

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

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

DATE: June 11, 2024  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor  
Dr. Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1  
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  
Norma Barbosa, Municipal Court Clerk  
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk  
Pura Mireles, Librarian  
Liz Baldwin, Library Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Johvonne Howard, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3

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 6:03pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Romero.

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences-** Council Member Howard and Tolin

**Motion** was made by Council Member Romero to excuse Council Members Howard and Tolin.

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

**VOTE**

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

Marti Ethridge provided the council members with a handout and advised of increasing foot traffic in the last 6 months due to the Dollar General and increased speeding on Orange, Ebony, Palm, and Mesquite from non-locals appearing to be mostly contractors. She requested 3 additional speed bumps on each street.

Sandra Margaret provided a handout for the council members to share with each other and advised of continued trash problem at Peak Bay Apartments. She advised of the complaint she filed at City Hall with Ms. Alcozer and that she did get an immediate reply back. Solutions to the trash situations are increased daily fines, signs, and trash receptacle enclosures.

Stanford Knowles advised the council of his architectural background and his service on the P&Z board as well as for the County's planning board for North Padre Island. He advised of the water retention plan or lack thereof as well as having a no motors area in the marina. Mr. Knowles volunteered to help with updating the zoning requirements.

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

- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
  - May 14, 2024, Regular Town Council meeting

Council Member Bryant asked if the typos have been corrected and Rendie answered yes, they have.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the May 14<sup>th</sup> minutes.

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

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Bryant	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 should be at 75% for both our revenue and expenses and we are tracking on budget for both. Rendie continued to advise that we are at 95% collected on our property taxes and 89% overall for revenue, she further advised that we are at 62% for our expenses.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS – (City Manager)**

Rendie advised that we have newly elected council members who would like to attend the newly elected orientation, both Council member Bryant and Hernandez have voiced their interest in attending. Council Member Cornelius advised he will be unable to attend due to his work schedule.

Rendie advised of the annual MIP conference on training and updates for the accounting software that we use. Rendie further advised the benefits of the training when acquiring new modules such as the Purchase Orders that were added previously and the new HR Module, we acquired this year.

- Consideration and possible action to approve and authorize travel for Council Members, Cornelius, Bryant, and Hernandez to attend Newly Elected City Officials Orientation in San Antonio or Round Rock, Texas, on July 18-19, 2024 or August 08-09, 2024
- 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 8-12, 2024

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bryant to approve all travel requests.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Cornelius.

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**MAYOR PRO-TEM – Consideration and possible action to appoint/re-appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem as per Home Rule Charter. (City Manager)**

Mayor Carter nominated Council Member Romero as Mayor Pro-Tem advising he has been fantastic and very active on the board.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to appoint Council Member Romero as Mayor Pro-Tem.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2024-07 authorizing the bank signatures for the Town of Laguna Vista. (City Manager).

Rendie advised the council that as regular maintenance we need to update our bank signature cards to remove the outgoing council members and replace with the newly elected council members. Rendie further advised the process of needing two signatures on our checks usually consisting of herself and one council member.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to approve Resolution No. 2024-07.

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

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Hernandez	Aye
Council Member Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Bryant	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 advised of the updated ARPA designation and the obstacle of getting bids on the library items. Rendie is proposing that we instead remove line items 7 and 8 and designate the funds of \$11,900 to The Friends of the Library with the responsibility of getting the projects done. Rendie further advised that she found out today the cost of the library stripping increased from 8,000 to 26,000 to 30,000.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to table.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-02** – Consideration and possible action on the FIRST READING OF Ordinance number 2024-02 regulating the parking on Harbor View, Harbor Town and Harbor Point. (City Manager).

Rendie advised the council that parking on these three streets is very narrow and when vehicles are parked on the street emergency vehicles cannot pass, so for public safety reasons the ordinance would prevent parking on these three streets.

Town Attorney Mr. Ozuna performed the reading.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2024-02.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

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

Rendie advised this ordinance would allow dogs to be off leash in a dog park if created.

Town Attorney Mr. Ozuna performed the reading.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the first reading of Ordinance number 2024-03.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE** – Consideration and possible action to renew the contract for Municipal Court Judge Services. (City Manager).

Rendie advised that Judge Hunter was asked if he would be willing to continue to serve as our municipal court judge and he agreed, and we are coming to the council to renew his contract.

Mayor Carter advised that Judge Hunter has been fantastic for us and things are going much smoother with him as Judge.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to renew the contract for Municipal Court Judge.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Cornelius.

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**ALTERNANTE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE** – Consideration and possible action to renew the contract for the Alternate Municipal Court Judge Services. (City Manager).

Rendie advised that in the event that Judge Hunter is unable to hold Municipal Court Judge Ochoa can serve in his absence. Judge Ochoa also handles all the arraignments for our police officers and is available day or night. Chief David highly recommends the retainment of him.

Mayor Carter advises that he has been our alternate judge for as long as he himself has been here for the last thirteen years and agrees he is the guy that will always be there to make sure stuff gets done.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bryant to renew the contract for Alternate Municipal Court Judge.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Hernandez.

**VOTE**

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

- 551.071 – attorney-client consultation with Town Attorney regarding update to FLSA regulations.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 6:48 p.m.**  
**Meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Rendie advised that there is one major thing to update on for the grants, the CDBG application to start being considered is coming up. She advised that our 2024-2025 application was rejected due to prior grant issues but since have been corrected and we can proceed to apply for the 2025-2026 grant for up to 500,000. Rendie added she will be looking into if these funds can be applied to the GLO drainage grant that we are short on funds for.

Rendie also wanted to advise on the ISO ratings for the volunteer fire department received a 4x4 which is rare and above average and is good news for everyone. Rendie thanked Chief Waters for all his hard work.

Lastly Rendie updated on the events, advising that tomorrow will be the deadline for sponsorship commitments for our annual Independence Day Event on Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rendie also advised that Judge Ochoa's fishing event will be on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> and we will be donating waters and she continued to advise that there will also be a Father's Day Skate event at the Gwen Bowl on Sunday.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Hernandez.

**VOTE**

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

**Motion Carried**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 pm**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Crystal Chapa, City Secretary