STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING**

**OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL**

DATE: September 7, 2022

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor

Dr. Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1

Johvone Howard, Council Member Place 2

Rolando Gonzalez, Council Member Place 4

Victor Worrell, Council Member Place 5

Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.

Anthony David, Chief of Police

Rendie Gonzales, City Manager

Crystal Chapa, City Secretary

Norma Barbosa, Deputy Clerk

Karen Gustaitis, Office Clerk

Pura Mirales, Library Director

Willie Martinez, Public Works Director

Duvie Alcozer, Building Inspector

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

* **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

* **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Gonzalez

* **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

**OPEN FORUM -** At this time, audience is allowed 3 minutes per person to address the Council on any topic. There will be no discussion or formal action taken during this agenda item. The speaker must identify themselves before speaking. A Speaker Request Form must be presented to the City Secretary prior to the meeting.

**None**

**RESOLUTION 2022-16 BALLISTIC SHIELD GRANT PROGRAM -** Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2022-16A Resolution of The Town Council of The Town of Laguna Vista, Cameron County, Texas, To Authorize the Laguna Vista Police Chief to Submit a Grant Application Number 4616501 to the Texas Governors Office for The FY 23 Ballistic Shield Grant Program (Fy23-4616501). (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council that Chief David would like to go out for a grant program that would provide each of the officers a ballistic shield, it would roll up and fit neatly in the car and will be able to ascend into the shield.

Chief David advised the council that it would be for 2 regular ballistic shields and roll ups for each officer’s unit. This will allow the officers to work closely with the surrounding city’s and if there is an active shooter incident there would be no hesitation and further enable immediate response.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Worrell to approve resolution 2022-16.

**Second** was made by Mayor Carter

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero Aye Council Member Worrell Aye

Council Member Howard Aye Council Member De Gobeo Aye

Council Member Gonzalez Aye Mayor Carter Aye

**Motion Carried.**

**CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED TAX RATE AND SETTING PUBLIC HEARING.**

Rendie presented to council the notice of public hearing to be ran in the Port Isabel Press for next Wednesday the 14th. We are proposing the rate stays the same, due to the law it has to be stated as a tax increase.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Worrell to approve option A.

**Second** was made by Council Member Howard

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero Aye Council Member Worrell Aye

Council Member Howard Aye Council Member De Gobeo Aye

Council Member Gonzalez Aye Mayor Carter Aye

**Motion Carried.**

**FY 2022-23 BUDGET-** Discussion of FY 2022-23 Budget(City Manager)

A power point presentation to Council on the Laguna Vista Budget Proposal was presented by Rendie. Including the Property Tax Rate, Interest and Sinking, Cost of living increases, and department changes.

Council member Romero asked if have gotten a formal assessment and what it would cost to have our own EMS. Mayor Carter asked Chief David if he would answer that question, Chief David explained the startup costs being right at a million.

Council Member Howard asked if we gave a salary increase last year, Rendie answered yes at 3 percent. Council Member Howard also asked about the Pest Control budget. Rendie answered that it is going to comprise of the chemical for spraying, briquettes, bug service that comes in and sprays and we also increased the chemical amount now that we have a full-time vector.

Council Member Gonzalez commented on the time the EMS takes to respond is good, Chief added that it takes 12 ½-13 minutes, and the relationship has grown with them the last 3 years, we will see them a lot of times here at the park and stationed at the stripes.

Council Member Worrell asked about the projection on the building permits. Rendie explained that she took the last 5 years and averaged the increase then took half of that.

Council Member De Gobeo commented that she really like the set up and can look over the numbers with ease. Council Member De Gobeo asked about the library and would like to see how it is being used, Rendie will provide the monthly averages from the reports that Pura turns in. The council further discussed finding out how to upgrade and use the library in current times to grow attendance.

Mayor Carter asked the council how they feel about the equity pay raises and increases. The council all mutually agreed.

A Special Budget Meeting for the second reading was scheduled for Wednesday September 28.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** Executive closed session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, regarding any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to Section 551.071 - consultation with Town Attorney and pending litigation; 551.072 - deliberation regarding real property; 551.074 - deliberation regarding personnel matters; and 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Howard to go into executive session

**Second** was made by Council Member Worrell.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero Aye Council Member Worrell Aye

Council Member Howard Aye Council Member De Gobeo Aye

Council Member Gonzalez Aye

**Motion Carried.**

**Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.**

**Meeting resumed at 7:12 p.m.**

**NO ACTION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to adjourn.

**Second** was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero Aye Council Member Worrell Aye

Council Member Howard Aye Council Member De Gobeo Aye

Council Member Gonzalez Aye Mayor Carter Aye

**Motion Carried.**

**Meeting Adjourned 7:14 pm**

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Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:

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Crystal Chapa, City Secretary