

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: December 14, 2021

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nadine Smith, Mayor
Michael Carter, Council Member Place 1
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
Norma Barbosa, Deputy Clerk
Pura Mireles, Library Director
Anthony David, Police Chief
Chief Waters, Fire Chief
Rendie Gonzales, Bookkeeper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Ozuna, City Attorney

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Call to Order** – Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Council Member Tolin.
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** – All Present
- 4. OPEN FORUM** - At this time, audience is allowed 5 minutes per person to address the Council on any topic. There is 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.

NO COMMENT FOR OPEN FORUM.

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 separately.

- a) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021, Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

Council Member Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021, Regular 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.

6. **NEW BUSINESS** - Discussion, consideration, and possible action on each of the following items:

- a) **MUNICIPAL JUDGE AGREEMENTS**– Consideration and action to approve the agreements for the Municipal Judge and alternate Municipal Judges. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to re-appoint Judge Hunter as our Municipal Judge, Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Carter made a motion to re-appoint Judge Ochoa as an alternate Judge, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Gonzalez made a motion to appoint Judge Perez as an alternate Judge, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- b) **LIBRARY BOARD** - Consideration and action to re-appoint Ana Backues and Nicole Ekstrom to the Library Board. (City Manager)

Council Member Howard made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Anna Backues to the Library Board, Council Member Tolin seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Howard made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Nicole Ekstrom to the Library 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) **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS** – Consideration and action to re-appoint Rafael Salazar, Stanford Knowles, and Debra Chamberlain (alternate). (City Manager)

Council Member Howard made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Rafael Salazar to the Board of Adjustments, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Carter made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Stanford Knowles to the Board of Adjustments, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

Council Member Howard made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Debra Chamberlain as an alternate to the Board of Adjustments, Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

- d) **AUDITING SERVICES** – Consideration and action to approve engagement with Cascos and Associates, PC for audit of fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. (City Manager)

Council Member Carter made a motion to approve engagement with Cascos and Associates, PC for audit of fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried

- e) **RESOLUTION 2021-29** – Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution 2021-29 approving participation in National Opioid Settlement Agreement secured by Texas Attorney General. (City Manager)

The Council asked if the money we receive had to be used for a specific purpose. Answer was no.

Council Member De Gobeo would like to participate but would like to see the funds used for educating the community especially our youth.

Chief Waters stated that they applied for a grant and received \$4,400 of free Narcan which is used to reverse the effects opioid.

Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-29 approving participation in National Opioid Settlement Agreement secured by Texas Attorney General, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.

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

Council Member Carter stated that there was some g/l that are being used and they were not budgeted for. Budget amendments need to be done. Mayor Smith wants to know where the covid funds are at on the budget. Rendie explained that she created a different fund. Council Member De Gobeo asked if we know when the County will be paying us for the Eco-Tourism Center. Council Member Carter guided Rendie & Mr. Meza on how to proceed with the budget. Council Member Tolin questioned the dollar amount paid for decorating tree. Mayor Smith stated that this was previously approved by the Council. The Council instructed Mr. Meza to produce a plan and present it.

g) ARP FUNDS – Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds for operational requirements, equipment, or projects, and prioritization of same. (City Manager)

ITEM WAS TABLED

h) SECURITY CAMERAS & TELEVISION– Consideration and action to approve the purchase of security cameras. (City Manager)

ITEM WAS TABLED

i) CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- **Update on Christmas Event**

Mr. Meza updated the Council on the event he stated that despite the Island having their parade we had a pretty good turnout. Mayor Smith suggested we get some carolers for next year’s event.

- **Barriers to the Trails from Residential areas**

Mr. Meza suggested that we should put some barriers to avoid residents

placing their stuff on city property. This suggestion came from Council Member Gonzalez. Council Member Gonzalez stated that the trail needs a lot of work. The barriers would not stop the wildlife.

- **Update on Building Inspector**

We have not been successful in getting any applicants for this position.

- **Recognition of Nature Trail Volunteer**

Mr. Gonzalez requested we recognize Mr. Beatty. Mr Beatty has dedicated so much time to the trails. Ms. De Gobeo stated that there was another gentleman that is interested in sharing his knowledge of plants. Mayor suggested for him to come to our next meeting and introduce himself.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Smith made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.



Nadine Smith, Mayor

Attest:



Ana Hernandez, City Secretary