- h) Mayor Pro-Tem** – Consideration and possible action to appoint/re-appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem as per Home Rule Charter. (Mayor S. Houston)

Mayor Houston made a motion to re-appoint Council Member Worrell. Council Member Worrell declined

Council Member Howard made a motion to appoint Council Member Smith as Mayor Pro-Tem as per Home Rule Charter, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- i) TML ANNUAL CONFERENCE** – Consideration and possible action to approve Town Council & Staff to travel to Grapevine, TX for Annual TML Conference to be held in Grapevine, TX on October 14 – 16, 2020. (Mayor S. Houston)

NO ACTION TAKEN

- j) City Manager’s Report -**

Finance Director Update - Mr. Meza updated the Council on the ad for Finance Director it was placed on the Port Isabel Press, Facebook, TML website, and will be placed with Texas Workforce, we have received no applications.

Budget Workshop - Will start working on budget workshop.

Eco-Tourism Center - Mr. Meza updated the council on Eco-Tourism Center, stated that the Orlando Cruz’ EDA was approved yesterday. Everything is coming together.

Laguna Madre Museum Foundation out of Port Isabel want to fund beautification project for Laguna Vista looking at the mesquite tree in front of City Hall to get it sculpted. Mr. Meza has gotten several quotes so they might be funding this project they previously funded the restoral of Lafitte’s Well.

Small City Coalition Meeting update

- k) EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Executive closed session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, regarding any maater listed on the agenda pursuant to Section 551.071 – consultation with Town Attorney;

personnel matters; and 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.

- ✚ Personnel matter deliberation regarding hiring a Fire Chief.
- ✚ Personnel matter deliberation regarding organizational structure.

Council Member Howard made a motion to go into executive 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; personnel matters; and 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations. at 6:46 pm, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrel, voted “aye” and Mayor Houston voted “nay”, motion carried.

Town Council came out of Executive Session at 7:06 pm

1) OPEN SESSION -

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS OFF OF FACEBOOK

Jason Starkey – Thank you & God Bless. It will be a beautiful addition to our community that we all will be proud of!

Kyna B. Farmer – Listening in

Samantha Lilian Weber – Listening

7) ADJOURNMENT -

Mayor Houston made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:09 p.m., Council Member Worrel seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Ana Hernandez, City Secretary