

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

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

DATE: August 20, 2024
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Dr. Christopher Romero, Mayor Pro-Tem
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3
Kenneth Cornelius, Council Member Place 4
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5
Miguel Hernandez, Council Member Place 6

Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Greg Cruz, Police Commander
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

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

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation led by Council Member Tolin.

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to excuse Council Member Howard.
Second was made by Council Member Cornelius.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	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.

None

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

- **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-04** – Consideration and possible action on the **SECOND READING** of Ordinance Number 2024-04 designation restricted and designated fund balance for 2023/2024 fiscal year (City Manager).

Rendie advised the council that this is the second reading of Ordinance 2024-04 designating 90 days of funds for expenses. She further advised last year we designated \$580,000 for 2022-2023 fiscal year and for the 2023-2024 fiscal year we are increasing the designation by \$141,986 for a total designation of \$721,986 which will cover three months of operating expenses.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve Ordinance number 2024-04.
Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Rendie read the caption.

Mayor Carter commented that we have a very strong fund balance.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-05 – Consideration and possible action on **SECOND READING** of Ordinance Number 2024-05 adopting the 2024 ad valorem tax rate for maintenance and operation and for the interest & sinking fund. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council this is the same tax rate we adopted last year at 0.454124, the M&O at 0.440964, and the I&S at 0.013160.

Mayor Carter stated that he understands there has been some discussion on the tax rates and why we chose what we chose. Mayor continued but if you look at our revenues this year vs. last year, then he further added that we are taking \$350,000 from the fund balance for projects and capital improvements so if you take out the \$350,000 are only increasing the budget by \$54,000. He

continued to advise that if we change the tax rate we would actually be in the hole, we are operating at a very level pace right now.

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.454124, which is effectively a 9.79 percent increase in the tax rate, with a maintenance and operations rate component of 0.440964.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mayor Carter that we adopt as a component of the tax rate an interest and sinking fund rat of 0.013160.

Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Rendie read the caption.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-06 – Consideration and possible action on **SECOND READING** of Ordinance Number 2024-06 adopting the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget (City Manager).

Rendie advised that is the second reading of the 2024-2025 fiscal year proposed budget.

Mayor Carter advised that we have \$350,000 in capital improvements that include \$70,000 for a new police vehicle, \$150,000 for the beginning plans for a new police building, and \$130,000 for an additional stall at the fire department. He further advised that we plan to expand year by year. Mayor Carter also advised that starting October 1st our FRO will increase. Rendie advised that Dr. Uribe, Chief Daniels, and Chief Waters have all gotten together applied and got approved for our FRO to be increased and now when a paramedic arrives on scene that will be able to start an IV and administer certain medications. Rendie also highlighted on the partnership with Los Fresnos and Chief Daniels.

Mayor Carter then briefly highlighted the budget increases advising that a large one came from the group health insurance as well as other insurance increases, the needed police department wage increases, and the First responder partnership.

Council Member Tolin thanked everyone involved in the partnership with Los Fresnos, stating that was a tremendous achievement. She also thanked the City of Los Fresnos for being involved.

Mayor Carter advised that we have only increased taxes twelve cents in ten years. He further advised of the surrounding cities tax rates in comparison we have a very low tax rate.

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to approve Ordinance Number 2024-06 adopting the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Rendie read the caption.

Mayor Carter commented that the decisions that this board makes especially on budget and tax rate affects all of us, just like it affects anybody else and we are not going to do things to hurt ourselves, we are trying to do the best for our town.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to adjourn.

Second was made by Council Member Cornelius.

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 pm


Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:


Crystal Chapa, City Secretary

