

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

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: March 31, 2012

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Steve Muschenheim, Mayor Pro-Tem
Rita Garcia, Council Member
William Schnier, Council Member
Michael Carter, Council Member

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Rick Morado, Interim Town Attorney
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Villas, Council Member
Leti Keplinger, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Billie Reilly, Citizen
Mike Thomas, Citizen
Yolanda Birdwell, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

2. Pledge and Invocation was lead by Mayor Houston.

3. Roll Call – Council Member Villas requested to be excused, he is out of town. Council Member Keplinger left after the workshop to another commitment.

4. OPEN FORUM: None

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

A. TOWN ATTORNEY – To interview the two applicants from the RFP for Town Attorney; George Parker and Ricardo Morado.

Mayor informed the Council that the second applicant, George Parker withdrew his application for town attorney.

Council Member Muschenheim asked Rick Morado if he had the time to service Laguna Vista. Rick Morado stated that he does have the time, and if he is unable to make a function, a firm partner or associate would be available.

Council Member Schnier asked if the contract would be with the firm or individually with Mr. Morado? Rick Morado stated that the contract would be with the firm, with him as the primary attorney. He stated that a contract could be drawn up if the Council wanted or he could serve as we go along. He stated that he has been the Attorney for Rio Hondo ISD for 25 years and has only had a contract the last 5 years. He feels that if there is no confidence and trust between the client and the attorney then the Council should get another attorney.

Council Member Schnier asked what lesson he has learned in working with the City of San Benito as commissioner, mayor and now city attorney. Rick Morado stated that concerning council, it was to allow communication of each council member, and a fair opportunity to express their opinion. When the voting is done everyone has had an opportunity to express their views.

Council Member Schnier asked what he has learned is far as management goes. Rick Morado stated that as mayor of San Benito he tried to build the infrastructure, and water systems, in order to promote the city. This took several years to complete.

Council Member Schnier asked Mr. Morado what he considered to be his strength and weakness. Rick Morado stated that his strength is to advise on possible problems that may arise. His weakness would be that he does not like litigation, he would prefer to work on for former to avoid problems.

Council Member Schnier asked how many partners were in the firm. Rick Morado stated that currently there are 13 partners, the number may sometime fluctuate.

Council Member Schnier asked Mr. Morado, if today was his last day on earth, what would he do? Rick Morado stated that he would call his wife and get their son and spend the day together.

Council Member Schnier asked if the verification of credentials, check the references, background check, contact with references and check for any grievances or reprimands from the Texas State Bar, would still be done.

Mayor Houston directed the City Manager to go ahead with the references and checks.

B. TOWN ATTORNEY – Consideration and potential action to appoint/hire a Town Attorney for the Town of Laguna Vista, Texas.

Mayor Houston made a motion to hire the Law Firm Roerig, Oliveira, & Fisher, LLP, with Ricardo Morado as the leading attorney for the Town, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Garcia made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:37 am, Council Member Muschenheim seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary