

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

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

DATE: May 14, 2024
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: South Texas EcoTourism Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Dr. Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1
Johvonne Howard, Mayor Pro-Tem
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
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Ricky Gonzalez, Police Commander
Norma Barbosa, Municipal Court Clerk
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk
Pura Mireles, Librarian
Liz Baldwin, Library Clerk
Emmanuel Zuniga, Public Works Director
Neil Waters, Fire Chief

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bettina Tolin, Council Member place 3

Please note: No audio on recording

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Romero.

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

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to excuse Council Member Tolin.

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

Mayor Carter took a moment to thank the County for allowing us to use the South Texas EcoTourism Center to host this very special meeting, he stated swearing in to serve our community is always a special moment and what better place to do that than this special venue provided to Laguna Vista by Cameron County and thanked Cameron County for always supporting Laguna Vista and opening their doors to us tonight and specifically thanking Commissioner David A. Garza, Cameron County Commissioner, Precinct 3, Joe Vega, Cameron County Parks Director, Ed Meza, Executive Director of the South Texas Eco Tourism Center and their teams for helping coordinate this meeting tonight. Lastly but certainly not least Mayor continued to thank Judge Benito “Bo” Ochoa IV, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1.

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.

Victor Worrell congratulated the newly elected officials and thanked all the Council Members for their service and dedication to the town.

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

- **RESOLUTION 2024-06** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution Number 2024-06 to canvass the results of the Laguna Vista General Election of May 4, 2024, and related matters. (City Manager)

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to approve Resolution 2024-06.

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

OATH OF OFFICE – Administration of Oath of Elected Officials. (City Secretary).

Judge Benito Ochoa IV administered the Oath of Office to Kenneth Cornelius Council member Place 4, Teresa Bryant Council Member Place 5, and Miguel Hernandez Council Member Place 6.

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

- April 9, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to approve the April 9, 2024 minutes.
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

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 50% and are at 52.7% on our expenses and we are on target. Rendie continued to advise that we are at 93% collected on our property taxes and 84.4% overall for revenue, at this time last year we were at 83% and are right on schedule.

RECYCLING SERVICES – Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding proof of residency for recycling services (City Manager).

Rendie advised the council that at our last meeting a suggested solution to the recycling filling up too quickly was to implement proof of residency for our resident recyclers.

Council Member Howard asked how that would work for the renters and Rendie answered that they would provide a rental agreement.

Council Member Romero asked if the Service provider is ok with implementing the plan and Rendie answered yes and that they already have this implement in other cities.

Council Member Howard advised that 30 days out is too long to start implementing and Mayor disagreed and added that we need that time to get the word out. Rendie added that she will also have Duvie on site to provide flyers to the residents.

Mayor stated that this is a great idea and thanked Rendie.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve implementing proof of residency plan.

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

DOG PARK – Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding the funding source and budget for potential dog park development (City Manager).

Rendie gave a brief presentation on the proposed temporary Dog Park, giving a very rough estimate on the cost with different size options that included some materials with some discussion on additional materials that may be needed in addition.

Council Member Howard advised that we should adopt a separate ordinance and advise nearby property owners that could be concerned with barking raising a noise concern.

Council Member Romero advised that currently Brownsville is able to indicate vaccinated dogs by requiring a collar and tag on the pet.

Council Member Howard emphasized the importance of educating the public on the etiquette and suggested doing a community session.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to approve City Manager to create a dog park ordinance and budget.

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 Cornelius	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

Motion Carried

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie gave an update on the grants, for ARPA the fiscal report was filed on April 22 and due by April 30th. Rendie went over the Financial Summary submitted by Grantworks. Rendie also advised that in the June meeting we will make our final designations. Mayor Carter asked Rendie to get a hold of Mr. Lohse regarding the LVRA.

Rendie updated on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Grant for Roloff Park Improvement advising she attended the initial pre-agreement site visit with the coordinator on April 3rd but otherwise no new developments at this time. She added that we are looking at breaking ground in late fall.

Rendie updated on the CDBG GLO Drainage Grant, advising that she met with the engineers who have finished about 30-40% of the initial design study and we received some unfortunate, although not surprising news. The initial cost of this project that was bid with the grant application is no longer enough to cover the project in its entirety. So, we will need to complete the project now in two phases keeping the allotted budget in phase one and applying for additional funds to complete phase two that will consist of \$3,004,760.00.

Rendie lastly quickly highlighted the First Responder Organization advising that in the month of April they had 46 calls, which is the highest number of calls ever received in a single month. Mayor Carter thanked Chief Waters for all their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:13 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Crystal Chapa, City Secretary