

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

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

DATE: February 9, 2021
TIME: 6:00 pm
PLACE: Basketball Courts at Roloff Park

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nadine Smith, Mayor
Michael Carter, Mayor Pro-Tem
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3
Rolando Gonzalez, Council Member Place 4
Victor Worrell, Council Member Place 5
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

Ed Meza, City Manager
Ana Hernandez, City Secretary
Rendie Gonzales, Town Bookkeeper
Alan Ozuna, Town Attorney
Anthony David, Police Chief

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Rusty & Felicia Justice
Christina Esquivel
Jorge Briones
Mr. Rossi
K-9 Bella
Officer R. Brooks
Officer J. Saldana
Officer S. Reyes
Officer G. Cruz

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) **Call to Order** Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- 2) **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mr. Rossi.

- 3) **Roll Call/Excused Absences** – All Present.
- 4) **OPEN FORUM** - Due to COVID-19 emergency, the Town will live stream the meeting on the Town’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lvtexas/>. Viewers will be allowed to comment during our live stream on any topic. Comments submitted after the close of the open forum may be read at the end of the meeting. Each commenter will be identified by Facebook Username. There is no discussion or formal action taken during this agenda item.
- 5) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** – All matters listed under this item are routine by the Council and will be enacted for approval by one motion There will not be a separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered seperately. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on each of the following items:

- a) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting.(City Secretary)
- b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 Special Meeting.

Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting and the minutes of the February 2, 2021 Special meeting, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- c) **RECOGNITION** – Consideration and action to recognize Officer Greg Cruz, Officer Jesus Saldana, Officer Steve Reyes

Mayor Smith recognized Officers Greg Cruz, Jesus Saldana, and Steve Reyes for going above and beyond awards were presented to all 3 officers.

- 6) **NEW BUSINESS** – Discussion, consideration, and possible action on each of the following items.
 - a) **ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT** – Consideration and possible action on appointing residents to the folowwing advisory boards. (City Manager)

i) Planning & Zoning Commission Board – 1 member

Council Member Carter made a motion to appoint Don Hanson to the Planning & Zoning Commission Board, Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

b) **CDC PRESIDENT** – Consideration and action to appoint/re-appoint a CDC President from amongst Community Development Corporation Board members. (City Manager)

Council Member Worrell made a motion to re-appoint Dr. Christopher Romero as President to CDC Board, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

c) **CDC VICE-PRESIDENT** – Consideration and action to appoint/re-appoint a CDC Vice-President from amongst Community Development Corporation Board members. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to re-appoint Kathy Bardisbanian as CDC Vice-President, Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

d) **2021 HOLIDAY CALENDAR** – Consideration and possible action on approving the Holiday Calendar for 2021. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza presented to the Board a proposed Holiday Calendar for 2021.

Council Member Carter suggested we drop the 3 personal days and swap for the requested Holidays.

Council Member Tolin asked what would the financial implications of adding these Holidays. Council Member Carter responded there wouldn't be any additional burden to the Town.

Council Member Howard agrees to remove the 3 personal days in lieu of the President's Day, Christmas Eve, & New Years Eve.

Council Member De Gobeo suggest they find a middle ground and not remove all 3 personal days.

Mayor Smith agrees with Ms. De Gobeo she knows that staff regularly work late hours including Saturday and some Sundays so is not ok with removing the 3

personal days.

Council Member Carter stated that the taxpayers are the ones paying for this.

Council Member Carter made a motion to add President’s Day and Christmas Day, and New Year’s Eve and remove the 3 personal days for the 2021 Holiday Calendar, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Motion was amended by Council Member Worrell to add President’s Day, Christmas Eve, keep 2 personal days along with Birthday Holiday for the 2021 Holiday Calendar, Council Member De Gobeo seconded the amended motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo voted “aye”, Mayor Smith voted “nay”, motion carried.

e) 2021-2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION –
Consideration and possible action to:

i) Appoint and Evaluation Team of at least 3 persons including and elected official.

Mr. Meza addressed the council that this was for the CDBG grant for the pavement that will be doing in October for the Cul-de-Sacs.

Mayor asked who can be on the team. Mr. Ozuna replied that the only requirement needed was for the team to consist of at least one council member the other two could be staff.

