

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

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

DATE: October 15, 2024
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Christopher Romero, Mayor Pro-tem
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3
Kenneth Cornelius, Council Member Place 4
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5
Miguel Hernandez, Council Member Place 6
Michael Carter, Mayor Carter

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Greg Cruz, Police Commander
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation led by Council Member Bryant.

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to excuse Council Member Howard.
Second was made by Council Member Cornelius.

VOTE

Council Member Romero Aye

Council Member Tolin	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.

Darla Jones of 47 Lakewood was disgruntled with the city and spoke about Ordinance not complying with Texas Penal Code and information she felt she needed was unable to locate.

Mayor Carter commented on the ordinances issue being addressed and advice that the city is working on the website to make it easier to locate city ordinances and other information.

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

- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
 - September 10, 2024, Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the September 10, 2024 minutes.
Second was made by Council Hernandez.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

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

City Manager Rendie advised that the Reconciliation General Fund has balanced (\$1,698,239.48). New Budget plan is going smoothly and that we are within the deadline to present audit.

ENGINEERING SERVICES TASK ORDER REGARDING LAGUNA VISTA POLICE BUILDING – Discussion and possible action approving Guzman & Munoz Engineering & Surveying Task Order No. P962-01 for the development and professional services related to the Laguna Vista Police Department Building. (City Manager)

Rendie advised City of Laguna Vista Council appointed local engineer Guzman Munoz 2 years ago.

Rendie advised total quote for the engineering portion (\$30,000) must be done for procurement process.

Motion to approve was made by Council Member Bryant.

Second by Council Member Romero

PLAN REVIEW OF PHASE I & PHASE II OF LAGUNA VISTA POLICE BUILDING –
Discussion consideration of Phase I & Phase II of the Laguna Vista Police Department Building.
(City Manager & City Engineer).

Rendie advised that the Plans for Phase I & Phase II are not ready but are being developed and will be available to review for the next meeting.

Mayor Carter tabled item to be presented and discussed in November meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10 – Discussion, consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2024-10 approving ARPA Project Direction #10. (City Manager).

Rendie advises that the exact final pricing on all items for Police Building is (\$181,086.00) and also advises that this number might change slightly within a few months.

Rendie advises that the resolution number was changed from a previous item that was tabled and that the correct number is Resolution No. 2024-10.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to approve Resolution 2024-10.

Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2024-06 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY– Consideration and possible action to approve RESOLUTION 2024-06 Regarding the Town Of Laguna Vista Communication and Social Media Policy. (City Manager).

Rendie advised that this item was intended to be erased from the agenda and was not intended for this meeting but since it was brought up, it will be tabled to a later date.

City Attorney Ozuna explains he is and Rendie are working on that and that despite of the name its not really intended to be a policy but a communication channel with the town.

RESOLUTION 2024-11 – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2024-11 regarding Municipal Maintenance Agreement with Texas Department of Transportation. (City Manager).

Rendie advises that the renewal agreement was received and was sent through Mr. Ozuna to be reviewed and she explains that is just goes over the meetings and operations agreements we have with TXDOT.

Attorney Ozuna explains that is a renewal agreement of the maintenance of the roads & our obligations but mostly it is maintenance from TXDOT (road integrity, potholes, light poles etc). Mayor Carter emphasizes that city has no control over that.

Rendie explains that it is TXDOT responsibility to mow and litter control in certain areas of our town.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the Municipal Maintenance Agreement with TXDOT.

Second was made by Council Member Cornelius.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-07 – Consideration and possible action on SECOND READING of Ordinance Number 2024-07 designated restricted and designated fund balance for 2024-2025 fiscal year. (City Manager).

Rendie advised this is the second reading on the designation fund balance instituted to try to make it very clear to try to always have the funds available for what we are designating our funds for our audit report and that we always have the fund balance available as what our balance is in our report.

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve Ordinance 2024-07.

Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2024-12- Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2024-12 nominating directors to the Camaron Appraisal District (City Manager)

Rendie explains that this Resolution is to appoint Mr. Ozuna as director Cameron Appraisal district and advises is the 3rd term that we appoint Mr. Ozuna as our director for Cameron Appraisal.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to approve to appoint Mr. Ozuna as our director for the Cameron Appraisal.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

ADVISORY BORAD APPOINTMENTS- Consideration and possible action to appoin citizens to the following Advisory Boards: Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustments. (City Manager)

Rendie advised there are 3 vacancies for Board of Adjustments and 3 current members that would like to be re appointed (Felicia Justice, Terry Voltz, Rafael Salazar). One seat is still vacant, currently one application from Mr. Richard Engle.

Rendie advised there are 2 seats for the Planning & Zoning Commission and that Felicia Justice would like to be appointed a seat vs being the alternate.

Motion made Mayor Carter to appoint Felicia Justice and Frank Davalos to the Planning & Zoning Commission Board and Richard Engle as the Alternate.

Second by Council Member Cornelius

VOTE

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

TRAVEL REQUEST- Consideration and possible action to approve travel as follows: (City Manager)

Rendie advised that the request is for Duvie Alcozer to go for Plumbing Inspector Exam on October 24-26 to Austin, Texas and that this is the last exam so she can have her master plumber license and that this is needed so we can be 100% and we can have our one and only inspector.

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to approve this travel request for Duvie Alcozer.
Second by Council Member Hernandez.

VOTE

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie advised there is no update on CDBG Grant. On the Rolloff Park Improvement we are getting with the architect that is with the equipment design company that we are using and their architect is willing to create a Rolloff Park Design (Master Plan). Texas Park & Wildlife will let us use a grant to design Rolloff Park.

Rendie advised we did another Letter of Intent for a grant for a splash pad but they are budgeting and will be shelved until further notice.

The current GLO Drainage Grant is in progress Engineering Report should be posted on our website on our bulletin board until November 4th and once the time line has elapsed, we will move forward with the next steps so on that we are on schedule.

Rendie reminded that on June 2024 this council took steps to create the revised our Comprehensive Plan the Resilient Grant that we approve, the application was submitted on May 30th, and we are expected to hear back October or November of this year, that program or grant is a non matching grant, the grant limit is 300,000 and for the minutes she wants to make sure this grant is including the updating and designing of the Laguna Vista Comprehensive Planning which will include the integration with our Hazard Mitigation Plan, hazard risks and how to mitigate those risks, population study, housing study, land use study, zoning ordinance, infrastructure study & capital improvement plan.

Police Grant got Second Stone Grant approved and Grant 3187109 is nearly approved.

Children’s Section of the Library is complete and getting a lot of positive feedback.

Rendie advised council we are part of Cameron County Library System Coalition, Crystal Chapa was placed as the Interim Director for the purpose of this fund only as we have to have a Library Director to use these funds, \$3,500/month. This funds can be used in any way except salary and building construction.

Rendie also advised we are on a second set of interviews for new Library Director and will keep everyone updated and will be announcing the new director soon.

Rendie states that the Recycling Program has rolled out and residents are getting their recycling stickers. Rendie reminded that the Republic Services are not set up to do individual recycling here in Laguna Vista they do individual recycling only for South Padre Island and they pay a lot per household and just to clarify the false information going around in the internet. She states Duvie and Norma will be working on that this Saturday. Mayor Carter reinstated that application and stickers will be ready to be given out Saturday for residents to get them right there and then. Rendie clarified that this program was started not to make it complicated but to make sure its residents who are using it and to prevent for bin to get filled up quickly.

Rendie stated we are working on keeping alley ways clean and clear and we are continuing to spray for mosquitoes.

Rendie lastly informed that the average for EMS calls have increased 23% over the last year. It was a big increase. She also stated that the ambulance is sitting there much more with Chief Daniels and ready to be used. She thanked our first responders for their quick response.

Rendie reminded the council about our Fall Festival on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Bryant to adjourn.

Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Norma Barbosa, City Secretary