

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

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: January 31, 2012  
TIME: 5:00 p.m.  
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor  
Steve Muschenheim, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Rita Garcia, Council Member  
Leti Keplinger, Council Member  
Michael Carter, Council Member  
Paul Villas, Council Member  
  
Rolando Vela, City Manager  
Ramon Vela, City Attorney  
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Schnier, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Lane, Citizen  
Robert Matoush, Citizen  
Arden Curts, Citizen  
Stan Backues, Citizen  
Yolanda Birdwell, Citizen  
Walter Birdwell, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

**2. Pledge and Invocation** was lead by Mayor Houston.

**3. Roll Call – Council Member Schnier was absent.**

**4. OPEN FORUM:**

Robert Matoush addressed the Council, asking if the audience will be allowed to participate in the discussion of the Board of Ethics Ordinance. Ramon Vela stated that it was up to the council if they want to allow audience participate.

Robert Matoush referred to several sections of the charter that are contradicted in the proposed ordinance. Some sections included Section 24(a), Section 25(e), Section 27(b), and Section 30(a).

Stan Backues addressed the Council, and submitted the definition of “ethics” and “morality.” He suggested that all the applicants for the Board of Ethics Board should have a background check completed and then place all the names, that are cleared, and draw by a simple lottery. This way the Council does not appoint their relatives and buddies.

**5. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2011-46** – Discussion, of the proposed Ordinance Number 2011-46 establishing a Code of Ethics and Board of Ethics and its procedures.

Rolando Vela explained to the Council that the proposed Board of Ethics Ordinance is composed of a survey he did from several cities throughout the state. He found that most of the Ethics Boards are consists of 5 members and did not meet very often. There was one city whose Ethics Board had not met in 2 years.

It was the consensus of the Council to make the following changes:

- a) Section 24(a) – remove the sentence “The Board of Ethics may not consider any alleged violation that occurred before January 1, 2012.”
- b) Section 1(b)(1) – change the word “ethical” to “ethics.”
- c) Section 5(b) – discussion \$250 amount, no final decision on what the amount should be.
- d) Entire Ordinance – Council Member Carter stated that “employee” should not be a part of this ordinance. It was agreed to remove the word “employee” completely.
- e) Section 14(c) – Attorney Vela will review this section and amend accordingly.
- f) Section 19(a) & (b) – should have section reference.
- g) Article VII – Section 23(c) – Attorney Vela will review for qualifications.
- h) Section 25(e) – Discussion on who will appoint the Chair and Vice Chair, no final decision.
- i) Section 4(4)(c) – Delete the sentence, “Nothing in this subparagraph prohibits any person who, before January 1, 2012, was lawfully appointed to or employed in any position of employment with the Town from continuing to serve in that position of employment.”

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Muschenheim made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:15 pm, motion was seconded by Council Member Garcia. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary