

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

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

DATE: April 12, 2023
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1
Rolando Gonzalez, Mayor Pro Tem
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Anthony David, Police Chief
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk
Karen Gustaitis, Building Clerk
Duvie Alcozer, Building Inspector
Emmanuel Zuniga, Public Works Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: Victor Worrell, Council Member Place 5
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- **Call to Order**
Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
- **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
Invocation lead by Council Member Romero
- **Roll Call/Excused Absences**
Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to excuse Council Members Howard, Tolin, and Worrell.
Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

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.

Joseph Cantu the president of the Laguna Madre Tennis Association spoke to the council about the program.

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

- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
 - March 14, 2023, Regular Town Council meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve March 14th minutes.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

FY 2021-2022 – Presentation of the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit by Cascos & Associates, PC. (City Manager)

Mr. Frank Pecina thanked both Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Chapa for their assistance during the audit then went over the presentation of the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit with the council. The Town of Laguna Vista has earned unmodified opinions which are the most favorable opinions an entity can receive from an independent accounting firm. The Town has approximately 238 days of operations and is in a favorable financial position.

ORDINANCE 2023-03 – Consideration and possible action on **SECOND READING** regarding one-time approval for prescribed burn consistent with the Texas Clean Air Act.

Jayce Durham with Conservation Equity Partners gave an overview presentation of the Bahia Grande Conservation property.

Council member De Gobeo asked what happens to the wildlife during the burn process. Jayce answered that there are many benefits for a prescribed burn such as increasing diversity of vegetation which will provide more food for wildlife and decreasing the invasive species. As for the wildlife onsite, once they feel the heat they move away from the heat.

Council member Gonzalez advised the concern of the particular thick dense brush in the area for wildlife. Jayce answered that a fire break would be put in place around the thick area as well as have water trucks onsite.

Council member Romero asked if there have been any conversations or coordination with the National Wildlife Refuge personnel. Jayce answered yes, they have worked with both Brandon and Johnathan at Laguna Atascosa and they recommended the property be burned as well.

Mayor Carter advised that we have a majority Southeast wind and during the burn the smoke would be over the entire city and needs to be taken into consideration of a Northwind. Jayce answered that the wind is taken into consideration and given the time of year it may not even happen until next year.

Council member De Gobeo asked about warning signs for wildlife. Jayce answered that they do call the local Fire department, sheriff, Police department to notify.

Mayor Carter advised not feeling comfortable going forward with second reading until maps are provided.

Note item #9 was moved to follow item#3

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

The Check Register, Bank Reconciliation, Income Statement, and Balance Sheets were provided to Council for review.

CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDS–Consideration and possible action on regarding 2022-2023 capital outlay budget items. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council of the status of the 4 approved capital outlay items. The storage unit capital outlay item we put in a concrete slab at the fire department that cost \$10,000 and instead of the Conex boxes we purchased a metal storage building that gave us more than double the square footage for equipment and with a loft for city hall paperwork to be stored on top. The new storage will eliminate the need for the 3 storage units we pay for monthly. The storage did go over the capital outlay budget, but the additional funds needed were taken out of the monthly department contract services budgets that is used to pay the monthly storage unit fees.

The Police vehicle capital outlay item order was placed on October 2, 2022. The factory microchips are backordered delaying the order. The Capital Outlay budget was for \$50,000 and the vehical came out to \$55,289.75 and the difference will come out of the Police budget.

The Fire Department Air Compressors Capital Outlay item was budgeted for \$42,000 and was purchased for \$41,293.00.

The last Capital Outlay item is for Public Works. Our new Public Works director now that he has been here for a few months and has gone through storage, has a feel for what they need and is looking at equipment that will be the best investment.

ARPA FUNDS– Consideration and possible on regarding 2022/2023 capital outlay budget items.

Rendie advised the council of the balance in the ARPA Checking account, and spreadsheet that shows the deposits, resolution approvals, and what was actually spent.

Mayor Carter states that we are six months into the year and we approved all these projects and they haven't been done. The library weather stripping is very important and hasn't been done and the library computers are just a computer order. The Toughbook's and cloud storage are from 2022, why haven't they been completed. Rendie advises that it is a process, the grant writers have to write the application for bids, and they have to be posted. The police and fire department vehicles request for bids were posted and we got no response even when reaching out through Co-Op Texas Smart Buy. As for the weather stripping, we need 3 places and further states it is a lot of hoops to jump through for spending the federal money. Rendie further advised she put a pause on the library computers due to them having new computers through grants and friends of the library. Given the amount of paperwork we are focusing first on the bigger ticket items. Toughbook's and Cloud storage we are having to do the bids and should start moving faster.

Council Member De Gobeo asked if we have to have three bids. Rendie answered no as long as we solicited we just need at least one.

RESOLUTION 2023-10– Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2023-09 amending and incorporating Resolutions 2022-11, 2022-17 and 2023-03. (City Manager)

Council member De Gobeo asked about the time frame and Rendie answered we have until 2024 to designate and 2026 to spend.

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve Resolution 2023-10.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-11– Consideration and possible action TO APPROVE Resolution 2023-11 appointing ARPA Invitation For Bid – 2308 for purchase of Police Body Cams and Conducted Electrical Weapons. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the prior bid for Police Body Cams and Electrical Weapons had expired and the new bid came in for \$110,921.90.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Resolution 2023-11.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-03– Consideration and possible action TO APPROVE Resolution 2023-03 approving the 2023 Parks Master Plan. (City Manager)

Patty Alexander presented to council the completed Parks Master Plan.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to approve Resolution 2023-04.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE 2023-02– Consideration and possible action on **SECOND READING** regarding THE Town of Laguna Vista and City of Brownsville Litigation Settlement Agreement. (City Attorney)

Mr. Ozuna spoke to the council on the Settlement Agreement and recommended to approve it.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to approve Ordinance 2023-02.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	abstain	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION 2023-08– Consideration and possible action to rescind Resolution 2023-06 authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Application and Adopting required CDBG Civil Rights Policies. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council that the survey indicated we didn't qualify due to the LMI, so the project scope will need to be narrowed down.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Resolution 2023-08 rescinding Resolution 2023-06.

Second was made by Mayor.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-09– Consideration and possible action authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Application and Adopting required CDBG Civil Rights Policies and rescinding prior inconsistent resolutions. (City manager)

Rendie advised the council of the small area that qualifies for the grant.

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve Resolution 2023-09.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-12–Consideration and possible action to authorize the Laguna Vista Police Chief to submit grant application number 3187108 for the Operation Stone Garden Program (OPSG-24 #3187108). (Police Chief)

Chief David spoke to the council about the Operation Stone Garden and requested to submit for the grant.

Motion was made by Mayor to approve Resolution 2023-12.
Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

TRAVEL REQUESTS– (City Manager)

- a. Consideration and possible action to approve and authorize travel for Duvie Alcozer to attend Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester training in Round Rock, Texas, June 12-16, 2023.
- b. Consideration and possible action to approve and authorize travel for Rendie Gonzales and Crystal Chapa to attend annual MIP Training Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 10-12, 2023.

Rendie advised the council on the 2 travel requests. Duvie advised the council that currently we contract an inspector from the island to do the plumbing inspections, in order for her to get her license she needs to get the prerequisite training.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve both travel requests.
Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

OVERLAY DISTRICT WORKSHOP–Discussion and possible action to schedule a workshop meeting to discuss the Overlay/Business District of Laguna Vista. (City Manager)

Mayor requested not to schedule right now since members are missing. Rendie will email possible dates for input.

EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL POLICY–Discussion and possible action to approve the revised Employee Personnel Policy. (City Manager)

Town attorney requested to table this item.

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 Mayor Carter to go into executive session.
Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

No action taken from executive session.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie presented the council with the full city manager report. Mayor Carter asked about the Library and how many people attend the Book nights and movie nights. Rendie answered 7-12 is the average and Lego night is the most popular. Mayor also asked how often are the library events. Rendie answered once a week.

ADJOURNMENT


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

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:53 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Crystal Chapa, City Secretary