

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

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

DATE: August 6, 2024  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor  
Dr. Christopher Romero, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2  
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3  
Kenneth Cornelius, Council Member Place 4  
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5  
Miguel Hernandez, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.  
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager  
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary  
Greg Cruz, Police Commander  
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk  
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk  
Elizabeth Baldwin, Library Clerk  
Neil Waters, Fire Chief

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Please note:

Audio on recording goes in and out at times, some areas on recording are inaudible.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

• **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation led 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:

- **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN** – Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (City Manager).

Rendie advised the last time the plan was revised was back in 2021, there is no action unless someone has something they want to add or change.

Mayor Carter asked if Rendie will update it going forward. Rendie answered that as we go over the budget the Council will decide what we want our next Capital Improvement Plans to be.

Council Member Romero talked about adding the City Hall/Police building to plan for improvements and Rendie agreed and also advised she would like to see a fund for the fire engines as well.

Mayor Carter advised that he would like to see a building modeled after Los Fresnos on 100 next to the Eco Tourism Center.

**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; 551.072 – deliberation regarding real property; 551.074 – deliberation regarding personnel matters; and 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.

- Consultation with Town Attorney regarding statutory procedure for budget adoption.

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

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

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 5:50 p.m.**

**Meeting resumed at 6:30 p.m.**

**2024/2025 FISCAL BUDGET – Consideration and possible action on the 2024/2025 Fiscal Budget. (City Manager)**

Rendie advised under tab number 5 the Tax Rate Analysis spreadsheet section A gives our current last year rate .454124, last year the council raised the tax rate with the intentions of not raising the tax rate this year and that is why it is figured this way. Rendie further advised options B, C, and D are just for information and consideration.

Town Attorney Mr. Ozuna explained the Voter Approval Rate at Rendie's request.

Rendie advised based on the current tax rate she is proposing a staff wide 3 percent cost of living increase, FLSA Salary adjustments, and Wage Equality adjustment for the police department.

Council member Howard asked about the Revenue in Penalty and Interest and Rendie advised this is the property tax collection received from Cameron County. Council Member Howard also asked about the interest revenue and Rendie advised this is the interest received from our bank accounts and as the ARPA money is spent this will decrease. Council member Howard asked about the Miscellaneous revenue and Rendie advised that a big chunk is from the force cleaning.

Council member Howard also had questions on some of the expenses, Rendie explained the special events went up due to revenue/expense process corrections as well as our events growing. There was a typo discovered on the auto insurance and tax collections that will be corrected. Rendie also advised that we combined Police postage into City Hall and combined the books into training.

Council member Romero asked about the medical supply expense and Rendie advised that we had a surplus this year and did not use as much as anticipated and the ambulance supplies what they use.

Council member Howard asked if we have asked the CDC to assist with the Dog Park, Mayor Carter asked Mr. Ozuna if the CDC is able to assist and Mr. Ozuna answered yes, that they could. Mayor Carter advised nixing the Dog Park and move it to CDC. Mayor Carter asked if everyone agreed on the Police Building and unit and then asked about the Fire Bay as well.

The council discussed the library renovations and pending CDC funding. Rendie advised that there is some leftover funds in the building maintenance that she will use for some of the renovations needed for this fiscal year and will be looking into funding available.

Mayor Carter advised that the capital outlay items will need to be presented coming out as a designated fund balance for \$350,000 in order to present a balanced budget.

**TAX RATE – Consideration and possible action regarding proposed Tax Rate and setting public hearing. (City Manager).**

Rendie advised that if everyone agrees on the proposed tax rate, she will post the ad in the paper in the morning for the public meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Tolin to approve the Tax Rate as discussed.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Bryant.

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Tolin to adjourn.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Howard.

**VOTE**

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

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:08 pm**

  
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Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Crystal Chapa, City Secretary

