

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: May 13, 2014
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Leti Keplinger, Mayor Pro-Tem
Michael Carter, Councilmember Place 1
Wanda Reyes-Rice, Councilmember Place 2
Frank Davalos, Jr., Councilmember Place 3
Richard Hinojosa, Councilmember Place 6

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Ricardo Morado, City Attorney
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Garcia, Councilmember Place 5

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Valdez, Citizen
Nora Lisa Valdez, Citizen
Rene Valdez, Citizen
Jessica Hedrick, Citizen
Corina Simpson, Citizen
Virginia Ossanna, Citizen
Ella Sasha, Citizen
Gary Sacha, Citizen
Bob Rice, Citizen
Leonard Rainer, Guest
Nancy Rainer, Guest
Johnny Peacock, Guest
Tom Hollingsworth, Guest
Norris Fletcher, Citizen
Martha McClain, Citizen
George Paterson, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Pledge and Invocation was led by Chaplain George Paterson

3. Roll Call/Excused absences – Council Member Garcia was absent.

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to excuse Council Member Garcia from tonight’s meeting because of work commitment, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

4. PROCLAMATION – A proclamation recognizing May 2014 as Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Month

Mayor Houston presented the proclamation to the Bikers for Christ group, declaring May 2014 Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Month.

5. OPEN FORUM:

Corina Simpson addressed the Council concerning a sexual assault case that was filed with the police department. She stated that she is very disappointed with the police department and their lack of training and lack of empathy to the citizens. She had left three voice message to the police chief and the detective and nobody ever calls her back or communicates with her.

Virginia Ossanna addressed the Council concerning the same complaint about the police department. She stated that she has been complaining about her neighbors playing loud music and nothing is done. The police department is very unprofessional,, it takes 45 minutes for an officer to come to the house after a call. The officer stands there and shrugs his shoulders and does nothing about the noise. The noise ordinance needs to be looked into. The website is also horrible. Nothing is up to date, all ordinances should be on the website.

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

All matters listed under this item are considered to be routine by the Council 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 the minutes from the April 8, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows; (a) approval of the minutes for the Town Council meeting on April 8, 2014, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. Council Member Davalos abstained from voting. All others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

- A. ENGINEERING AGREEMENT** – To authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement between Cruz-Hogan Consulting Engineers and the Town of Laguna Vista to prepare the construction plans for the street improvements for Palm Blvd and Mesquite Drive. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to have the engineer re-submit the contract agreement with the actual numbers, Council Member Hinojosa seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- B. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2014-12** – Consideration and approval of Resolution Number 2014-12 In support of Brownsville’s response to the Request for Proposals to build the future administration building for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in Brownsville. (City Manager)

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2014-12 in support of Brownsville’s response to the Request for Proposals to build the future administration building for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in Brownsville, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- C. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-13** – First Reading – To approve Ordinance Number 2014-13 Providing for the safe passage of vulnerable road users. (City Manager)

Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2014-13 providing for the safe passage of vulnerable road users, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- D. ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-14** – First Reading – To approve Ordinance Number 2014-14 Banning texting while driving within the Town limits of the Town of Laguna Vista (City Manager)

Council Member Rice made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2014-/14 banning texting while driving within the Town limits of the Town of Laguna Vista, and to adding Becky Haugh’s name to the ordinance, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- E. 2011 CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION** – Update on the 2011 Certificates of Obligation. (City Manager)

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the Certificates of Obligation has a fund balance of \$55,708. Twenty five hundred was spent on the two Barbeque pits in Roloff Park.

Council Member Carter asked what the status is with the installation of the two fire hydrants. Rolando Vela stated that one easement has been obtained and is ready to go for the hydrant. The second location will be turned over to the Town Attorney, because the property owner has not been located and lives out of state.

F. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be Monday, May 26, 2014 at 5 pm. The guest speaker will be Alfred Valenzuela from San Antonio and Reymundo Sais from Brownsville, who is a 98 year old, World War II Army Veteran that served under General George Patton.

b) 4th of July Parade and Picnic

The July 4th event will be Friday, July 4, 2014, with live music.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION - There will be an Executive Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074 to deliberate the Evaluation of a Public Officer or Employee.

 **City Manager - Rolando Vela**

Mayor Houston made a motion to go into executive session, at 6:32 pm, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074 to deliberate the Evaluation of a Public Officer or Employee, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council came out of executive session at 7:30 pm.

H. OPEN SESSION - Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session.

Council Member Rice made a motion to accept the evaluation for City Manager Rolando Vela as proposed, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:34 pm, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary