

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

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: August 4, 2020
TIME: 5:00 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
Anthony David, Police Chief
Ricky Gonzalez, Police Lt.
Rendie Gonzales, Assistant City Secretary
Pura Mireles, Library Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) **Call to Order** – Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM
- 2) **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Houston.
- 3) **Roll Call/Excused Absences** – All Present
- 4) **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action on each of the following items:
 - a) **2020-21 BUDGET** – Discussion of the 2020-21 fiscal year budget and related matters. (City Manager)

- b) Consideration and possible action regarding calculation of voter approval tax rate
(City Manager)

Mr. Meza reviewed memo to the council summarizing the current tax rate for 2019-2020 and giving a summary of bank account status for both the general fund and Interest and Sinking. In addition gave the historical data for the tax rates and balance of accounts. He explained the the “effective tax rate” is now referred to as the “No New Tax Rate”.

Mr. Ozuna gave a presentation about the options of different tax rates available to the town without having to trigger an election.

Budget line by line review began:

Currently the proposed budget is expenditures exceeding the revenues.

Mr. Meza and Ms. Gonzales addressed questions regarding the expenses in the Administrative budget. It was requested that more information be provided as to the “Contract Services” line item.

Chief David addressed the Council explaining the status of the police departments financial needs. The budget for OT was addressed confirming that the overtime hours paid by the grants would not be working unless said grant was received. Council Member Smith requested that they increase the amount of money for the officers ammunition.

Chief David reviewed the fire department budget with council and explained that while the salary increase made the overall budget go up, the new chief can provide the training and training equipment that we in the past were having to pay for and send volunteers to other cities for training.

Chief David addressed the new EMS contract that he secured with Los Fresnos. The increase of the contract went from \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00

The officers handle animal control, first responders, traffic, warrants, code enforcement and prepare cases for the District Attorney’s Office.

Pura Mireles reviewed budget needs and requested that the Library be re-painted and presented bid for the same.

Mr. Carter requested that a Group Insurance cost YTD be provided and for last year.

After reviewing the line items from each department, the following changes were made.

Administration

Change 60180 (Contract Services) from \$43,000 to: \$23,000

Change 60360 (Travel) from \$7,000 to: \$5,000

Police Dept.

Change 60060 (Motor Fuel) from \$19,000 to: \$18,000
Change 60070 (Oil & Lubricants) from \$2,000 to: \$3,000
Change 60180 (Contract Services) from \$47,000 to: \$39,750

Fire Dept.

Change 60600 (Motor Fuel) from \$4000 to: \$3,000
Change 60095 (Medical Supplies) from \$8,500 to: \$7,500

EMS – No Change

Library Dept.

Change 60260 (Electric Services) from \$8,700 to: \$7,200
Change 60300 (Communications) from \$4,650 to: \$3,000
Change 60400 (Books & Subscriptions) from \$5,800 to: \$3,800

Parks Dept.

Change 60160 (Other Supplies) from \$9,000 to: \$5,000

All Botanical line items are to be concolidated and moved in the Parks Dept.

Building Dept. – No Change

Municipal Court - No Change

Public Works Dept.

Change 60180 (Contract Services) from \$9,000 to: \$7,000

Animal Control

Change 60180 (Contract Services) from \$6,700 to: \$700

Motion was made by Mayor Houston to have second budget workshop meeting on August 11, 2020 at 6:30p immedatley following Regular Town Council Meeting, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Gonzalez, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Due to technical difficulties Council Member Worrell and Council Member Howard’s votes were not audible for recording.

ADJOURNMENT -

Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:47 p.m., Mayor Houston seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Gonzalez, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

(Due to technical difficulties Council Member Worrell and Council Member Howard’s votes were not audible for recording.)

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Rendie R. Gonzales, Assistant City Secretary