

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

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

DATE: January 10, 2023  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor  
Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1  
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2  
Rolando Gonzalez, Mayor Pro Tem  
Victor Worrell, Council Member Place 5  
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.  
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager  
Anthony David, Chief of Police  
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary  
Norma Barbosa, Deputy Clerk  
Karen Gustaitis, Building Clerk  
Duvie Alcozer, Building Inspector/Code

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

• **Call to Order**

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

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Romero

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences**

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to excuse Council Member Tolin.

**Second** was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye

Council Member Gonzalez      Aye                      Mayor Carter                      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:

- **RECOGNITION** of Port Isabel High School student, DESIREE RENAE VIDAURRI  
Council Member Howard presented a certificate in recognition of outstanding lifesaving skills to Desiree Vidaurri’s Dad Mr. Reina who was present to accepted on her behalf.
- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
  - December 13, 2022, Regular Town Council meeting

**Motion** was made by Council Member Worrell to approve December 13<sup>th</sup> minutes.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Howard.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

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

Review of Check Register, Income Statement, and Balance Sheets.

Mayor Carter recommended that both the bank statement and Balance sheet dates should match.

**ORDINANCE 2022-08** – Consideration and possible action on second reading of Ordinance establishing building codes. (City Manager)

Second reading of Ordinance 2022-08 establishing building codes was read by Town Attorney.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Howard to approve Ordinance 2022-08.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Worrell.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

**WRITTEN STATEMENT AND FINDINGS** - Consideration and possible action to approve the written statement and finding of the Town of Laguna Vista’s need for Specialized Contingent Fee Municipal Court Legal Services, pursuant to Texas Government Code 2254. (City Manager).

Rendie introduced Mr. Moody and Ms. Solis that are here on behalf of Linebarger to the Council. Ms. Solis spoke to the council regarding the need for services.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Howard to approve the Written Statement and Findings.

**Second** was made by Council Member Worrell.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

**MUNICIPAL COURT COLLECTION SERVICES CONTRACT** – Consideration and possible action to approve and award the Contract for Fees and Fines Collection Services to Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. (City Manager).

Rendie advised the Council on Linebarger’s 3-year contract for court collection services and gave the floor once again to Ms. Solis.

Ms. Solis spoke to the council on behalf of Linebarger and the contract presented.

Mayor Carter commented that Linebarger is great and their rate is insanely good.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to approve and award the Contract for Fees and Fines Collection Services to Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

**Second** was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
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Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

**BIG HEROS ANNUAL WALK**– Consideration and possible action to approve the Big Heroes, Inc to hold their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 5k fundraiser at Roloff Park on April 15, 2023. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the Council of Big Hero’s annual fundraiser request to be held again this year on April 15<sup>th</sup>. She further added that it attracts people from Brownsville, Harlingen, and the surrounding areas and keeps getting bigger each year.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve the big Hero Inc’s annual 5k fundraiser at Roloff Park on April 15, 2023.

**Second** was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

**PUBLIC HEARING**–Public Hearing and presentation on Laguna Vista 2023 Parks Master Plan. (City Manager)

Rendie introduced Ms. Patty Alexander that has been working on our parks master plan.

Ms. Patty Alexander gave a presentation and advised the parks mater plan is good for 10 years, but Texas Parks and Wildlife asks for it to be redone every 5 years.

Ms. Alexander talked about her purpose for being here tonight being to find out what the people of the community want, to then develop goals and priorities, and lastly to go out for grants though Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Ms. Alexander went over the parks in our community that she visited, photographed, and all the current benefits we have to work with.

Council Member De Gobeo expressed the need for trash cans and Council Member Gonzalez the need to have native plants. Council Member De Gobeo also commented on the Sports Park being County land and Rendie commented on the Dollar General plans and the County not advising us prior. Rendie further advised that we include all the “What if’s” in the plan so if there is any chance of being able to acquire or use it will need to be in the plan. Council member De Gobeo

also wanted to say on record that she was very surprised and taken back by the county proceeding with the Dollar General store and not notifying the town prior.

Rendie asked Ms. Alexander to advise the committee on the indoor opportunities. Ms. Alexander advised the council Texas Parks and Wildlife indoors grant is up to one million and one to one (in kind).

Council member Howard expressed the need for bus stop coverings and sidewalks.

Council member Romero asked about Connectivity with trails, dedicated kayak lands and bicycle connectivity being integrated into the plan. Ms. Alexander advised that she is also on the Caraca Trails board and spoke about connecting kayaking to Port Isabel’s new Arturo Galvan park on the water and Laguna Atascosa.

**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 and pending litigation; 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 Worrell to go into executive session.

**Second** was made by Mayor Carter.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

**Meeting Adjourned for Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting resumed at 7:46 p.m.**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Worrell to approve contract with City Manager as discussed.

**Second** was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

**Council Member Howard was excused.**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Rendie presented the council with the full city manager report and gave them an important update that we hired a new public works director Emmanuel Zuniga that will be starting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Zuniga comes from the City of South Padre Island, oversees four workers in the Parks department, and lives here in Laguna Vista.

**ADJOURNMENT**

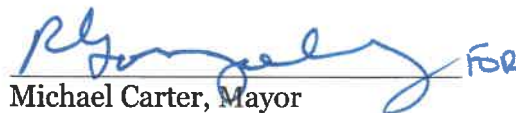
**Motion** was made by Council Mayor Carter to adjourn.  
**Second** was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

**VOTE**

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Worrell	Aye
Council Member Howard	Aye	Council Member De Gobeo	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye

**Motion Carried**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm**

  
Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:

  
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary