

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

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

DATE: July 9, 2024
TIME: 6:00 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
Anthony David, Chief of Police
Ricky Gonzalez, Police Commander

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Please note: Audio on recording goes in and out at times, some areas on recording are inaudible due to statewide internet issues.

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 Tolin.

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

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:

- **RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION** – Commander Ricky Gonzalez retiring from Laguna Vista after 9.5 years of service to the Town of Laguna Vista.

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

- June 11, 2024, Regular Town Council meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve the June 11th minutes.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

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 that we are tracking on budget for both.

2025/2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM – Consideration and approve authorization to issue requests for proposal for administrative services (RFP) and requests for qualifications for engineering services (RFQ) for grant pre-application (Phase I), application (Phase II), and implementation services for Texas Community Development Grant Program for 2025/2026 Community Development Fund (and all eligible activities per the application guidance) as administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. (City Manager)

Rendie is asking for permission to request proposals for administration for the grant so we can then apply for the community development block grant. Rendie advised that since there is no longer a gentleman's agreement it is very important not to waste any time since it will be very competitive. Rendie further advised that it will be a longer process now with both phase one and phase two.

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to authorize the City Manager to go out for RFP's and RFQ's.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
-----------------------	-----	-----------------------	-----

Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

OFFICE SPACE INCENTIVE PROJECT – Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation from the CDC for the funding of incentive to clinic space for medical clinic operation. (City Manager).

Rendie advised the contract is between the CDC and the Landlord directly for the base rent of the building used for medical purposes by New Horizon's.

Mayor stated that this is for economic development, New Horizon's is a new business, and we want it to be successful.

Council Member Tolin asked how much the rent is, Rendie answered it is a five-year agreement and the monthly rent starts at \$9,000 through March 30, 2025, and goes up every two years. The grand total for the five-year contract would be \$174,000.

Mr. Wallace, the CEO of New Horizon's spoke about their excitement of opening and services they will be providing at the clinic. He further advised that they are looking at September 3rd to be their grand opening.

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve the CDC's Recommendation.
Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS – Consideration and possible action to approve the holiday decoration recommendations from the CDC. (City Manager).

Rendie advised that a few months back the CDC approved a lump sum to be spent on holiday decorations and the firework show. She further advised that the money is approved, and she needs their approval on the actual decorations we will be purchasing. Rendie advised of her plan to move the large Christmas tree to the entrance on 510 and 100 with the addition of another ring as well as purchase ornaments with logo and large letters consisting of and L and a V. The other purchase would be for Roloff park, it would be a large photo frame prop to be used during all our holidays.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the CDC's Recommendation Option A.
Second was made by Council Member Cornelius.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-08 – Discussion, consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-08 approving ARPA Project Direction #9. (City Manager).

Rendie updated the council on the library weather stripping and the cost being between 22,000 to 30,000. Rendie also advised that Pura reported that the leaking has stopped now that the shutters are on.

Rendie advised that we can revise the ARPA resolution and take number 7 and 8 off or we can wait. Council Member Howard stated that she does not think that the library needs anymore computers. Mayor agreed that we should take number 7 and 8 off the resolution.

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to approve Resolution 2024-08.

Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-02 – Consideration and possible action on the SECOND reading of Ordinance number 2024-02 regulating the parking on Harbor View, Harbor Town and Harbor Point. (City Manager).

Rendie advised that this is coming to council as its second reading and further advised that the streets on Harbor View, Harbor Town and Harbor Point are extremely narrow when cars park on the street emergency vehicles are unable to pass, this ordinance would eliminate that.

Town Attorney Mr. Ozuna performed the reading.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve Ordinance 2024-02.

Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye

Council Member Tolin

Aye

Mayor Carter

Aye

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-03 – Consideration and possible action on the SECOND reading of Ordinance number 2024-03 regulating off-leash dog walking areas. (City Manager).

Rendie advised this is coming to council as the second reading, she continued to advise this would be one of the first steps we would need to have in place in order to move forward with the temporary dog park and would allow owners to have their dogs off leash in a designated area.

Mayor stated that he wanted to make sure that this ordinance would only be regulated in a designated area that would be defined by the town council.

Council Member Tolin discussed her concern with the title of the ordinance suggesting that we add a sentence with one or more dog walking areas yet to be determined. Further discussion of the matter of titling was discussed and Council Member Romero suggested simply adding designated in between for and off-leash in the title of the ordinance.

Town Attorney Mr. Ozuna performed the reading.

