

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: July 13, 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, Council Member Place 5
Nadine Smith, 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: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) **Call to Order** – Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM
- 2) **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Houston.
- 3) **Roll Call/Excused Absences** – All Present
- 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 June 9, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 regular council meeting with correction of Council Member Carter was present, Council Carter seconded the motion. Council Member Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

a) **HOLLY BEACH ROW** – Consideration and possible action regarding the use or purchase of the right of way alongside Holly Beach Rd adjacent to Texas Gas Line by Field Petroleum Corporation. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to table consideration and possible action regarding the use or purchase of the right of way alongside Holly Beach Rd adjacent to Texas Gas Line by Field Petroleum Corporation, Council Member Smith seconded. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

b) **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 Houston)

Mayor Houston stated that this was still not a sure thing but we need to have travel approval just in case. Council Members Carter & Smith commented that they will attend this year’s conference. Mayor Houston said that would be great since the small Cities Advisory Council would be losing her along with losing her spot on Region 12.

Council Member Carter made a motion to to authorize 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, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Member Howard voted “nay”, Council Members Carter, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

c) **ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT** - Consideration and possible action on appointing residents to the following advisory boards. (City Manager)

1. Board of Adjustments (1 member & 3 alternates)

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Stanford Knowles as a member to the Board of Adjustments, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to appoint Felipe Gonzalez as an alternate to the Board of Adjustments, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Debra Chamberlain as an alternate to the Board of Adjustments, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Worrell made a motion to appoint Silke De Gobeo as an alternate to the Board of Adjustments, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

2. Ethics Board (2 members)

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

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

3. CDC Board (1 member)

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

4. Library Board (3 members)

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

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

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

5. Parks & Recreation Board (1 member)

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to appoint Debbie Alford to the Parks & Recreation Board, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

d) AEP LED LIGHTING – Consideration and possible action to change street lights to LED lighting. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza stated AEP reached out to offer LED lighting as an option for streetlights. They will continue to offer high pressure sodium lighting options as well. There is no charge to replace an existing light if the light goes out; however, the cost to a working light is \$137.86. The led lights are so much brighter.

Council Member Smith asked for clarification on pictures attached to packet wanted to know which was which. Mr. Meza clarified. Council Member Smith stated that she was torn. She said that she frequently travels to the Keys and they have done studies were bright lights on coastal cities affect sea life. She said that the Keys has turned to red lights especially on the ocean because it keeps turtle from going to shore. She stated she liked the idea because it would save a lot of money but since we are a coastal city we also need to look at the effect it would have on our sea life. She suggested the marina lights be done in red or Beach Blvd. She asked Mr. Meza if he can look into it to see if this was a possibility.

The Mayor liked the idea of doing red lights not only on Beach Blvd but also the streets parallel to Beach Blvd.

Council Member Carter doesn't like bright lights he rather it be dark and thinks the red lights would be better. He stated that bright lights affect the wildlife in our community. Which is a huge aspect as why we live here. He also suggested that maybe the red lights should be a separate project the city takes on since there are not that many lights to change.

Mr. Ozuna stated that the red lights were not in the request, it could be added or it

could wait for next meeting while Mr. Meza talks to AEP because AEP might choose to charge for red light replacement.

Council Member Carter made a motion to replace street lights as they go out West of 510 to LED and East of 510 not LED, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- e) **TGS SETTLEMENT** – Consideration and possible action to adopt Ordinance 2020-12 on first reading approving negotiated settlement with Texas Gas Service regarding COSA of Service Adjustment. (City Manager)

Mr. Ozuna recommends adopting the ordinance on 1st reading. He reviewed what was sent by Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, and everything seems to be in order.

Mayor Houston made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-12 on first reading approving negotiated settlement with Texas Gas Service regarding COSA of Service Adjustment, Council Member Smith seconded. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- f) **BUDGET WORKSHOP** – Consideration and possible action on setting a date for a budget workshop for FY 2020-21. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter had several questions regarding preliminary values and want this to be ready for Budget Workshop.

Council Member Smith made a motion to set a Budget Workshop for August 4, 2020 at 5:00 pm, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- g) **CITY MANAGER’S REPORT** –

1. New Hire – Fire Chief – Neil Waters

City Manager Ed Meza announced the hiring of new Neil Waters, he stated that Chief David and himself reviewed the applicants and selected Mr. Waters.

2. New Hire – Office Clerk – Norma J. Barbosa

City Manager introduced the new Office Clerk, Norma J. Barbosa

3. New Position – Town Bookkeeper – Rendie Gonzalez

Mr. Meza stated that after long review of all the applicants for Finance Director he decided to hire a Bookkeeper because all applicants seemed over qualified and he stated that one of the applicants was our employee Rendie Gonzalez so he felt that she was qualified for the bookkeeper.

Mr. Carter stated that going back to the budget for the workshop he wants to see the beginning, ending, current budget comparison between the budgets for last couple of years. This will help the Board make better decisions. He also stated to expect the budget to be reviewed line by line and no names on the budget.

4. South Texas Eco-Tourism Center Update

Mr. Meza updated on the Eco-Tourism he stated that they divided the 3 lots adjacent to the 23 acres lot 1 is 12.89 acres for future plans, lot 2 where Eco-Tourism Park will be and lot 3 1.022 acres that's for the lift station.

Mr. Ozuna said he met with the LMWD he stated that it looks like there will not be any disputes to the waiver of the fees. A portion of that fee will be tagged to new developer.

Engineers are in contact with TX-Dot and he also stated that everyone is working together to get this done.

5. COVID-19 – Update

Mr. Meza stated that he just found out that the reports the county submits are not up-to-date. There are so many people being tested that the county is not keeping up.

Mayor Houston also stated that the numbers are not accurate.

Mr. Meza said that all we can do is keep recommending the guidelines be followed.

6. New Telephone System

Mr. Meza stated we have a new telephone system, Rendie then went on to say that we from telephone line to internet this will save the city \$300 a month. This new phone system has many features that our old system did not. We upgraded the our internet system. The charge for internet will be very minimal. We went from 3 lines to 6 lines and now we have voicemail.

7. Webpage Update

The new webpage is in draft mode. We contracted with Go-Daddy. With

this new webpage we can do the changes ourselves or contact Go-Daddy. It will be more user friendly. Once its set up, it will be a soft publish, then on to the hard publish. We still need some bios from board members. If we don't like it we can change whenever we can. It will also be phone & tablet friendly. We will keep our domain.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OFF OF FACEBOOK

Frank Davalos - Good evening Town Council thank you for your service.

Robbie Drapela – Thank you for picking Neil Waters, he comes highly recommended and will do an outstanding job.

Chief Tony David - Watching

ADJOURNMENT -

Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:00 p.m., Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Ana Hernandez, City Secretary