

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

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Steve Muschenheim, Council Member
Rita Garcia, Council Member
Leti Keplinger, Council Member
Michael Carter, Council Member
Paul Villas, Council Member

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Schnier, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Lane, Citizen
Bill Balogh, Citizen
Mike Thomas, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Pledge and Invocation – Council Member Garcia lead the pledge and invocation.

3. Roll Call – Council Member Schnier was absent.

4. OPEN FORUM:

Mike Thomas addressed the Council asking if taxi cab companies are required to pay a fee and register with the Town.

Rolando Vela explained that the Town has an ordinance stating that taxi companies must register and pay a fee to conduct business in Laguna Vista. The ordinance is basically the same as the one that City of South Padre Island and the City of Port Isabel enforce. It is not our intent to prohibit taxi companies from doing business in Laguna Vista, they simply need to register.

5. PUBLIC HEARING – a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed 2011 ad valorem property tax rate.

Council Member Muschenheim made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2001 ad valorem property tax rate, Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Mike Thomas asked if it was true that the property tax rate increase was to annex the Laguna Heights area. Mayor explained that the board has not had any discussion concerning annexation of Laguna Heights. The Town's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) does go to Roy Street in Laguna Heights. The Town has issued certificates of obligation for \$1.5 million for various town projects.

Mayor stated that the proposed 2011 property tax rate is \$0.2932 and the debt service rate is \$0.046689; for a total of \$0.339899 tax rate.

Council Member Villas arrived for the meeting.

Richard Lane asked if the increase is specifically to cover the bonds issued. Council Member Carter explained that the property tax rate is actually staying the same, we have made budget cuts to keep the rate the same, which is at the \$.02932. If the property values go up than our debt service rate will decrease.

Council Member Villas made a motion to close the public hearing for the 2001 proposed property tax rate, Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:14 pm, Council Member Villas seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary