

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

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: October 13, 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  
Alan Ozuna, City Attorney  
Ana Hernandez, City Secretary  
Anthony David, Police Chief  
Norma Barbosa, Deputy Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: All Present

ALSO PRESENT: Miguel De Los Santos, Estrada, Hinojosa & Co.  
Christy Gonzalez, Point Isabel ISD  
Teri Capistran, Point Isabel ISD  
Cecilia Castillo, Point Isabel ISD  
Angel Magallanes, Estrada, Hinojosa, & Co.  
Frankie Garza, PCNurse USA

**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 Mayor Smith.
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences** –

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 COMMENTS 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 July 13, 2021, Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)
  - b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2021, Special Workshop Meeting. (City Secretary)
  - c) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021, Special Meeting. (City Secretary)
  - d) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)

**Council Member Worrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021, Regular meeting, the minutes of the August 30, 2021, Special Workshop Meeting, minutes of the September 7, 2021, Special meeting, and the minutes of the September 14, 2021, Regular meeting, Council Member De Gobeo seconded the motion. Council Members Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith all voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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

- a) **FINANCIAL REPORTS** – Review of monthly Financial Reports. (City Manager)

**Mr. Meza presented the financial reports. There were no questions.**

- b) **PARKS MASTER PLAN** - Presentation on new Parks Master Plan. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza presented the council with the updated Parks Master Plan. He stated that he is following the format recommended by Texas Parks & Wildlife. We are

currently at Phase I. Mr. Meza guided the Council through different charts within the plan. He stated he included all our parks including the skate park and the Eco-Tourism Center and of course Roloff Park, Sports Park, and Walking Trails. The next phase is where do we want to go next? He stated previous City Manager conducted a survey back in 2019 and highlighted some of the things the citizens wanted. We will get there by planning and funding. This will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Board.

- c) **EMT/PARAMEDIC CROSS-TRAINING** - Consideration and possible action to cross-train 2-3 Police Officers as EMT and/or Paramedics for enhanced services to our community. (Mayor Smith)

Mayor Smith addressed the Council stating she put this on the agenda to address the ambulance services in the town. Purchasing an ambulance will cost the city \$450,000 and the staff to run it would cost \$270,000. As much as we would love to have this, we do not have the money. So, after talking Chief David she came up with this idea of cross training some of our officers to better serve our community.

Council Member Gonzalez asked if the officers were interested. Chief replied the officers are willing to do the training. Chief David said there was a cheaper training that is only \$1500 versus \$3000 and it's the EMR training. This training is one level below an EMT. Chief Waters can do the training. Training will be 8-12 weeks. EMT training however would be in Harlingen.

Council Member De Gobeo likes the idea anything to save a life.

Council Member Tolin asked while officers are in training what is the impact to the day-to-day operations. What will the budget impact be if the officers were to get trained and we give them a pay increase.

The Chief replied that the impact on day to day operations would be shift changes and the other impact on the budget would be right now there is \$1500 for overtime but if they are going to class we will be burning through that rather quickly as far as the pay increase would be up to the Council.

Mayor thanked Ms. Tolin for those questions and stated that they were great questions and that the budget would have to be considered. Mayor stated that a \$3,000 - \$5,000 salary increase for all police officers that pass to retain these officers.

Council Member De Gobeo asked how often does the training have to be done, Chief David replied that it is done every 2 years. She also asked for the cost. Chief did not have a response.

**COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER ARRIVED AT 6:16 PM**

Council Member Tolin suggested that this item be tabled for next meeting to give Chief David the opportunity to pull the numbers together to give us a better idea of the total cost. Council Member Tolin asked what is the delta between what they know now versus what they will know once they receive training.

Council Member Howard asked what other communities that are multifaceted, Chief David replied no other community, Mayor Smith said there is only 2 other cities in the state.

The Council asked the Chief to please have all this information ready for next meeting.

**Mayor Smith made a motion to postpone this item to next month's 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.**

- d) **RESOLUTION 2021-28** – Consideration and possible action to nominate Alan Ozuna as the nominee for Position nine (9) of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors. (City Manager)

Mr. Meza stated that last time our attorney was nominated. Mr. Ozuna ran last term but was not elected.

Council Member Howard stated that we need to elect someone that will make sure to attend the meetings and not just to fill the seat.

**Council Worrell made a motion to nominate Alan Ozuna as the nominee for Position nine (9) of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors, Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo, and Mayor Smith voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.**

- e) **RESOLUTION 2021-27 CAMERON COUNTY ARENA & VENUE** – Consideration and possible action for a resolution in support of the new Cameron County Arena & Venue being considered by Cameron County voters during the November 2, 2021, election. (Mayor Smith)

Mayor Smith addressed the Council stating that Judge Trevino had reached out to her asking for the Town's support of this new arena. The arena is set to be located in some land across from Rancho Viejo. This will not cost us a thing.

**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-27 in support of the new Cameron County Arena & Venue being**

**considered by Cameron County voters during the November 2, 2021, election, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- f) **STIPEND FOR STAFF** – Consideration and possible action to approve a stipend payment for staff from covid funds for excellent service throughout the pandemic. (Mayor Smith)

Mayor Smith stated that she put this on the agenda because she feels that our staff was always present during the pandemic.  
Council Member Carter thinks it's a great day but wants more information regarding the covid funds we have received.  
Council Member De Gobeo likes the idea but also wants more details regarding the covid funds.

Council Member Tolin suggested the City Manager get together with department heads to see what the needs of the city are. Mayor Smith replied that it was a great idea but that it is separate from this motion. She asked Council Member Tolin to place item on the agenda for next meeting.

**This item was postponed for next meeting with correct wording and the correct finances.**

- g) **POINT ISABEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** – Presentation from Point Isabel Independent School District regarding Bond Election. (City Manager)

Terri Capistran, Superintendent for PIISD made a presentation regarding the bond election scheduled for November 2, 2021. There will be Proposition A, B, C, and D on the ballot. Voters will be able to pick and choose. The District will not raise the tax rate. Tax increases will only occur if property values are raised by the Cameron County Appraisal District.

- h) **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

 **Fall Festival Update**

**Mr. Meza advised the Council that we have raised \$1500 in donations. We had budgeted \$4,800. We have spent \$3,882 that is less than projected.**

- i) **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - The Town Council may convene in 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 – Personnel deliberations; and 551.087 – Deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.

 **CITY MANAGER – ED MEZA – EVALUATION**

**Mayor Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:20 pm, Council Member Howard seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Tolin, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**Council came out of Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.**

- j) RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** – Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor Smith made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm, Council Member Worrell seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Howard, Gonzalez, Worrell, De Gobeo and Mayor Smith voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

  
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Nadine Smith, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Ana Hernandez, City Secretary