Mayor Smith made a motion to appoint Ed Meza, Ana Hernandez, and Council Member Gonzalez to the evaluation team, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

ii) Begin the procurement of Professional Engineering and Administrative Services following Texas Department of Agricultural Procurement Guidelines.

Council Member Howard made a motion to begin the procurement of Professional Engineering and Administrative Services following Texas Department of Agricultural Procurement Guidelines, Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

f) PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE – Consideration and action on setting a Public hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 for the submittal of funding application for CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance Program of the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) at City Hall located at 122 Fernandez St, Laguna Vista,

TX. (City Manager)

Francisco Briones addressed the council stating there was a funding opportunity from the Texas Department of Housing Affairs for a Mortgage Assistance Program the funding will come from CARES. This program would help mortgage owners with 6 months of mortgage payments. The application would run through the City and there will be outreach effort to identify families that have mortgages in arrears to avoid the loss of their homes. There is 2 elements 1.) is the public hearing and 2.) is the authorization from council for proposals on the rfp/rfq. Application due until April 1, 2021.

Mayor asked if this would be no work on the city's part. Answer: Mr. Briones replied that firm would handle everything other than identifying the families. This would help 50 families.

Council Member Gonzalez asked if we would identify the families. Answer: Mr. Briones replied his firm could handle that as well if authorized. There would be very little the office staff would do.

Council Member Howard asked if this money needed to be paid back. Answer: It's grant money so it does not have to be paid back.

Council Member asked if there was any other program that would help residents that rent. Answer: There is but those grants were only approved agencies like Housing Authority or Cameron Willacy Counties Communities Projects. Cities or Counties are unable to apply.

Council Member Carter asked what if the number isn't met. Answer: The funds will remain with the state.

Council Member Howard asked when will money be available and when will be the end date. Answer: Contracts are good for 2 years.

Council Member Tolin made a motion to approve setting a Public Hearing on March 9, 2021 for the submittal of funding applications for CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance Program of the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDCHA), Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

- g) RFP/RFQ** – Consideration and possible action to authorize the City Manager to publish Request for Combined Proposals (RFP) for Grant Development and Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural and Engineering Services for multiple funding streams with deadline to submit being Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 11:00 am. and must be addressed and sent to the Town Hall, 122 Fernandez Street, Laguna Vista, Texas 78578. RFPs will be opened in the same location and scored

prior to the selection and awarding of contracts on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. (City Manager)

Jorge Briones addressed the council stating that this is the 1st process for the Town to move forward in seeking funding from other agencies like Texas Water Development Board, Economic Development Administration, to name a few. There is many agencies that have funds available either through Corona Virus or mitigation disaster recovery.

Council Member Tolin made a motion to authorize the City Manager to publish Request for Combined Proposals (RFP) for Grant Development and Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural and Engineering Services for multiple funding streams with deadline to submit being Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 11:00 am. Member De Gobeo seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Introduction of K-9 Bella. Mayor stated Chief obtained Bella free of charge to the town. Officer Brooks is taking care of Bella and she is in training. Chief David stated she will be trained in human tracking & narcotics detection.

- h) RESOLUTION 2021-01** – Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2021-01 authorizing intervention in PUC Docket No. 51671. (City Manager)

Mr. Ozuna stated that this is another recommendation to join other cities in authorizing intervention in PUC Docket No. 51671 this is at no cost to the city.

Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 authorizing intervention in PUC Docket No. 51671, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- i) RESOLUTION 2021-02** - Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2021-02 to authorize the Laguna Vista Police Chief to submit grant application number 2990607 to the Texas Governor’s Office for the Local Border Security Program. (Chief David)

Chief David addressed the council stating this is an ongoing grant, previously we received \$77,000 this year he is asking for more.

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 to authorize the Laguna Vista Police Chief to submit grant application number 2990607 to the Texas Governor’s Office for the Local Border

Security Program, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- j) RESOLUTION 2021-03** – Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2021-03 to authorize the Laguna Vista Police Chief to submit grant application number 3187106 to the Texas Governor’s Office for the solicitation of Operation Stone Garden FY 2021-22. (Chief David)

Chief David addressed the council stating this is the Stone Garden Grant which consists of \$50,000 for a patrol unit, \$17,800 for overtime, and \$500 for miscellaneous expenses.

