

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: December 9, 2014

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Michael Carter, Mayor Pro-Tem
Wanda Reyes-Rice – Councilmember Place 2
Frank Davalos, Jr., - Councilmember Place 3
Leti Keplinger, Councilmember Place 4
Gary Meschi, Councilmember Place 5
Richard Hinojosa, Councilmember Place 6

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Ricardo Morado, City Attorney
Anthony David, Police Chief
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Ryan Maza, Citizen
Richard Lane, Citizen
Jim Hunter, Attorney
Belinda Reininger, UT School of Public Health
E.Ray Gard, UT School of Public Health
Ricky Legere, Citizen
Dylan Legere, Citizen
Richard Legere, Citizen
Norris Fletcher, Citizen
Elizabeth Etheridge, Citizen
Joanna Ward, Citizen
Orlando Rodriguez, Brownsville PD Chief
Hank Etheridge, Brownsville PD Commander

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Meschi and the Boy Scouts in attendance.

3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – All present

4. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

a) EAGLE SCOUT – Proclamation honoring Richard J. Legere, III for his Eagle Scout accomplishment.
Mayor Houston presented Richard J. Legere, III with a proclamation, recognizing his Eagle Scout accomplishment.

b) POLICE CHIEF – Swear In ceremony for new Police Chief Anthony David
Mayor Houston sworn in newly hired Police Chief Anthony David.

A seven minute recess was called to allow Chief David's guest to enjoy the reception.

Meeting was called back to order by Mayor Houston.

5. OPEN FORUM: None

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 November 3, 2014 Special Meeting. (City Secretary)

b) RESOLUTION NUMBER 2014-33 – To approve Resolution Number 2014-33 appointing the official newspaper for the 2014-15 Fiscal Year. (City Manager)

- c) **BORDER STAR GRANT** – Consideration and action to approve the submittal of the LBSP, Border Star Grant application for the Police Department. (Police Chief)
- d) **POLICE GRANT** – Consideration and action to approve the submittal of a grant for police equipment to the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) Program is to prevent and control crime and make improvements to the criminal justice system. (Police Chief)

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows; (a) approval of the minutes for the November 3, 2014 Special Town Council Meeting, (b) approval of Resolution Number 2014-33 appointing the official newspaper for the 2014-15 Fiscal Year, (c) approval for the Police Chief to submit a grant application to the Texas Homeland Security State Administrative Agency for the Local Border Security Program (LBSP-15), (d) approval for the Police Chief to submit a grant application to the Attorney General , Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG), Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

- A. **1115 WAIVER PROGRAM** – Update on the 1115 Waiver Health Grant by Dr. Belinda Reininger from the University of Texas Health Science Center of Houston, School of Public Health. (City Manager)

Dr. Belinda Reininger and E.Ray Gard from the UT School of Public Health addressed the Council. Dr. Reininger informed the Council that this past year was a very successful year for Laguna Vista with the Health Grant. The 2014-15 Fiscal Year had an increase of grant funds. Laguna Vista’s health worker Fela Leos has been doing an excellent job in collecting blood pressure checks, she has exceeded the number required. Zumba classes are also given every day here in Laguna Vista.

Dr. Reininger stated that they have found that communities with walking areas tend to be healthier. Laguna Vista will be participating with the City of Brownsville Health Challenge, also known as the Biggest Loser Challenger, in January 2015. We are hoping that the Laguna Vista citizens will get involved with this event. We want people to become more active in their community.

The new grant has appropriated approximately \$20,000 for environmental changes. Council Member Carter asked what the restrictions were for the \$20,000. Dr. Reininger stated that there are certain criteria’s for the use of environmental changes. Also, the \$20,000 can be used as a match for a grant.

- B. **ADVISORY BOARD HANDBOOK** – Approval to amend Section 2.3(A) of the Advisory Board Handbook. (City Manager)

Council Member Meschi made a motion to amend the Advisory Board Handbook, in particular Section 2, Subsection 2.3(A) to read as follows:

Library Board

The Library Board consists of five members confirmed by the Town Council. The Library Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Town Council for the continued development and improvement of the Laguna Vista Public Library. The Library Board meets monthly or as necessary.

Council Member Hinojosa seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

Rolando Vela explained that there is a balance of \$60,379.50 in the certificates of obligation account. Of that balance there is \$4,600 that is committed for fire hydrants.

- D. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-34** – First Reading – To approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2014-34, adopting the Subdivision Ordinance for the Town. (City Manager)

No action was taken on Ordinance 2014-34 – first reading only.

- E. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2012-19** – Discussion of potential changes to Ordinance Number 2012-19 (Mayor Houston)

Mayor Houston made a motion to go into executive session, at 6:50 pm, to discuss Ordinance Number 2012-19 with Town Attorney, Council Member Meschi seconded the motion. Council Member Davalos opposed motion. All others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council came out of executive session at 7:18 pm.

It was the consensus of the Town Council that the Town Attorney revise the ordinance as directed in executive session and re-submit to the Council at the next meeting.

- F. **ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS** – To make an appointment to the Board of Ethics. (City Manager)

Council Member Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Rafael Salazar to the Board of Ethics, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

G. T.D.A. GRANT NUMBER 7214271 – To award the engineering service contract for the Street Improvement Project on Ebony Lane. (City Manager) **Council Member Keplinger made a motion to award the engineering service contract for the Street Improvement Project on Ebony Lane to Cruz-Hogan Engineer Consultants, Council Member Rice seconded the motion. Council Member Hinojosa abstained from voting. All other voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

H. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

i. Street Improvements

Rolando Vela informed the Council that the street improvements on Mesquite Drive and Palm Blvd are complete. There will be nine speed humps on Palm Blvd and six on Mesquite Drive.

ii. Lose Weight Health Challenge

Rolando Vela stated that we will have a Lose Weight Health Challenge, such as the Biggest Loser contest in Brownsville. Registration will be January 10, 2015. Final weight in is scheduled for April 2015.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION - There will be an Executive Session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney to seek advice in legal matters.

 **Litigation relating to Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction**

Council Member Keplinger made a motion to go into executive session, at 7:30 pm, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Section §551.071; consultation with Town Attorney to seek advice in legal matters concerning – Litigation relating to Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council came out of executive session at 7:50 pm.

J. OPEN SESSION - Action, if any, on the items discussed in Executive Session. **Council Member Carter made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to proceed as directed in executive session, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

Olga Carter addressed the Council with regard to the Salvation Army Angel Tree, requesting sponsorships for children’s gifts.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Davalos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:53 pm, Council Member Keplinger seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

Alma Deckard, City Secretary