

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

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

DATE: November 12, 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
 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
Norma Barbosa, City Secretary
Crystal Chapa, Finance Director
Anthony David, Police Chief
Lizbeth Olvera, Police Officer
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation led by Council Member Romero.

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to excuse Council Member Tolin.
Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

Officer Lizbeth Olvera was introduced to the Town Council by Chief of Police Anthony David.

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.

Stanford Knowles has questions about how the city decides on who gets to design the new buildings. He states he has been an engineer for 50 years and has experience, he would like to help the city if given the opportunity. He also has questions about the re- appointments of the Boards. He was informed he was appointed to 2 boards and he was informed that an email will be sent out with that information. The Town Attorney informs that the city has approved city engineer Guzman & Munoz Engineering.

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

- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
 - October 15, 2024, Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the October 15, 2024 minutes.
Second was made by Council 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

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Review of Monthly Financial Reports. (City Manager)

City Manager Rendie advised that the Reconciliation General Fund city balance as per the book is at \$2,781,005.79. Statement revenue and expenditures, we are at approximately 43% collected for our projected revenue, this time last year we were at 40% so we are ahead 3% from last year. Our expenditures the city is at 7% this year at this time last year we were at 6%. We are right on track. Council Member Howard questions about check numbers 34438 & 34458 for cleaning services and why the difference in amount. Clarification was made that pay is for both City Hall and Library and the difference was for event hours help.

PROCLAMATION – Monarch Butterfly Proclamation/ Pledge for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Rendie explains what the Monarch Butterfly Proclamation is about and how important it is to our community, it's a pledge that we as a city, pledge every year.
Mayer Carter reads the Proclamation to everyone.

ENGINEERING SERVICES TASK ORDER REGARDING LAGUNA VISTA FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPANSION – Discussion and possible action approving Guzman & Munoz Engineering & Surveying Task Order No. P962-04 for the development and professional services related to the Laguna Vista Fire Department Building Expansion. (City Manager & City Engineer).

Rendie advised that the extension of the fire department to add an additional bay that will house an ambulance a couple days a week from Los Fresnos, in addition it will house the donated food truck for the Salvation Army. The City has reached out to the city engineers for the bid of \$28,500 for the project, which will include, Topical Survey, Systematic Site Design, Floor Design, Permits, 100% construction documents, and Construction Phase Oversight.

Motion to approved was made by Council Member Bryant.
Second by Council Member Romero.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15 – Discussion, consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2024-15 Town Council of the Town of Laguna Vista authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Laguna Vista Police Department, to utilize a portion of the Town of Laguna Vista American Rescue Plan Funds. (City Manager).

Rendie advises that the ARPA fund has increased to \$197,131 for the use of the Police building and to use a portion of the rescue plan funds. Mayor Carter explains that it is Covid money that was given by the government for Covid Relief and that it has to be designated because we are running out of time.

Motion was made Council Member Bryant to approve Resolution 2024-15.

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

PLAN REVIEW OF LAGUNA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT– Discussion and Consideration of the Laguna Vista Police Department Building. (City Manager & City Engineer).

Rendie advised that on the screen is the proposal layout for the Police Department Building and let Ms. Sara Orta with Guzman & Munoz Engineering Firm explain the layout. Ms. Orta explains the new Police department building is a layout of 3,049 sq ft design that will have storage locker, designated restrooms, 2 vehicle garage and is going to be a metal building with brick layout designed to it with a safety privacy fence for vehicles and police officer safety. The layout of the building will be slightly changed, including parking. Darla Jones questions dispatch and Jail. Mayor answers no, because its contemplated in the future to move to a bigger facility on Hwy 100. On a side note, Council was informed that Guzman & Munoz have experience in designing Raymondville’s Police Department as a reference.

RATIFICATION- 2024/2025 EMS CONTRACT – discussion and possible action to ratify the 2024/2025 EMS contract with Los Fresnos ambulance regarding. (City Manager).

Rendie explains that this is the contract that EMS made with the City of Los Fresnos. She states it has been approved with the budget. Los Fresnos has provided us with the written agreement and it just needs to be ratified. It has been passed by Mr. Ozuna.

