

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

DATE: March 8, 2011  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor  
Ken Irwin, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Rita Garcia, Alderwoman  
Steve Muschenheim, Alderman  
William Schnier, Alderman  
Leti Keplinger, Alderwoman  
  
Janice Cassidy, Town Attorney  
Rolando Vela, City Manager  
Robert McGinnis, Police Chief  
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Arden Curts, Citizen  
Richard Lane, Citizen  
Billie Reilly, Citizen  
Yolanda Birdwell, Citizen  
Richard Hinojosa, Citizen  
Karen Mackesey, Citizen  
Ron Urhammer, Citizen  
Carole Benham, Citizen  
Gary Coffield, Citizen  
Linda Coffield, Citizen  
James Harris, III, City of Los Fresnos Police Chief  
Mark Milam, City of Los Fresnos City Manager  
Mike Thomas, Citizen  
Herb Houston, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order  
Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Pledge and Invocation was lead by Alderman Schnier.

3. Roll Call – All present

4. OPEN FORUM:

Richard Lane addressed the Board concerning the traffic light at FM 510 and Hwy 100. He stated that the priority light is given to drivers coming out of the Stripes Store instead of Laguna Vista residents. This needs to be changed.

5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: All matters listed under this item are considered to be routine by the Board and will be enacted for approval by one motion. There will not be 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 minutes from the February 8, 2011 Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting.

**b)** CURRENT OBLIGATIONS – Approval of the current obligations from the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation (CDC).

**c)** RACIAL PROFILE REPORT – Consideration and action to accept the Laguna Vista Police Department 2010 Racial Profile Report  
Alderman Irwin made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows: (a) approval of the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting on February 8, 2011, (b) approval of the current obligations from the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation (CDC) for \$700, (c) approval of the 2010 Racial Profile Police Department Report, Alderman Muschenheim seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

**A.** TEXAS SAFE SHELTER INITIATIVE PROGRAM – Presentation from Los Fresnos City Manager Mark Milam on enlisting the support of the Town of Laguna Vista in the Texas Safe Shelter Initiative Program.

Mark Milam did a power point presentation to the Board concerning an emergency center dome structure. He explained that FEMA has allocated \$50 million for an emergency shelter center. The City of Los Fresnos will be submitting the application to FEMA. They have approached the Town of Laguna Vista, City of South Padre Island and the City of Port Isabel to contribute 25% of the project. The cost would be \$150,000 per municipality. The Los Fresnos School District will take charge of the

maintenance and operation of the building. The shelter will accommodate 800 to 3200 people. The shelter would be opened for category 3 – 5, however it will be available for other storms and emergencies. Mr. Milam stated that the City of South Padre Island has committed to the project, the City of Port Isabel will agree if a payment plan is available.

Alderman Irwin made a motion to have the City Manager compile a further study on what the financing options are and bring it back to the Board at the next meeting, Alderwoman Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

**B. HOME RULE CHARTER** – To discuss providing support in promoting the Home Rule Charter document.

After a short discussion, no action was taken on item B – Home Rule Charter – to discuss providing support in promoting the Home Rule Charter document.

#### 7. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

a) “Spruce Up” Days for Roloff Park and Veterans Park

Rolando Vela informed the Board that the Parks Board will be working on a “spruce up” day on March 12, 2011 from 9 – 1:00 pm. They are looking for volunteers to help with this event, they will be working on both Roloff and Veterans Park.

b) Veterans Park Monument

Rolando Vela stated that the Park Board will be conducting a public hearing to get input from Veterans and the community concerning the monument at Veterans Park.

c) Library Shutters

Rolando Vela informed the Board that the library shutters have been installed and the project is complete. The library can be used as a shelter now.

d) Trail Grant

Rolando Vela stated that he is waiting for a letter from the Core of Engineers to determine if the 15 acres are considered wet lands. Once this is received they will proceed with the walking trail.

#### 8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – There will be an executive session as authorized by the Open Meetings Act, pursuant to Section 551.074(a)(1)(2); to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.

● Town Attorney

Alderman Schnier made a motion to go into executive session, at 6:51 pm, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 551.074(a)(1)(2); to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee – Town Attorney , Alderman Muschenheim seconded the motion. All voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

Board of Aldermen came out of executive session at 7:15 pm.

Alderman Schnier made a motion to go into executive session, at 7:16 pm, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 551.071, Section; consultation with Town Attorney to seek advice on legal matters in which the duty of the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the state Bar of Texas conflicts with the Texas Government Code Section 551.001 et seq. authorizing a government body to consult with its attorney in an executive session and to seek his and her advice on legal matters pending or contemplated litigation, Alderman Muschenheim seconded the motion. All voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

Board of Aldermen came out of executive session at 7:50 pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Irwin made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:51 p.m., Alderman Muschenheim seconded the motion. All voted "aye" to adjourn, motion carried.

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary