

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

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

DATE: June 13, 2023  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor  
Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1  
Rolando Gonzalez, Mayor Pro Tem  
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6  
Johvonne Howard, Council Member Place 2  
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.  
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager  
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary  
Anthony David, Police Chief  
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk  
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk  
Emmanuel Zuniga, Public Works Director

MEMBERS ABSENT:

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

• **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Rusty Justice of the LVRA

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences-** All present

**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.

Citizen Mr. David Lohse spoke about Victor Worrell’s council term and thanked him for serving.

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

- **PROCLAMATION OF GRATITUDE TO COUNCIL MEMBER VICTOR WORRELL**
- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
  - May 16, 2023, Special Town Council meeting

**Motion** was made by Council Member Romero to approve May 16<sup>th</sup> minutes.

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

**VOTE**

|                       |     |                         |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Romero | Aye | Council Member Gonzalez | Aye |
| Council Member Howard | Aye | Council Member De Gobeo | Aye |
| Council Member Tolin  | Aye | Mayor Carter            | Aye |

**Motion Carried**

**RGV LNG BROWNSVILLE PRESENTATION AND UPDATE** – Presentation from NextDecade regarding the status and future of the RGV LNG Brownsville project. (City Manager)

Andrea Benton, the head of community relations with NextDecade gave a presentation and update on the RGV LNG project. Andrea also talked about the Community advisory board that was created to learn about the concerns in the community and be able to address them as well and answer any questions, both Council Member Tolin and City Manager Gonzales are on the advisory board.

Council member De Gobeo asked how much of the liquid gas will be transported, Andrea answered one hundred percent of it into Europe and Asia. Council Member De Gobeo asked next how many tankers will move through the channel, Andrea answered 330 a year or once daily. Council member De Gobeo followed up by stating that this is really the highest risk for the explosion and Andrea advised that LNG vessels are one of the safest in the world and are self-contained. Council member De Gobeo also asked how much admission will be released, Andrea will look into this and provide.

Council member Tolin advised that Andrea is a representative of the company from the marketing and customer relations side, and she shouldn’t be expected to have all the technical answers and it is fair that she will follow up with the answers. Council member Tolin also clarified there are two LNG companies, Texas LNG and this company RGV LNG.

Council member Romero asked where the mitigation banks are located, Andrea has a map of the area she will provide. Council member Romero advised that setting aside agriculture land and

doing habitat restoration with it to try to return to its native state is significantly harder than preserving the limited amount of remaining natural habitat that we have. If there are still Lomas that could be preserved and native habitat that can be restored throughout this mitigation process that would be highly recommend. Council member Romer further stated that this will be a very energy intensive process and asked if there will be onsite energy production or be dependent upon the local grid, Andrea answered that it will be a combination of both.

Mayor Carter asked if contact had been made with UTRGV and the Eco Tourism Center to put in a station to monitor the air quality in our community due to being located directly Southeast of us. Andrea stated she hadn't heard that idea but agreed it was a great idea.

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

The Check Register, Bank Reconciliation, Income Statement, and Balance Sheets were provided to Council for review. Rendie advised that we are at about 98 percent collected for our property tax revenue and we are right on track.

Mayor Carter advised that we should be at 58 percent, and we are at 59 and right on track and thanked the city staff.

**LVPD VEHICLE**—Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation from the CDC for the funding of a new police unit for the Laguna Vista Police Department. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council that the CDC approved spending \$60,000 to purchase another unit for the police department, it was published and now in front of the council to ratify the expenditure.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Howard to approve the CDC Funding of a new police unit.

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

**VOTE**

|                       |     |                         |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Romero | Aye | Council Member Gonzalez | Aye |
| Council Member Howard | Aye | Council Member De Gobeo | Aye |
| Council Member Tolin  | Aye | Mayor Carter            | Aye |

**Motion Carried**

**MAYOR PRO-TEM**— Consideration and possible to appoint/re-appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem as per Home Rule Charter. (City Manager)

Rendie advised as per the Home Rule Charter every June we need to appoint or re-appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Carter thanked Council member Gonzalez for his time served.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to appoint Council Member Howard as Mayor Pro-Tem.

