



MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE VILLAGE OF VOLENTE, TEXAS
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.
16100 Wharf Cove, Volente, Texas 78641

1. Open Regular Meeting.
Mayor Ken Beck called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Call Roll.
Julia Vicars, City Secretary called roll. Council Members David Springer, Bill Connors, Babs Yarbrough, Kristi Belote, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Scott and Mayor Ken Beck all present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Mayor's Report.
Mayor details his recent interactions with Pedernales Electric Cooperative with the goal of enhancing our relationship with PEC to know who we are working with and share in expectations of how we will work together for the future.
Mayor met with Greg Hammonds of Volente Peak development to increase communications between the Hammonds and the Village of Volente.
Mayor has been viewing TML Legislative Update webinars and working with our representatives to voice our opinion on bills.
Discussed progress of Phase 2 with the BCRUA for the purpose of controlling the future use of property where the deep water intake will be built. The Mayor wants to open dialogue between the BCRUA and Village of Volente.
The Mayor reviews the prioritized goals established by Council at their retreat and emphasized the progress made in reviewing the ordinances.
5. Citizens Comments.
None at this time.
6. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2015.

Council Member Babs Yarbrough makes a motion to approve the minutes from February 17, 2015. Council Member Bill Connors seconds the motion. Carries unanimously.

7. Village Reports. (Chair of the Finance Committee and Staff)

a. Financial Reports.

Mayor Pro Tem summarizes the financial standing of the Village. Property tax and franchise fees were well ahead of what was budgeted, with sales tax revenue a bit behind. Under budget or in-line with budget for expenses. Reserves are in good shape. Labor costs expected to be outside of what was budgeted because of the Texas Municipal Retirement System, to which the Village still has to make contributions to despite withdrawal.

b. Construction Update.

Barbara Wilson, City Administrator details the ongoing construction projects within the Village of Volente.

c. City Administrator Report.

Barbara Wilson, City Administrator summarizes her report. She is currently working on developing checklists for different permitting processes.

d. City Secretary Report.

Julia Vicars, City Secretary reviews her report.

e. Crime & Complaints Report.

Julia Vicars, City Secretary, details the Crime & Complaints for February, 2015 and reminds the public to lock their vehicles and houses in light of recent burglaries.

f. Committee Reports.

Government Relations – Council Member Bill Connors summarizes the Governmental Relations committee progress. Working on the conceptual timeline for review of the Zoning ordinance, on which Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission will work simultaneously, allowing for public review and input via meetings, surveys, and Town Halls.

Public Relations and Communications Committee – The committee has been developing a Communication Strategy, collection of resident emails. Email distribution of meeting notices with solicitation of public comments to take place, newsletter to include minutes and tapings of meetings when appropriate.

Public Safety Committee – Working with the Public Relations and Communications Committee to develop and implement the use of Block Captains, to develop a strong email distribution list, and to sign up residents for safety alerts. Emergency Management Plan has been in the works with special input from Travis County, the Red Cross, and the help of our volunteer members.

Parks and Environment Committee – Working on acquiring and installing dog kennels at City Hall for lost dogs. Friendship Park Phase 1 is almost done, and Robert Nelson and Carey Witt have worked with the Environmental Committee to get a

timeline for phase two. Regular meetings scheduled for the fourth Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. The site plan has changed slightly.

Joyce Beck, 15911 Booth Circle, asks if the plan has changed since Council approval, does it need to come back to Council?

Tom Buckle, City Attorney, answers that the final plan should come back to Council.

Anne Steichen, 15807 FM 2769 states that the plan has changed so little, it does not seem necessary to come back to Council.

Tom Buckle, City Attorney answers that +/- 10% is the general rule, so if the plan has changed by 10% it should be reviewed again by Council.

Mayor Ken Beck suggests that the Parks and Environment Committee bring the plan into the office for review.

8. Discussion on the Possible Expansion of the Current Nuisance Ordinance No. 2014-O-17 to Include Deteriorating Property within the Village of Volente.

Mayor Ken Beck summarizes the suggestion of adding deteriorating property within the Village of Volente. Four properties in the Village have been identified as being in a state of significant disrepair, with one being lived in occasionally. The Mayor adds that these properties present a danger to the health and safety of the Village, as well as effect property values. Some residents have complained that these properties are having an impact on their ability to sell their house. Tom Buckle, City Attorney, says that the Municipal Court would have to be activated and determine if the property is a substandard structure. Then the city would work with the property owner and if a property owner does not bring property to standard then the Village could demolish, and put a lien on the property to reimburse the costs. He adds that this should be as a separate stand-alone ordinance.

