

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

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Bettina Tolin, Council Member place 3
Johvonne Howard, Mayor Pro-Tem
Rolando Gonzalez, Council Member Place 4
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Anthony David, Chief of Police
Neil Waters, Fire Chief
Steve Reyes, Police Sergeant
Gregory Cruz, Police Officer
Damian Hairston, EMT
Jamie Landry, Volunteer
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk
Pura Mireles, Librarian
Liz Baldwin, Library Clerk
Emmanuel Zuniga, Public Works Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Tolin.

- **Roll Call/Excused Absences-** Council Member Romero

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to excuse Council Member Romero.
Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	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.

Emily Galvan- Ms. Galvan is a resident and Friend of the Library and spoke to the council on the value the public library to the community and the needed funding for upgrades as well as inviting everyone to become a Friend of the Library.

Natalie Ruiz- Ms. Ruiz spoke to the council regarding the application for funds at the prior CDC meeting for \$10,000 to pay four months rent with the intent to negotiate with health care providers to open a clinic. Mr. Ruiz asked if the council could comment and give an updated status on the efforts being taken.

Charlene Kuprel- Ms. Kuprel spoke to the council on a GLO Grant up to \$300,000 for new homes to be build 2 feet over the flood plain and why it is not a good idea since it will affect existing home with more flood water.

Corrine Estes- Ms. Estes gave a brief demonstration to council.

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

- **PROCLAMATIONS** – Proclamation regarding the Laguna Vista Public Safety and Emergency Medical Services

Rendie advised due to the quick actions of our First Responders we were able to avoid a big catastrophe. Mayor Carter thanked the First Responders and read the proclamation recognizing Police officer Gregory Cruz, Fire Chief Neil Waters, EMT Damien Hairston, and Volunteer Fire Fighter Jamie Landry.

Police Chief Tony David introduced the Emergency Medical personnel, Tony Betancourt, Leopoldo Sarmiento, Damien Hairston, and Jeffrey Betancourt.

MINUTES – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:

- o November 14, 2023, Regular Town Council meeting

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

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

FY 2022-2023 – Presentation of the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit by Cascos & Associates, PC.
(City Manager)

Mr. Pecina from Cascos and Associates advised the council of a correction for the classification of the restricted use funds of \$580,000.

Mr. Alfred Vera Cascos and Associates Audit Manager thanked the Town for allowing them to do the external Audit again this year and introduced Jenette one of their Senior Auditors to do the audit presentation.

Mayor Carter asked if there were any findings and Jenette answered No.

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. Rendie advised for property taxes were currently at 74% collected at this time last year we were at 77% so we are right on track and our overall revenue we are at 56% collected at this time last year we were at 55% so again right on track as well as for expenditures.

Rendie also advised that at the next meeting we will have an ordinance to update the 90 expenses as well and designate the EMS and matching fund for the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant.

Mayor Carter asked everyone to turn to page 35 of the Audit report and advised that every single item was within budget and thanked the staff.

Council Member De Gobeo had questions on the check register. She asked about a force mow payment. Rendie answered that normally we have our Public Works handle it, but this was a onetime immediate need. She also asked what the 511 charge was for and Chief David advised it was a charge for new pants for the officers. She asked about a charge for EMS emails and Rendie advised it was a subscription charge for the creation of the new emails. Lastly, she asked about a business lunch charge with LNG and Rendie answered she took them out for lunch to discuss a collaboration with Laguna Vista.

ORDINANCE 2023-08 – Consideration and possible action on **SECOND** reading of ordinance 2023-08 affirming settlement of Paule Seals, et al, v. City of Brownsville. (Town Attorney)

Mayor asked if we have posted the maps and Mr. Ozuna answered we would after passed. Rendie advised that we will do a joint press release once finalized.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Ordinance 2023-08.
Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-30 –Consideration and possible action to approve The Town of Laguna Vista’s City Standard of Conduct with Conflict -of-Interest Policy. (City Manager)

Rendie advised that this is a required ARPA update. Mr. Ozuna advised he has reviewed and approved the changes.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve Resolution 2023-30.
Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-31 –AEP Resolution – OZUNA

Mr. Ozuna advised that just this afternoon we received a new email indicating arrival of settlement. All we need to do tonight is pass the resolution authorizing to join the cities coalition.

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to approve Resolution 2023-31.
Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

GLO RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (RCP) – Discussion and consideration of the GLO Resilient Communities Program. (City Manager)

Rendie advised that Grantworks reached out to us with Grant opportunity options through GLO. This will help the Town with updating our Capital improvement plan, Population and housing studies, ensuring ordinances are up to date, and new town mappings.

Mr. Ozuna also advised the council that they also inquired if admin costs, and attorney fees are included.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve.

Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

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.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to go into executive session.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 6:51 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 7:04 p.m.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie advised there are no new expenditures on the ARPA grant, the tough books are on the way and we are looking into new bids for the library weather proofing and window striping. Rendie further advised we are still in the initial document phase for the 2019 Floods grant and nothing new to update on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant.

Rendie advised she had a meeting with Patty Alexander and the Library on opportunities for new age library. Lot of ideas on updating furniture and adding a sensory room. The TLA and USDA sent out a webinar on upcoming grants for library remodeling and development. We are looking into doing a library survey similar to the parks survey we did and in early spring have a presentation ready. Rendie also advised that library salaries can be used as matching funds.

Council Member Howard advised that her and Ms. Bryant came in as Friends of the Library to have a meeting with Rendie on funding for the library. She also advised they have something in the works for February and will advise on how we can help. Mayor thanked them for their time on the Library board.

Rendie updated on the GLO Street Grant and advised all construction is finished we are just working with Mr. Mondragon to get it completely finalized so we don't run into any problems with for the 2024-2025 grant cycle.

Rendie updated on the photographs for the website and advised a retake needs to be scheduled for the EMS department and anyone who needs to take their picture. Rendie gave a preview presentation of the new website template showing the updates.

Rendie advised that her weekly "Did you know" posts are getting a lot of positive feedback. She also advised that the first newsletter did go out on November 20th and are on track to publish every 20th of the month. Rendie also advised on the email blast growth in the last year. She further advised of the Market days promotion and attendance.

Rendie advised the Library added an new nutritional class that had 7 attendees.

Rendie advised that she received great reviews on the Winter Wonderland Event and thanked all the staff for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:21 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Crystal Chapa, City Secretary