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to approve Ordinance number 2024-03 with the addition of designated in between for and off-leash to be inserted.

Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

Council Member Romero

Aye

Council Member Bryant

Aye

Council Member Howard

Aye

Council Member Hernandez

Aye

Council Member Tolin

Aye

Mayor Carter

Aye

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-04 – Consideration and possible action on the FIRST reading of Ordinance number 2024-04 regarding designation of fund balance per the 2011 Home Rule Charter. (City Manager).

Rendie asked that we table this item since she was unable to print the ordinance due to the statewide internet issues we were having. Mayor agreed to table this item.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to table.

Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

Council Member Romero

Aye

Council Member Bryant

Aye

Council Member Howard

Aye

Council Member Hernandez

Aye

Council Member Tolin

Aye

Mayor Carter

Aye

Motion Carried

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

Rendie advised the council that we need to set up the calendar for the budget meetings and further advised that it is due by the end of August.

Mr. Ozuna recommended the 1st reading of the budget being at our regular scheduled meeting and the 2nd reading on or before August 26th and if the council would like to have a budget workshop prior to the adoption of the first reading we could do that sometime at the end of this month or the first week of August.

After discussion the council decided to have the budget workshop on August 6th at 5:30, to move the regular town council meeting from Tuesday the 13th to Wednesday the 14th, and to have the special meeting on August 20th.

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to move the next scheduled regular meeting from Tuesday August 13th to Wednesday August 14th.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero

Aye

Council Member Bryant

Aye

Council Member Howard

Aye

Council Member Hernandez

Aye

Council Member Tolin

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.

- Section 551.074 – City manager

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

Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

Council Member Romero

Aye

Council Member Bryant

Aye

Council Member Howard

Aye

Council Member Hernandez

Aye

Council Member Tolin

Aye

Mayor Carter

Aye

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 7:22 p.m.

- Consideration and possible action as a result of executive session deliberation.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to amend the City Manager contract as discussed in executive session.

Second was made by Council Member Hernandez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero

Aye

Council Member Bryant

Aye

Council Member Howard

Aye

Council Member Hernandez

Aye

Council Member Tolin

Aye

Mayor Carter

Aye

Motion Carried

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Carter thanked the City Manager, staff, and the Chief of police for the amazing Independence Day event and commented that the staff was amazing at planning and executing the event. Mayor Carter continued to add mainly the execution of our hurricane plan during the last two storms have been amazing and that he is proud of our city for coming together, its two dry runs but we are never going to let our guard down and continued to thank everyone for all the hard work and extra hours put in.

Rendie advised the council that she wanted to address a citizen complaint we had at our last meeting concerning Peak Bay. Rendie advised that over the past year we have issued over 7 citations at Peak Bay, the problem we are having with enforcing it is we issue the citations, and it gets cleaned up before they would have to account for it in court making it a really hard case to handle. However, we have cited them, and they are due in front of Judge Hunter next week we will hold the court date whether they clean up or not. Mr. Ozuna is briefed on the case and will be representing the city. Rendie further advised that they have a new property manager whom she has spoken to, and the property manager has advised her higher ups, her goal is to come to court on the 17th either with the solution to have the trash can moved, enclosed, and or a different receptacle and Rendie agreed that they needed to do all three. Rendie continued to advised the council that herself and Chief David in the meantime had a unit parked right across from the receptacle and have a motion camera set up to catch any illegal dumping that Peak Bay has claimed to be an issue, Chief David has put up a sign on the receptacle to please not dump trash, we do not want to give you a citation, you are being recorded.

Rendie advised that Tanglewood apartments has begun the process of obtaining permitting approval. The current structure will be completely renovated and Duvie is reviewing the plans, Fire Marshals will go through with county to make sure everything will be brought up to code, thanks to council we adopted brand new codes, and these buildings will need to be brought up to them. Then they will be moving forward to building the three new buildings and have brought in the plans, Rendie advised that there will be a new park in the center to the new buildings and there is discussion of having it as a public park if the city will help with the maintenance and the goal is to achieve this.

Rendie advised that she went over our hurricane readiness plan that was adopted in 2011, some things are still valid and some not, but she has gone through, edited and updated it.

Lastly Rendie updated on the events advising that the Independence Day event was very successful estimating around 600 people were in attendance and thanked everyone for their support. Rendie also advised that she got a call today from Constable Esquivel asking if Laguna Vista would be able to host their Water Wars event on August 10th, and we advised that we would be happy to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to adjourn.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:42 pm


Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:


Crystal Chapa, City Secretary