

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

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL**

DATE: September 8, 2020

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor  
Michael Carter, Council Member Place 1  
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2  
Victor Worrell, Council Member Place 5  
Nadine Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem

Ed Meza, City Manager  
Ana Hernandez, City Secretary  
Rendie Gonzales, Town Bookkeeper  
Alan Ozuna, Town Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Pura Mireles, Library Director  
Anthony David, Police Chief  
Sonia Harry, PIISD  
Marcela Hancock, Laguna Madre Youth Center  
Margie Jacobs, Laguna Madre Youth Center

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 1. Call to Order** Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Susie Houston.
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** – Council Member Howard was absent.

**Council Member Smith made a motion to excuse Council Member Howard from the Regular Meeting on September 8, 2020, Council Member Gonzalez**

**seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Mayor Pro-Tem Smith, 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/lytexas/>. 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.

City Manager recognized Library Director for obtaining a grant for the Laguna Vista Library from Texas Book Festival Library Grants in the amount of \$2,500 for the Purchase of Books.

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 August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting
  - b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020 Budget Workshop/Special Meeting,
  - c) **MINUTES** - Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2020 Combined Budget Workshop with CDC/Special Meeting. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows a) approval of the minutes for the August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting b) approval of the minutes for the August 11, 2020 Budget Workshop/Special Meeting c) approval of the minutes for the August 25, 2020 Combined Budget Workshop with CDC/Special Meeting, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER HOWARD SHOWED UP VIA ZOOM AT 6:14 P.M.**

6. **NEW BUSINESS** – Discussion, consideration, and possible action on each of the following items:
  - a) **PRESENTATION/REQUEST FROM LAGUNA MADRE YOUTH CENTER** (City Manager)

Marcela Hancock along with Margie Jacobs talked about the different programs

the youth center offers the children of the Laguna Madre area. At the end of March, they were at full capacity. They have various after school programs, they also have a food program that serves dinner from 3:30 to 5:30. They have done some much needed renovations including roof repairs and a new floor for the gymnasium. They received a Grant from United Way that allowed for the purchase of 20 tablets. They also got another \$1,000 from Chapel by the Sea. At this time they are asking for \$7,500 from the Town of Laguna Vista, and thanked the council for always supporting the youth center.

**Council Member Howard made a motion to approve the \$7,500 for the Laguna Madre Youth Center, there was no second. Motion did not pass.**

- b) RESOLUTION 2020-15 PROJECT CONECTIVITY** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2020-15 regarding Project Connectivity with PIISD. (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-15 regarding Project Connectivity with PIISD, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter voted “nay”, Council Members Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- c) RECOGNITION PROGRAM** - Consideration and possible action regarding a recognition program for certain employees.

City Manager Ed Meza addressed the council about the possibility to start a recognition program for employees that have worked 5, 10, 15, or 20 years and so forth. He mentioned that other towns have similar programs this brings up morals among employees. He suggested \$50 for every 5 years. Council Member Carter thought \$50 was too little Council Member Smith agreed. All other council members liked the idea and instructed Mr. Meza to come up with an official program.

**Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve the recognition program for certain employees, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- d) CREDIT CARD DEPOSITS** – Consideration and possible action to authorize additional bank accounts for credit card deposits.

Town Bookkeeper Rendie Gonzales is requesting 2 additional bank accounts for credit card deposits to make the balancing easier and have a cleaner picture on our general fund account. The recommendation comes from our Accountant Moises Gomez and also from EZ net which is the company that processes our

credit card payments. There will be no additional charge from EZ net.

**Council Member Smith made a motion to authorize the opening of 2 additional bank accounts for credit card deposits, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- e) **PUBLIC HEARING** – To solicit input on the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to open up for Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m., Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**There was no comments for public input on the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget.**

**Council Member Smith made a motion to close Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m., Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- f) **PUBLIC HEARING** - To solicit input on the 2020 ad valorem tax rate. (City Manager)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to open up for Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m. to solicit public input on the 2020 ad valorem tax rate, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

There was no comments for public input on the 2020 ad valorem tax rate.

**Council Member Smith made a motion to close Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m., Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- g) **2020 BUDGET** – Consideration and possible action to ratify additional revenue from property taxes than in the previous year as reflected in budget. (City Manager)

Council Member Smith questioned why the property taxes were figured at .03 cents increase when it was agreed at last meeting it would be figured at .05 cents.

Council Member Carter was against at .05 cents increase and stated that if left .03 cent increase and take out a vehicle we would have a balanced budget. He wanted to increase to .03 cents and then in the coming years continue increasing. Council Member Smith said we are always scraping the bottom of the barrel and compared to other cities we are one of the lowest tax rates in the valley. Council Member Smith gave several examples.

Council Member Howard agreed with Council Member Smith she stated that for as long as she been on board we have never had a tax increase.

Council Member Worrell agreed with Council Member Smith about increasing by .05 cents stating on a \$200,000 home the increase would be only \$100. Council Member Howard was also for the .05 cents increase in property taxes. Council Member Gonzalez said if the School District is lowering theirs by .02 cents that would probably a good time to have our increase.

**Council Member Smith made a motion to ratify additional revenue from property taxes than in the previous year as reflected in budget, Council Member Howard & Mayor Houston seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- h) ORDINANCE NUBMER 2020-13** - Consideration on first reading of Ordinance Number 2020-13 adopting the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter agreed to the .05 cents increase on property taxes with the condition that all employees get a 2% increase not only PD.

**Council Member Carter made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance Number 2020-13 adopting the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget with a 2% increase for all employees, Council Member Smith & Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- i) ORDINANCE NUMBER 2020-14** - Consideration on first reading of Ordinance Number 2020-14 adopting the 2020 ad valorem tax rate for maintenance and operation and for the interest and sinking fund.

**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the tax rate for maintenance and operation at .0372986 Council Member Smith 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 approve the tax rate for Interest and Sinking at .031138, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, Smith and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**NO COMMENTS**

**7. ADJOURNMENT -**

**Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m., Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Worrell, Mayor Pro-Tem Smith, and Mayor Houston voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**  
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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Ana Hernandez, City Secretary