

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

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

DATE: September 12, 2023
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Town of Laguna Vista City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Carter, Mayor
Dr. Christopher Romero, Council Member Place 1
Bettina Tolin, Council Member Place 3
Rolando Gonzalez, Council Member Place 4
Teresa Bryant, Council Member Place 5

Alan T. Ozuna, Esq.
Rendie R. Gonzales, City Manager
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary
Anthony David, Chief of Police
Duvie Alcozer, Building Inspector
Norma Barbosa, Court Clerk
Pura Mireles, Librarian
Emmanuel Zuniga, Public Works Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: Johvonne Howard, Mayor Pro-Tem
Silke De Gobeo, Council Member Place 6

ORDER OF BUSINESS

• **Call to Order**

Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

• **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation lead by Council Member Tolin.

• **Roll Call/Excused Absences-** Council Member Howard and De Gobeo

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to excuse Council Members Howard and De Gobeo.

Second was made by Mayor Carter.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	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:

- **MINUTES** – Consideration and possible action to approve the following minutes:
 - May 23, 2023, Special Town Council meeting
 - August 8, 2023, Regular Town Council meeting
 - August 21, 2023, Special Town Council meeting
 - August 22, 2023, Special Town Council meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to approve the May 23rd, August 8th, and August 21st minutes.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye		

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to table the August 22nd minutes until the next meeting.

Second was made by Council Member Tolin.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	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.

Mayor Carter advised on the Balance Sheet the Accounts Payable has an improper amount that needs to be looked at as well as the HOT tax that is on the asset side and should be on the liability side.

Council Member Tolin asked about the Hurricane supply line item and Rendie advised that it consist of anything needed for hurricane preparation such as batteries as well as sandbags and water to distribute to residents.

2022/2023 AUDIT FIRM DESIGNATION– Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding the designation of independent audit firm per the Town Charter. (City Manager)

Rendie advised that every year we do the independent audit per the charter, and we have to designate a firm to do that. The last four years we have used Cascos and Associates and as long as approved tonight we will engage them to start our 2022-2023 Fiscal Year audit. Rendie further advised the price increase from \$16,000 to \$18,000 per year for the next 4 years.

Motion was made by Mayor Carter to accept Cascos and Associates as our independent Audit firm.

Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye		

Motion Carried

2022/2023 AUDIT COMMITTEE DESIGNATION–Discussion, consideration and possible action to appoint two (2) council members and one (1) resident to serve on Audit Committee per Town Charter. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council per Town Charter we need to appoint an audit committee that consists of 2 Town Council members and 1 resident.

Council Member Tolin asked how we choose a citizen and Mayor Carter answered that we have always had Frank, but it is just up to the board to decide. Council Member thought of Mr. Worrell, Council Member Gonzalez advised he was also thinking about him, and Mayor was thinking of a previous board member that would understand how everything works.

Council Member Tolin and Council Member Bryant both volunteered to serve on the Audit committee.

Motion was made by Council Member Gonzalez to appoint Council Member Tolin, Council Member Bryant and Mr. Victor Worrell to the Town Audit Committee.

Second was made by Council Member Romero.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye		

Motion Carried

HOT HOLIDAY INCENTIVE PROGRAM– Discussion, consideration, and possible action to initiate the HOT Holiday Incentive Program. (City Manager)

Rendie advised that we have received a lot of requests to update the Town Christmas decorations and it would be great if we could do this and promote our town. Rendie further advised that she got together with Mr. Ozuna and presented a proposal to approve a HOT Holiday program that would ask rental property owners to give a holiday discount during the Month of December and then the Town would be able to spend some HOT funds to upgrade holiday decorations to help promote the Town and hopefully increase rentals with the promotion.

Mayor Carter asked if the purchase of Christmas decorations would fall into advertising due to the limit of use on HOT taxes for this purpose. Rendie answered the purchase of décor would be for the program for advertising and marketing, Mr. Ozuna has reviewed and is comfortable with the purchase for the program.

Council Member Romero asked if we could do something with a local flare as opposed to something off the shelf. Rendie advised that she is looking for something that will look nice both during the day and night. Mayor advised to balance something modern with a small town flare.

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to authorize the City Manager to initiate the HOT Holiday incentive program.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye		

Motion Carried

2023 EVENT CALENDAR– Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding the remaining 2023 events.

- a. Fall Festival, October 27, 2023**
- b. Christmas Event, December 8, 2023**

Rendie advised that the Fall Festival is coming up on Friday October 27th and we will be asking for candy donations from the vendors as well and try to increase the number of vendors at the event.

Rendie further advised that the Christmas event will be on the 2nd Friday of December which is the 8th that way we don't conflict with the surrounding towns and will be able to have school performances. We will light the town up on the day after Thanksgiving without a tree lighting due to the later date.

TOWN COUNCIL OCTOBER MEETING DATE– Discussion, consideration, and possible action to change the October meeting date. (City Manager)

Rendie advised the council that both herself and Crystal will be traveling out of town for the MIP Conference so the Town Council meeting will need to be moved from its regular scheduled date. Rendie checked with Mr. Ozuna, and he will be available on both Tuesday the 17th and Wednesday the 18th in case Wednesday would work better for Council Member Howard since Tuesdays tend to be game days for her. After discussion it was decided to move the Town Council Meeting to Wednesday October 18th.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rendie advised the council that there isn't any change with the grants, we are all still standing by. The Library grants for ARPA are proving to be difficult due to the contractors bidding not being federally approved so we are trying to find some alternative ways to get some vendors.

Rendie also advised that the photographs are scheduled for Council Members and staff on September 29th and 30th and reminded if you haven't signed up, please make sure you do so. If you are unable on these days a makeup day will be scheduled.

Rendie let the council know that Stripes has been a big concern and we have received a lot of complaints. She further advised that she will complain every time she receives a complaint and Duvie gives pressure anytime they have litter.

Rendie also updated on the Town emergency siren. She advised that to meet FEMA standards on the sound we would need two sirens to cover the entire town. She further advised we received a quote for the two sirens, one would be placed on 510 and Bethpage and the other on David Cuervo and HWY 100. The quote is at about \$67,000 with no battery backup and with backup it goes up \$1,000 these would go on 45 ft wooden telephone poles and turnaround time would be 8 to 10 weeks. There are funding opportunities though grants that she will look into.

Mayor Carter stated that it would be great to have the emergency ones but also thinks it would be nice to have the traditional one as a Laguna Vista staple.

Council Member Tolin commented that the EMS system alert that is being implemented is far more effective than a siren could ever be.

Council Member Bryant confirmed that if we got just a nostalgia siren a grant wouldn't work since it wouldn't be in compliance and Rendie advised she will continue to look for grant options.

Rendie updated on the Sunset Breeze Subdivision and advised that our engineer gave SAMES the final approval and herself and Mr. Ozuna had a conference with SAMES and advised them that we were ready to do their credit letter and Mylar plans, however we have not seen anything from them since.

Rendie advised the council that she and Mr. Ozuna attended the Texas Economic Development Council Sales Tax Workshop and learned a lot about the legislative updates and advised we will need to make a few changes but all in all very informative.

Lastly Rendie reminded everyone on the upcoming events, Officer LeBlac moment of silence, LNG Advisory Board meeting, LNG Groundbreaking Ceremony, and our Fall Festival.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Tolin to adjourn.

Second was made by Council Member Bryant.

VOTE

Council Member Romero	Aye	Council Member Bryant	Aye
Council Member Tolin	Aye	Mayor Carter	Aye
Council Member Gonzalez	Aye		

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 pm


Michael Carter, Mayor

Attest:


Crystal Chapa, City Secretary