The Mayor mentions that he has written a letter to the owners of the property on 2769, asking them to come into compliance.

Citizen Comments:

Anne Steichen, 15807 FM 2769, states that she is familiar with one of the properties and its owner. Says she herself would not walk into the back of this house, and someone lives in it throughout the year. Worries about the safety of that resident and the emergency services people that may have to enter the house.

Joyce Beck, 15911 Booth Circle, suggests that Municipal Court be the last avenue that Council seek in remedying these properties. Adding that the Community may be able to come together and volunteer to bring houses up to code.

Council Member Bill Connors states that the state of the building that is lived in occasionally could become a safety issue. He agrees that this matter should be looked into further.

After discussion amongst Council, consensus is that the Mayor will work with the property owners in lieu of creating an ordinance for this type of matter.

9. Discussion on a Possible Hotel Tax Ordinance for the Village of Volente.

The Mayor summarizes this agenda item, including what the hotel tax could be used on and the way we would acquire a hotel tax.

Barbara Wilson mentions that the state sets a maximum rate, and we are allowed to collect a certain percentage.

Anne Steichen, 15807 FM 2769, states that she pays a state sales tax and would love to see a portion of it come back to the community. She supports this tax ordinance.

10. Update and Discussion on the tasks assigned to the Planning and Zoning Commission. (Bill Connors)

Bill Connors summarizes the work that has been done with the Planning and Zoning Commission and states that after meeting with Jeff Browning, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, he is on board with Council's progress.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on the implementation of Block Captains for the Public Safety Committee and Public Relations and Communications Committee. (Babs Yarbrough and Kristi Belote)

a. Presentation by Chairs

Council Members Yarbrough and Belote summarize how each of their committees would use Block Captains. Block Captains would be going door to door with a free smoke detector, emergency packet, and sign-up sheet for Communications and Reverse 911 system. Council Member Belote presents the map for Block Captains. Block Parents might also be used, in case of an emergency, to ensure all children for the street are accounted for.

b. Citizen Comments.

Council Member Bill Connors makes a motion to allow the implementation of Block Captains for the Public Safety and Public Relations and Communications Committees with final approval to come before Council. Seconded by Council Member David Springer. Carries Unanimously.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on a Requested Survey by the Public Relations and Communications Committee.

a. Presentation by Chair (Kristi Belote).

Council Member Kristi Belote summarizes the Construction Survey, to go out to builders, architects, residents, architects, engineers, realtors... anyone who has had a hand in a development project in the last 2 years.

Council discusses possible edits to the survey, eliminating some questions and re-wording others.

b. Citizen Comments.

Council Member Bill Connors makes a motion for Council Member Kristi Belote to proceed with the Construction Survey, edited as discussed, to be distributed to the list of contacts. Seconded by Council Member Babs Yarbrough. Carries unanimously.

Council Member Kristi Belote adds that a follow up community survey will be on the next agenda for edits and discussion.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on the Job Descriptions for City Secretary and City Administrator.

The Budget, Finance, and Administration Committee cleaned up the job description for the City Secretary, changing only small grammatical errors.

Council Member Kristi Belote makes a motion to adopt the Job Description for the City Secretary, with edits made by the Budget, Finance and Administration Committee. Carries unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Scott says the job description for the City Administrator is still in the works, and will be presented to Council at a later date.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on the Personnel Manual for Employees of the Village of Volente.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Scott summarizes the slight changes to the Personnel Manual coming out of the Budget, Finance, and Administration Committee meeting.

Council Member Bill Connors makes a motion to adopt the Personnel Manual, with edits as discussed. Seconded by Council Member Kristi Belote. Carries unanimously.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on an Upgrade to the Website allowing for Local Pictures to be displayed on the Website Banner.

Julia Vicars, City Secretary details the bid from Gov Office for an upgrade to the website.

Council Member Babs Yarbrough makes a motion to reject the quote for website upgrade and to come back with a better upgrade for the money. Seconded by Council Member Kristi Belote. Carries unanimously.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on the Local Contribution to Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO).