Mayor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-03 to authorize the Laguna Vista Police Chief to submit grant application number 3187106 to the Texas Governor’s Office for the solicitation of Operation Stone Garden FY 2021-22, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- k) RESOLUTION 2021-04** – Consideration and possible action to on Resolution 2021-04 ordering the General Election for May 1, 2021. (City Secretary)

Mayor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-04 ordering the General Election for May 1, 2021, Council Member Tolin seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- l) NOTICE OF ELECTION** – Consideration and potential action to approve the Notice of Election for the May 1, 2021 General Municipal Election for the Town of Laguna Vista, Texas. (City Secretary)

Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the Notice of Election for the May 1, 2021 General Municipal Election for the Town of Laguna Vista, Texas, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- m) CAMERON COUNTY ELECTIONS CONTRACT** – Consideration and possible action on contract for Elections Services between Town of Laguna Vista and Cameron County Elections Department. (City Manager)

Council Member Tolin made a motion to approve contract for Elections Services between Town of Laguna Vista and Cameron County Elections Department, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and

Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- n) COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS** - Consideration and possible action on how COVID-19 Relief Funds will be allocated. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza addressed the council stating we had received \$180,400 in Covid Relief Funds. After discussion it was agreed by the Council that the funds would be used \$5575 for project connectivity, \$6618 for ticket writers and the remainder will be to cover payroll for the Police Department.

- o) LAGUNA VISTA PHYSICAL FITNESS & COMMAND PRESENCE POLICY** - Consideration and possible action to approve the Laguna Vista Physical Fitness & Command Presence Policy. (Chief David)

Chief David addressed the Council that he will be implementing LV Physical Fitness & Command Presence. This program will be beneficial to the City in a lot of levels: health wise, insurance rates, command presence for the officers. Officers will be required to maintain less than a 40” waist. This will help officers will perform better.

Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve the Laguna Vista Physical Fitness & Command Presence Policy, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- p) IT CONTRACT** – Consideration and possible action on IT services contract with PCNurse USA. (City Manager)

ITEM WAS TABLED

- q) GARDEN OF THE YEAR** - Discussion and possible action on competition for Laguna Vista residents to compete in garden of the year. (Mayor Smith)

Mayor Smith made a motion to approve a competition for Laguna Vista Residents to compete in garden of the year to be Judged in July 2021, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- r) ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR** – Discussion and possible action regarding contracting an instructor for Zumba classes (3 days out of the week) at Roloff Park. (Mayor Smith)

Mayor Smith made a motion to approve contracting an instructor for Zumba classes (3 days out of the week) at Roloff Park at \$45 per class to be paid from Covid Relief Funds, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Member Tolin voted ‘nay’; Council Members Carter,

Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- s) **LAGUNA VISTA LIVE: MUSIC BY THE BAY & EASTER FESTIVITIES**– Consideration and action to authorize the City Manager to schedule a Laguna Vista Live: Music by the Bay along with Easter Festivities event. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza addressed the council they wanted to plan an Easter Event for the week prior to Easter.

Ms. Tolin is not in agreement with hosting an event at this time. It is a sensitive topic at this time. Hospitals are full, cases are rising.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that it’s a grey area right now. This situation is very unpredictable and it’s better to play it safe.

Council Member De Gobeo is in total agreement and feels the event should be skipped this year. She rather have a safe Christmas then dead people in March. Putting ourselves in that position which will bring about criticism to the town and putting ourselves on a page that we do not want to be.

Council Member Carter made a motion to authorize the City Manager to schedule a Laguna Vista Live: Music by the Bay along with Easter Festivities event, Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter & Mayor Smith voted “aye”; Council Members Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell and De Gobeo voted “nay” motion failed.

- t) **PARK MASTER PLAN** – Discussion and update on Park Master Plan. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza addressed the Council he stated that he has been researching other cities in North Texas. The City of Forney has a great plan others were very long. He stated that he is challenging himself to do this plan. He discussed his plans & timeline to developing the Park Master Plan.

- u) **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.

THE BOARD DID NOT GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

7) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Smith made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m., Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve motion carried.

Nadine Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Ana Hernandez, City Secretary