

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

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

DATE: November 14, 2023
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Dr. Christopher Romero, Council Member
Johvonne Howard, Mayor Pro-Tem
Rolando Gonzalez, Council Member Place 4
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Anthony David, Chief of Police
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk
Pura Mireles, Librarian
Liz Baldwin, Library Clerk
Emmanuel Zuniga, Public Works Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

**PLEASE NOTE: NO AUDIO SOUND ON RECORDING UNTIL EXECUTIVE
SESSION RESUMES.**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

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

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Romero.

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

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to excuse Council Members Tolin and De Gobeo.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	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.

None

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

- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
 - October 18, 2023, Regular Town Council meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to approve the October 18th minutes.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	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 50 % collected on property taxes. Council Member Howard asked on the cleaning services if it is a flat fee or hourly due to the \$50.00 difference in payment on the check register, Crystal advised it is a flat fee and the additional \$50.00 was due to the extra help provided at the Fall Festival event.

RATIFICATION – 2023/2024 EMS Contract – Discussion and possible action to ratify the 2023/2024 EMS Contract with Los Fresnos Ambulance. (City Manager)

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to ratify the 2023/2024 EMS Contract.
Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-24 –Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2023-24 declaring April as National Fair Housing Month. (City Manager)

Rendie advised that this is one of three Resolution for the CDBG Grant. Mayor Carter asked the amount of the grant and Rendie advised it is for \$975,174.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve Resolution 2023-24.
Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-25 –COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES – Discuss, consider, and adopt a resolution to designate authorized signatories for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program for GLO state contract number 24-067-005-E192

Rendie advised this is resolution two of three for the CDBG Grant authorizing signatures for Mayor, City Manager, and City Secretary as required by the GLO.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Resolution 2023-25.
Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-26 –ADOPTING CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY – Discussion, consideration to adopt a resolution regarding Civil Rights which includes the following Polices:

- Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures;
- Section 3 Policy;
- Excessive Force Policy;
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Standards Plan;
- Section 504 Policy and Grievance Procedures;
- Code of Conduct Policy; and
- Fair Housing Policy.

Rendie advised this is resolution three of three of the CDBG Grant. Council Member Howard asked how do we plan to follow through with these, and Town Attorney Mr. Ozuna answered. Council Member Romero asked about the Excessive Force and Mr. Ozuna clarified.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Resolution 2023-26.
Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-27 –ARPA FUNDS – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2023-27 regarding the designation of ARPA Funds. (City Manager)

Rendie advised that she is requesting to designate funds for Incode Cloud service update that would move all the court system to the cloud and designate the remaining funds for the Maria improvements.

Council member Howard asked what percent of tickets are nonresidents, Rendie answered the majority and Mr. Ozuna also answered that most of them are nonresidents.

Mayor Carter added here would like to see everything move to the cloud.

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve Resolution 2023-27.
Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-28 – Consideration and possible action to cast vote for Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors Place 9. (City Manager)

Rendie advised that Mr. Ozuna’s current term expires this December.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Resolution 2023-28.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE 2023-08–Consideration and possible action on first reading of ordinance 2023 – 08 affirming settlement of Paule Seals, et al, v. City of Brownsville. (Town Attorney)

Mr. Ozuna advised we finally have the documents and maps to approve, he also advised Brownsville has already passed theirs.

Council Member Gonzalez hopes the result will be more money for the town and less attorney fees. Mayor Carter added that we might make more money as a result of the annex and the town will have the ability to grow.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to approve Ordinance 2023-08.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-29– Monarch Butterfly Proclamation / Pledge for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Rendie advised that it is time to renew the annual Monarch Butterfly Proclamation that preserves and supports monarch butterflies.

Council Member Gonzalez advised of planting milkweed and Mayor Carter advised that we are a major migration location for the Monarchs and should add a link on website for this.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve Resolution 2023-29.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

TRAVEL REQUESTS– Consideration and possible action to approve and authorize travel for City Manager to attend session 1 & 2 of the Texas City Management Association 2024 Willam “King” Cole Effective Local Government Series. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council that she received a link for training from TML and Mr. Ozuna has previously presented at the conference in the past.

Council Member Howard states that this would be very beneficial and matches with our town size. Mayor Carted added he is in support.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Travel Requests.

Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	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 Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

**Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 6:48 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 7:26 p.m.**

Mayor Carter advised that there is nothing to report on from executive session except for the fact that we are continuing our efforts to lure a health care provider to the town and we will diligently continue that focus.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie advised that we already went over the grants for the most part and no major updates.

Rendie also advised that the website photography link came in today and will be distributed. The website is being made behind the scenes right now to launch in December. Rendie further advised that her goal is to keep the community updated since not everyone gets to come to the meetings and has started doing the Did You Know emails that also include at the bottom the next town council meeting dates. Rendie added that the newsletter is also ready to go out.

Rendie advised that we have started attending Market Days to be even more accessible to the community.

Rendie updated on the library classes advising that Lego night is the most popular currently. Rendie also advised that we will be adding some adult driven classes such as nutrition and cooking classes.

Council Member Howard stated that it was really popular when the library had the authors come and speak. Rendie advised that after covid it has been hard for Pura to get them to come out and speak.

Rendie advised that we had the elections on November 7th and City Hall was not an early voting center this year, not by our choice since the county decides where they are going to be. Rendie added that we did have 477 voters on election day come and vote at City Hall.

Rendie advised that Stripes is currently advertising stores serving margaritas however they are not currently serving them, we are working with them currently on the permitting.

Rendie updated on the events and advised that we are estimating that around five hundred people were at attendance for the Fall Festival. Rendie also advised that we are hosting the holiday appreciation dinner for our volunteer fire fighters on Thursday and advised that our

Christmas event will be on Friday December 8th and will be able to have the surrounding schools perform due to staggering our events with the surrounding cities. Rendie lastly added the Du it by the Bay event will be coming up in January.

Mayor thanked the Police and EMS Department for doing a great job.

Rendie also added that we had our Veterans Day Ceremony and moved it to our basketball court due to the weather. It turned out very nice and the sound was great at that location. Mayor added we had Norman Esquivel's niece to sing the national anthem and she was great.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried
Meeting Adjourned at 7:44 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Crystal Chapa, City Secretary