

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

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

DATE: January 14, 2025
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
Kenneth Cornelius, Council Member Place 4
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5
Miguel Hernandez, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Greg Cruz, Police Chief
Norma Barbosa, City Secretary
Crystal Chapa, Finance Director
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk
Liz Baldwin, Library Clerk
Neil Waters, Fire Chief
John Reyes, Police Officer

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

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

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation led by Dr. Christopher Romero.

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

All Members were 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.

No Speaker Request Forms submitted.

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

1. Minutes- Consideration and possible action to approve the following Minutes:
 - November 12, 2024-Regular Meeting
 - November 26, 2024-Special Meeting
 - December 10, 2024-Regular Meeting
 - December 16, 2024-special Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant
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 Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

FY 2023-2024 AUDIT- Presentation of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Audit by Cascos & Associates, PC (City Manager)

Cascos & Associates Supervisor Raul Cantu presents himself to the council and audience thanking everyone that helped with the Audit. Mr. Cantu then presents Michael Merta as the auditor presenting the report. Mr. Merta then states that the audit was done fairly with no major findings and that we received an unmodified opinion which means it is a very high level of opinion which is the highest level of opinion that can be received from an audit and its earned and congratulates. He then calls the attention to the very back of the report on page 47, which is an independent Auditor Report on internal controls, he states there was no major misrepresentations, he also states that on our balance sheet we have unassigned balance funds of \$1,065,000.37 that can be

utilized if needed, he also explains the revenues and the expenditures and how can we are able to operate 141 days without exceeding. He states that we are good and way ahead of track. He then concludes the report and thanks the council one more time.

LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT-Presentation by LMWD regarding desalination plant.

Charles Ortiz from Laguna Madre Water District did a presentation (video) on seawater desalination plant project in Port Isabel. After the presentation he also talked about the bond election coming in May in order to fund the desalination project. He then explains the costs and the benefits of this project.

TPW GRANT- Presentation regarding TPW Grant.

Patty Alexander presents herself to the council and states we got a grant for Roloff Park. She presents a PowerPoint to the audience. She explained the town received 150,000.00 from a small cities grant and that we were ranked number 1. On the PowerPoint she presents the site concept and explains the map of the project. She also explains what documents are still needed to be submitted and acknowledged to finalize the agreement but states that we are on a good pace and on track with them. She then explained the process & purpose of the master plans. The Mayor then asked if a Master Park Plan would be advantageous to Roloff Park for that grant. Alexander explains that the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation would love to be a part of that grant as well so they can participate in that.

FINANCIAL REPORTS- Review of monthly Financial Reports. (Interim City Manager)

Crystal Chapa our Finance Director explains the finance reports and asks the council if they have any questions. Mayor states everything is good and there are no questions.

CITY SECRETARY- Consideration and possible action to confirm the appointment of the City Secretary. (Interim City Manager).

City Attorney Ozuna explains that it has not been discussed by the council about that, that there is an operating City Secretary at this time who is conducting all those duties and that is taken care of as in terms of filling that position and he states that council can discuss that tonight or can take more time to discuss some appointment to that position. Cruz then states that as of this moment he has not had the time to look into that and that he will try to get that information to see who is actually the best candidate to be appointed. Mayor then reminds they had discussed at one point

before they would remain status quo until the City Manager position was filled and that everyone in the City's role would stay static as they had been and as discussed working as a team to get through the point. He proposed to just table this item. Council Member Howard states she would like to discuss this matter in executive session, they all agreed.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR- Consideration and possible action regarding selection of Laguna Vista Public Library Director. (Interim City Manager).

Chief of Police/ Interim City Manager Cruz informed the Town Council that he has gone through 53 applications along with Council Member Bryant and have gone down to 6 applications and 3 have made contact but 3 have not answered and they are down to 3 which have been scheduled for interviews. Mayor then decided to table item for the next meeting.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR- Consideration and possible action to establish a holiday calendar for 2025. (Interim City Manager).

Calendar was presented to Town Council and it was approved.

Motion was made by Council Member Howard
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 Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE 2025-01- Consideration and possible action on first reading of Ordinance 2025-01 setting speed limits on Lantana Lane, Oleander Drive, Sea Grape Lane and Wild Olive Lane.

Mayor explains he was approached by the manager of Paradise Cove, they would like to lower their speed limit to their private streets to 20 mph on Lantana Lane, Oleander Drive, Sea Grape Lane and Wild Olive Lane. Ozuna stated that second reading will be published for the next Town Council Regular Meeting and then be enforced.

Motion was made by Council Member Howard
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 Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

TRAVEL REQUESTS- Consideration and possible action to approve travel as follows:

- One Police Officer to attend Criminal Investigation Course starting February 18,2025 in San Antonio, Texas.

Motion was made by Council Member Dr. Romero
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 Cornelius	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.

Sec. 551.071- consultation with Town Attorney regarding requirements for special election to fill vacancy

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

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

**Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 7:27 p.m.**

No actions were taken from executive session.

Mayor informed there will be a Special Election to fill Place 3 in Mid April. Cameron County Election Department will provide dates and costs.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim Manager Cruz gave an update to the Town Council about the ARPA Grant and the plans. Cruz also updates the Town Council on the cost of removing of the solar panels and reconstruction of the City Hall Roof. Mayor Carter informs of the condition of the City Hall Roof and this is why is needed to be fixed.

Ozuna gives an update on the City Manager hiring process. He informs that there were about 50-60 applicants and that the opening for application will be until the 22nd of this month and a Special Meeting will be held on the 28th of this month, pursuing normal procedure to narrow it down to start interviews. He also states the applications were through Indeed, TML, and IMCA.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to adjourn.
Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

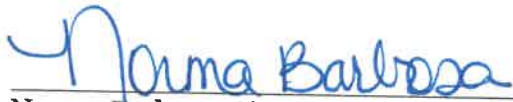
Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:02 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Norma Barbosa, City Secretary