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

**VOTE**

|                       |     |                         |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Romero | Aye | Council Member Gonzalez | Aye |
| Council Member Howard | Aye | Council Member De Gobeo | Aye |
| Council Member Tolin  | Aye | Mayor Carter            | Aye |

**Motion Carried**

**APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER**– Consideration and possible action to appoint Town Council Member. (City Manager)

Mayor Carter advised he did not go out and look for anyone to fill the open seat and wanted to see who wanted the position and was approached by an active member of our committee who also serves on many boards.

Council Member Howard advised she served on the Friends of the Library board with Ms. Bryant, and she is extraordinary at all of the roles she plays in the community.

**Motion** was made by Mayor Carter to appoint Teresa Bryant to Council Member place 5.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Howard.

**VOTE**

|                       |     |                         |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Romero | Aye | Council Member Gonzalez | Aye |
| Council Member Howard | Aye | Council Member De Gobeo | Aye |
| Council Member Tolin  | Aye | Mayor Carter            | Aye |

**Motion Carried**

**ORDINANCE 2023-04**– Consideration and possible action on **SECOND READING** regarding Overlay District. (City Manager)

Rendie advised her and the Town Attorney incorporated the changes discussed at the last meeting. Mayor Carter thanked everyone for participating in the special meeting and getting this done after all these years.

Town Attorney Alan Ozuna performed the second reading.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Romero to approve Ordinance 2023-04.  
**Second** was made by Council Member Tolin.

**VOTE**

|                       |     |                         |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Romero | Aye | Council Member Gonzalez | Aye |
| Council Member Howard | Aye | Council Member De Gobeo | Aye |
| Council Member Tolin  | Aye | Mayor Carter            | Aye |

### **Motion Carried**

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Rendie presented the council with the full city manager report and advised of the upcoming Independence Day Celebration event on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. She continued to advise that CDC contributed \$8,000 which is half the cost of the Fireworks show and the other half we will obtain by sponsorship donations. We are estimating around \$9,000 to be collected. Rendie further advised that we have some new merchandise to be purchased Koozies, Hats, and Women's tanks along with our Event shirts.

Council Member Howard asked about Contests at the event, Rendie answered that the watermelon eating contest is always the most popular and we will also have some games and further added that the Zumba will have a presentation at the event.

Rendie updated the council on the Grants and advised we have 3 projects in procurement with Grantworks and once complete we will be able to make the PO's and make the purchases for the Police Tuff books, Library weather stripping, and Library computers. Rendie continued to advise memos are being created in place of bids for the approved Cloud storage and then we will be able to make that purchase. Rendie also advised that the PO's have been done for the Trucks and they are secured. We are just awaiting their arrival. Rendie further advised of the ongoing projects being Grantworks and designation the remaining ARPA funds.

Rendie advised the council we are still waiting for the funds to come through for Tropical Storm Imelda and also advised that the CDBG grant application was denied due to the grant administrator not meeting a benchmark deadline. Mr. Mondragon took full responsibility and also advised the TDA changed the system throughout this last year.

Council Member Tolin wanted to let everyone know that the Rotary will not put out flags on flag day this year. The Rotary puts out flags on 6 holidays a year and instead of putting them out 3 times in a 5-week period being Memorial, Flag, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July they will spread out the holiday enjoyment and recognize Peral Harbor instead of Flag Day this year.

Mayor Carter advised the council that the RGV Partnership had a meeting in Weslaco with the Mayors of the RGV and further advised that they will be having an event on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Bert Ogden arena where Governor Abbot will be the main speaker. The event is to try to bring economic development to the RGV. Mayor is trying to be a part of it to benefit from the bigger cities.

Rendie advised the council of the result of the storm in Laguna Heights and tornado there was a sinkhole near Executive Inn. We found out what the problem was being a junction box that

connects two of the lines, the box wasn't sealed properly at the base and the rain from the storm was pushing sand through and washed it away resulting in the sink hole. We had it fixed, the repairs cost \$9,000 that we will be trying to cover within our budget first before asking for a budget amendment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Tolin to adjourn.

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

**VOTE**

|                       |     |                         |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Romero | Aye | Council Member Gonzalez | Aye |
| Council Member Howard | Aye | Council Member De Gobeo | Aye |
| Council Member Tolin  | Aye | Mayor Carter            | Aye |

**Motion Carried**  
**Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 pm**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary