

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

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL**

DATE: November 9, 2022
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3
Rolando Gonzalez, Mayor Pro Tem
Victor Worrell, Council Member Place 5
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Anthony David, Chief of Police
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Norma Barbosa, Deputy Clerk
Duvie Alcozer, Building Inspector/Code

MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

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

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Tolin

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

All Present

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

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

- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
 - October 12, 2022, Special Town Council meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Worrell to approve October 12th minutes.
Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Gonzalez	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Mayor Carter	Aye		

Motion Carried

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Review of Monthly Financial Reports. (City Manager)

Review of Income Statement, Check Registers, and Balance Sheets. Rendie did advise the council that the Property Taxes looks a little low this month compared to last but a large amount came in late in the month and will reflect in November. Rendie also advised that we are working with our accountant to clean up funds for the last fiscal year, the Los Fresnos Ambulance 4th quarter payment will be a prior period adjustment as well as combining funds that were combined in the audit. Mr. Carter advised that keeping the funds separate would be preferred.

Council member Tolin asked if we had any applicants for the CPA position. Rendie answered no since it hadn't been posted on last weeks publication but it will be posted this week. Mr. Carter commented that he thinks we have an obligation to put all ads in the newspaper for record.

PROCLAMATION – Monarch Butterfly Proclamation / Pledge for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

Yearly Monarch Butterfly Proclamation renewal, the annual report needs to be filed and is due on December 1st that gives an update on what we did throughout the year.

Mayor Carter read the proclamation

ORDINANCE 2022-07 - Consideration and possible action on second reading of ordinance concerning regulation of liquified petroleum gas. (City Manager).

Mr. Ozuna advised this is simply the second reading of Ordinance 2022-07. Mr. Carter stated that he didn't agree with it and Council Member De Gobeo agreed with Mr. Carter.

Mr. Ozuna read the Ordinance

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to approve Ordinance 2022-07.
Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Gonzalez	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Mayor Carter	Aye		

Motion Carried

CDC PRESIDENT – Consideration and possible action to appoint a Community Development Corporation president. (City Manager)

After Dr. Romero President of the CDC resigned, we did appoint a new member. According to the bylaws, the Town Council needs to appoint the new CDC president and at the last CDC meeting it was discussed between the members and agreed that Teri Galloway would be willing to serve if it suits the Council. The CDC may be in need of 1 or 2 members, there is couple of members Ed Rivera and Sid Ramos that have missed more than 3 meetings.

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to appoint Terri Galloway as president of the CDC Board.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Gonzalez	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Mayor Carter	Aye		

Motion Carried

PARKS PRESIDENT– Consideration and possible action to appoint a Parks Board president. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the Parks Board is in need of a President and Ms. Nicole Ekstrom is willing to serve.

Motion was made by Council Member Worrell to appoint Nicole Ekstorm as Parks Board president.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	abstain	Council Member Gonzalez	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Mayor Carter	Aye		

Motion Carried

PARKS VICE PRESIDENT– Consideration and possible action to appoint a Parks Board vice president. (City Manager)

Rendie asked to table to confirm before appointment.

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 Worrell to go into executive session.
Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Gonzalez	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Mayor Carter	Aye		

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 6:22 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 6:50 p.m.

No Action

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie summarized what we had for ARPA funds and advised that we did receive the second distribution. She also advised that all ARPA funds need to be designated by 2024 and completed by 2026.

The Street Improvement grant with Clore is being wrapped up, they repoured the hot mix last week on 10/25. Cruz gave his final approval and they are getting all the paperwork together to receive final payment and wrap the finances.

For the 2019 Floods and Tropical Storm Imelda Grant proposal for work on the drainage for Palm, Orange, Ebony and part of Mesquite, We got an RFI requesting updated information which is a good sign and means they are considering us.

CDBG Grant has no word of a gentlemen's agreement yet but we are on the list to be notified, this doesn't affect going forward on our own and went forward with posting RFP and RFQ for the administrator and engineer.

Our Public Works Director submitted his two weeks and his last day was October 26th. We put out an advertisement and are collecting resumes for a new Public Works Director and will keep the council updated.

HOT Tax we have 71 properties registered and are having trouble with even our regular payers to register. The property management companies we can't even get to return our phone calls to register. We are still working on implementing, sending letters and doing correspondence. Rendie explained we are also having trouble with where people are putting the permit number in the listing. Mayor Carter said they need to be putting it in the main description. Rendie advised that we indicated that it needs to be listed but we didn't say where it needs to be listed. Council Member De Gobeo asked if we can amend our ordinance to reflect that and Mayor Carter answered yes we can.

Rendie advised the Council that she met with Ms. Alexander and went over the process of starting the Parks Master Plan. The next crucial steps will be meeting with the council members individually for input on the council's wants and needs. She will also meet with the Parks board and get their input and then she will do her presentation and public hearing at the December meeting. Then the Survey will be developed and initiated.

Lastly Rendie advised the council on her research for the Library. She met with the librarians for the Middle and High school and they advised that they create things like having adult classes available for example tax preparation, smart phone, and tech help. Rendie is working with the library on implementing those types of informational classes. Pura is also looking for grants for updating furniture with plug ins for charging.

Council Member Tolin commented that she thought that it was great that she went to go talk to the other libraries and suggested maybe to go talk to the larger surrounding cities to see what they are doing. She further commented that Rendie is already doing so much more that has been done in the past and applaud her for that.

Council Member Tolin also thanked Police Chief David and Officer Hernandez for doing all the amazing policing and brought up an email that was sent to the council and thanked them for everything they went through to save two women.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Ozuna advised the council that he is half way through his term as a board member on the Cameron County Appraisal District serving on the HR Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to adjourn.
Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Gonzalez	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Mayor Carter	Aye		

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:09 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Crystal Chapa, City Secretary