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve the Ratification 2024/2025 EMS Contract as amended.

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

NASBLA BOAT OPERATION AND TRAINING – Discussion and possible action regarding NASBLA Boat Operation Training(Council Hernandez & Mayor Carter).

Mayor Carter explains that it is a training to get our police department better trained in the use of the boat we have, since in recent years we have been more active on shallow waters. Chief Anthony David then explains that this is a very high training field and further advises it is more for an instance of a terrorist ship that come in pursuit that schools on how a boat can chase another boat. No decision has been made towards this Training and will need more information until approval is granted. Chief David advised council that Game Warden will give a class free of charge.

RESOLUTION 2024-14- Discuss, consider, and adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program to the Texas Department Of Agriculture for the 2025/2026 Community Development Fund. (City Manager).

Note: typo error Resolution 2024-11 read but correct Resolution number is 2024-14

Rendie explains that policies for the CDBG Grant have changed for the next fiscal year of 2025-2026 cycle which the city will need to re-submit to gain access to these funds for future or on-going projects. CDBG also have other programs open for use for smaller businesses to use and will need to be submitted by the 20th of November.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve Resolution 2024-14
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 Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

2025 TOWN CELEBRATION DATES- Consideration and possible action to determine the date of the 2025 Town Events.(City Manager).

Rendie explains to Council that an email was received from the pyrotechnics regarding the date for the 4th of July event that needs to be decided pretty quickly to lock in the date. The whole year events were basically planned to present to council to be decided on as well. Independence Day Celebration, in discussion over the fireworks show to either be cancelled or held next year due to rising prices of fireworks which has increased 6% over the last year which increases the amount to \$18,000, no decision has been made yet. Fall Festival in consideration to change the weekday that it will be held instead of Friday to be held on Saturday, it has been approved for October 25th 2025. Memorial day will be on May 26th,2025, Veteran’s Day is to be held on the same day as last year, no change has been made. (November 11th 2025). Christmas Event/ Winter Wonderland to be held on the same day as last year Dec 12th,2025. Easter Color Run to be held on April 12th, 2025.

Motion made Council Member Bryant to approve the 2025 Town Celebration Dates.
Second by Council Member Hernandez

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

2024/2025 CDC BUDGET- Consideration and possible action to approve FY 2024/2025 budget for the Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation. (City Manager)

Rendie explains the CDC budget off the sales revenue tax is 100,000 out of the 300,000 that is available to use which currently \$24,000 of the \$300,000 of the uncommitted funds are being used for the marina, 266,000 of the uncommitted funds are still available to use for future small businesses or economic development.

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve 2024-2025 CDC Budget.
Second by Council Member Howard.

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

RESOLUTION 2024-13- Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2024-13 regarding the Town of Laguna Vista Communication and Social Media Policy. (City Manager).

Rendie explains that one of the topics at the training she attended they discussed problems that Cities have with Social Media and the kind of communication and one of the suggestions was that we develop a resolution or ordinance based on how we are going to communicate with our citizens and to evade miscommunication due to it being posted on the wrong sites or where it is not visible to Council or City Officials. Laguna Vista has established that the social media activity can be considered official governmental communication and governmental records under certain circumstances.

Motion made by Council Member Cornelius to approve Resolution 2024-13.
Second 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

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 Council Member Howard to go into executive session.

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

Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 7:24 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 8:02 p.m.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie explains that some of the website issues have been fixed or improved. The calendar of events is now up and running which lists all future events of the current year, also you can access the library inventory of books, audio books as well as future additions to the library and any events that will be held at the library.

Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT), the tab/link takes you to an instruction list and a series of links to follow that will go in order of what you need and describes what you need to do to register and what comes next.

Document downloads, and new ordinances are available to find and are available to navigate via search bar with key text feature that will help you locate certain ordinances that you are looking for but organization is still a work in progress and will be addressed as soon as possible.

New Pictures of the town have also been updated and are available to see what our beautiful town looks like.

Lawn Care Ordinances need to be addressed due to violations on owners not cutting their lawns since the City is cheaper than using other local businesses. The city should adjust the Ordinance to increase fines with every infraction taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.

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 Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Norma Barbosa, City Secretary