

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

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

DATE: July 11, 2023
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Johvonne Howard, Mayor Pro Tem
Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1
Rolando Gonzalez, Council Member Place 4
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Ricky Gonzalez, Commander
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk
Karla De La Pena, City Clerk
Pura Mireles, Librarian
Liz Baldwin, Library Clerk
Emmanuel Zuniga, Public Works Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3

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-** Council Member Tolin

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to excuse Council Member Tolin.
Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	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.

Citizen Mr. William Beatty of 14 Lakewood Dr. spoke to the council about his concern for the ordinances and explained that he was not able to find them on the website. He called in and an officer assisted him with his questions on if his friend could bring park and stay in his RV while visiting him, we have no current ordinance on this but recommended we did.

Citizen Mr. Rusty Justice presented Neil Waters Laguna Vista’s Fire Chief with a donation check in the amount of \$1,200 on behalf of the LVRA for breathing apparatus machines needed or whatever he sees fit.

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

- **OATH OF OFFICE** – Administration of Oath of Office to incoming Council member Bryant.
- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
 - June 13, 2023, Regular Town Council meeting

Council Member Romero pointed out a minor typing error on page 2 to strike out fire and change line to land.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to approve the June 13th minutes.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	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)

The Check Register, Bank Reconciliation, Income Statement, and Balance Sheets were provided to Council for review. Rendie advised that we are right on track and just a little over on the property taxes collected.

Mayor Carter commented that building permits are way down and advised that the building permits will need to be looked at for the upcoming budget.

Council Member De Gobeo asked about LexisNexis on the Check register, Rendie advised that is a database the Police Department utilizes.

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 Howard to go into executive session.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	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 6:15p.m.

Meeting resumed at 6:52p.m.

No action taken from executive session.

SUNSET BREEZE SUBDIVISION–Consideration and possible action on Sunset Breeze Subdivision.

Rendie advised the council that this is being brought in front of council to ratify with the conditions met with the Laguna Madre Water District requiring a 15 foot right away vs a 10 foot right away.

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to approve the Sunset Breeze Subdivision.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

ROLOFF PARK IMPROVEMENTS– Discussion and possible action regarding Texas Park and Wildlife Grant Application 2023 regarding Roloff Park improvements. (City Manager & Patty Alexander)

Rendie and Patty put together a proposal to be considered on Roloff Park, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant is due on August 1st. Provided to council is a Sketch and site concept as well as a price estimate that comes in at a million dollars, the grant is matching \$500,000 to \$500,000.

Mayor Carter advised that our town is in need of EMS care and that we would still like to improve our park but now our match will look more in the \$150,000 instead of the \$500,000. Patty advised that we can apply for the small community grant with Texas parks and Wild life at the match of \$150,000 and look into an additional Grant with Valley Babtist.

TRAVEL REQUESTS– Consideration and possible action to approve travel for City Manager and Police Chief to attend TML Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas, October 4-6, 2023. (City Manager)

Rendie asked the council for permission for her and Chief David to attend the 2023 TML Conference that will be held in Dallas this year.

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to approve the Travel Requests for City Manager and Police Chief.

Second was made by Council Member Gonzalez.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDS– Review and discussion regarding 2022/2023, AND 2023/2024 capital outlay budget items. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council that all the Capitol Outlay department expenses have been spent except for Public Works. Manny has taken inventory and advised that what public works could really benefit from would be a lift truck that would be utilized in putting up and removing banners for events as well as cutting palms and other miscellaneous needs. The proposal is to not spend

the \$14,000 but put that towards the next budget to possibly obtain enough funds to purchase a bucket truck at around \$55,000.

Council Member Howard asked for an update regarding the flooding and the pumps. Rendie advised that the angle we are going with is re digging out the coverts to hold the storm water as opposed to pumping out water and sending the water to add to the problem elsewhere. The County and water district do have pumps to use when needed so we can avoid this additional expense.

Council Member De Gobeo asked about the rent on the lift and if it is possible to partner with another city on the lift. The concern is it is a big expense for something that would not be utilized everyday. Rendie advised that there are a lot of things that we are not currently doing that we can start doing with access to the lift like the maintenance on the basketball court and further advised that this is just a proposal for discussion on the upcoming budget.

ARPA FUNDS– Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the approved ARPA funds and projects to date. (City Manager)

Rendie updated the council on the ARPA funds spent and the remaining balance and also advised that the Library weather stripping has gone through procurement and PO's have been done for the Police and Fire vehicles.

2023/2024 FISCAL BUDGET– Consideration and possible action on the 2023/2024 Fiscal Budget.

Rendie advised the council that we have a stricter calendar than prior years and the certified values will be out around the 20th of July. She further advised we need to be a little more proactive and further asked if we would like to schedule any special meetings today. Mayor advised once we get the certified values then we can move forward with scheduling.

RESOLUTION 2023-17– Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2023-017 authorizing membership in the coalition, Cities Served by Texas Gas Services, and suspension of the recommended increase. (City Attorney)

Town Attorney Alan Ozuna spoke to the council on resolution 2023-017 in regards to Texas Gas Service Companies request to raise gas utility rates.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Resolution 2023-17.

Second was made by Council Member De Gobeo.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION 2023-18– Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2023-18 relating to Mexico’s water debt. (City Attorney)

Town attorney advised the council that the LRDC is circulating this resolution to gather support and put pressure on our government to enforce the Water Treaty with Mexico due to Mexico not meeting its obligation.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to approve Resolution 2023-18.
Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE 2023 GRANT APPLICATION– Consideration and Authorization to Hold Public Hearing regarding the grant application to be submitted by Town of Laguna Vista to the Texas parks and Wildlife Department Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Local Park Grant Program for the Development of Roloff Park and potential impacts on floodplains and wetlands. (City Manager)

No speakers or comments made during public hearing.

RESOLUTION 2023-19– Consideration and possible action on Adoption of Resolution 2023-19 authorizing the application by Town of Laguna Vista to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Local Park Grant Program for the Development of Roloff Park and to designate an official to represent Laguna Vista in this regard, execute the Applicant’s Certification and Program Assurances, and submit a Letter of Commitment. (City Manager)

Patty advised the council that since we will be doing the Small Communities Grant it is part of Local Park Grant Program and maybe the same resolution for both park Grants.

Motion was made by Council Member Romero to approve Resolution 2023-19 Small Communities Park Grant.
Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS– Consideration and possible action to appoint members to the following advisory boards: (City Manager)

- **Parks Board**
- **Library Board**
- **Planning and Zoning Board**
- **CDC Board**

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to appoint Marc Balcerzak and Curt Chamberlain to the CDC Board and Council Member Tolin and Bryant as Ex Officios.

Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to appoint Stanford Knowles and Marti Etheridge to the Planning and Zoning Board and re appoint Members West, Hughston, and Volz.

Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to appoint Kristina Bobrka to the Parks Board and Erica Hughson and Marti Ethridge as Alternants.

Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to appoint Laurie Magee to the Library Board.

Second was made by Council Member Howard.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie asked the council to table the City Manager Report and she will send it out.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Howard to adjourn.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

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

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 pm



Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:



Crystal Chapa, City Secretary