



MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE VILLAGE OF VOLENTE, TEXAS
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.
16100 Wharf Cove, Volente, Texas 78641

Present

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Scott
Council Member Bill Connors
Council Member David Springer
Council Member Babs Yarbrough
Council Member Kristi Belote

Absent

Mayor Ken Beck

Also in Attendance

Tom Buckle, City Attorney

A. Items Opening the Meeting

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott calls the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Call Roll.

City Secretary Julia Vicars calls roll. A quorum is established.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from May 19th and May 27th, 2015.

Council Member Bill Connors makes a motion to approve the minutes from May 19th and May 27th as amended. Seconded by Council Member Springer. Carries unanimously.

B. Citizen Communications.

Nancy Carufel, 8138 Joy Rd, makes an announcement about PEC's annual meeting, taking place on Saturday, the 20th.

Scott Spurlin, Booth Circle, spoke about the possible moving City Hall to the Fire Hall.

C. General Business and Action Items.

1. Village Reports.

- a. Financial Reports.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott summarizes the financial reports for the Village of Volente. Operation costs are well in line, below budget on most items. The Public Works budget close to being used up, as to be expected. Revenues are ahead of projected amount but sales tax below what was budgeted. Mayor Pro Tem Scott states there are some issues with the balance sheet that he is working to get straightened out with the accountant.

- b. Construction Update.

City Secretary Julia Vicars briefly reports on the seven active construction projects within the Village.

- c. City Secretary Report.
Julia Vicars, City Secretary, summarizes the work she has done in the last month.
- d. Crime & Complaints Report.
The frequency of complaints has gone down, with very few to report. Most complaints stem from loose dogs. There have been some more burglaries within the Village, but an increase in TCSO presence has cut down on the crime.
- e. Committee Reports.
Council Member Bill Connors gives a brief update, letting the community know that he visited with the Planning and Zoning Commission and they have a general consensus to proceed with the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance but the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends the Village keep inspections in house. Council Member Connors plans on having the proposed changes on the Council Message Board as soon as possible.
Council Member Springer gives a brief update for the Parks and Environment committee stating that Robert Nelson has completed his work on the park and Phase 2 is done.
Council Member Babs Yarbrough says Public Safety Committee has finished the Emergency Management Plan and will send to Council for review prior to approval at the next Council Meeting. The Committee will next work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
Council Member Kristi Belote says that the next town hall will most likely be the end of July.

The Staff and Mayor present the following agenda items (2 and 3) to be considered as consent items by the City Council to be enacted by one motion. If a citizen or City Council Member requests discussion on an item, it will not be approved on consent and will be moved to the end of the agenda to be considered at that time. City Council Members may add additional items to be considered for the consent agenda.

- 2. The addition of Steve Baker to the Budget, Finance, and Administration Committee.
- 3. The addition of Cindy Metro to the Public Relations and Communications Committee.

Council Member David Springer makes a motion to accept the above items. Seconded by Council Member Babs Yarbrough. Carries unanimously.

- 4. Presentation from Will Boettner, P.G., EMT, Mitigation & Prevention Wild Land Urban Interface Specialist on becoming a Fire Wise Community.
This item was taken out of order before Agenda Item 1.
Council Member Babs Yarbrough introduces Will Boettner from the Texas A&M Forest Service, stemming from Public Safety Committee's recommendation that the Village of Volente become a Fire Wise Community.
Will Boettner speaks to becoming a Fire Wise Community, a national movement to get communities to adopt a series of practices and efforts in order to make their communities less

vulnerable to the dangers of fire. Most approaches are simple tasks, like pruning branches, being aware of where you plant new landscape, and reaching out to neighbors to educate them. Home ignition zone evaluations allow Mr. Boettner to go door to door to see what types of exposures the property has for fire. The evaluations are presented to the homeowner and are not for public eye. The goal is that these simple fixes can be done via usual upkeep and without the assistance of a contractor and that most homeowners make these simple fixes to contribute to the City as a whole becoming less of a fire danger.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott asks about the inspection scheduling.

Mr. Boettner says he can speak at a Town Hall Meeting for outreach and fire prevention and residents interested in receiving an evaluation could call for scheduling.

5. Close Public Meeting, Enter Executive Session. *The Village Council will announce that it will go into Executive Session, if necessary, pursuant to **Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code "Personnel Matters"** for discussion on the severance negotiations for Barbara Wilson and Executive Session for **Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code "Deliberations about Real Property"**.*

The Council closes the Public Meeting at 7:28 p.m. All present Council Members (see above) and the City Attorney enter into executive session.

6. Re-Open Public Meeting.

Public Meeting re-opens at 7:54 p.m. All Council Members return.

7. Discussion and Action resulting from Executive Session, if any.

Council Member Connors makes a motion for Mayor Pro Tem Scott to offer the proposed agreement to Barbara Wilson. Seconded by Council Member Yarbrough. The motion carries unanimously.

8. Public Hearing on Amending Ordinance No. 2015-O-06; an Ordinance to add the definitions of foundation and water tank and to amend the definition of height.

Nancy Carufel, 8138 Joy Rd, said she is against this ordinance.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Amending Ordinance No. 2015-O-06; an Ordinance to add the definitions of foundation and water tank and to amend the definition of height.

Council Member Connors wants more research to be done on the definitions provided in the Ordinance, specifically looking to the International Residential Code for the definitions.

Council Member Kristi Belote makes a motion to postpone this Ordinance until the next meeting. Seconded by Council Member Babs Yarbrough. The motion carries unanimously.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on the safety, traffic control, trailer parking, and right-of-ways for Wharf Cove Boat Ramp.

- a. Presentation from Austin Cameron, VIP Marina

Austin Cameron, owner of VIP Marina, states a year or two ago there were trespassers on the property and with the water down it was an open area for people to come and party on his property. Safety is biggest concern. Two 480 volt power

lines at the edge of his property are a concern of those who use Wharf Cove as a boat ramp and fishing spot. Mr. Cameron states that the fence that is currently at the property line was put up at the advice of past Council. Trespassers on the property often leave barrels of oil on the water's edge, trash, fishing equipment – there have even been RVs parked at the end of Wharf Cove for the weekend. Highland Lakes has safe boat ramps and safe launch that Mr. Cameron recommends people looking to launch a boat use. He adds that there is not a public boat ramp on the lake allowing people to launch for free for a reason – there are upkeep costs associated with having a boat ramp and the fee offsets those costs. Mr. Cameron would like to see rules posted and consistent enforcement of those rules. If the City wishes to use Wharf Cove as a public boat ramp then the city needs to take responsibility of maintenance, enforcement, and safety. Mr. Cameron as removed the barbed wire from the fence as a sign of good faith and showing his willingness to work with the city.

Council Member Connors asked if a permit was given for the erection of the fence. Austin Cameron states that he was told a permit was not necessary.

Council Member Connors asks if LCRA gave him a permit for his parking lot in the floodplain.

Austin Cameron states that LCRA is aware of the parking lot. LCRA told them they could only haul in and not haul out, to help control erosion and that LCRA uses the parking lot during their inspections of the marina. Mr. Cameron says he wants to be a good neighbor and help the city, stating that his Marina contributes greatly to the tax revenue for the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott states Council should research the type B municipal power to allow no parking signs and the ability to enforce them to help with the trash and traffic control.

Council agrees to look into parking enforcement.

b. Presentation from Mike Carter, Highland Lakes Marina

Speaks to the issues of safety that are going on at the end of Wharf Cove. Says he was contacted by Mayor Ken Beck who inquired about removal of the barbed wire from Highland Lakes Marina's fence. Mr. Carter said that he is against removing the fence because of the frequency of trespassers looking to avoid the \$5 parking fee. He says that Wharf Cove is not a boat ramp, but instead a public access road. County put concrete down there years ago, in the interest of preserving the road and not to create a boat ramp. The trash that gets left behind is picked up by Austin Cameron and himself. Mowing and cleaning up of the property is not done by anyone other than the Marina owners. His concerns are to keep people out that don't need to be in and to provide a controlled situation for the safety of the public coming to enjoy the lake.

Council Member Belote asks if he would be willing to take down the barbed wire at the top of the fence.

Mr. Carter states that the barbed wire is the top fence line and holds the fence in place. Mike states he has no problem with the community accessing the lake through Wharf Cove, but he does have a problem with people skipping the fees. Council Member Connors states that he himself has picked up trash in his cove, and that the Community is willing to volunteer and help with the trash control and has been doing so.

Council Member Babs Yarbrough states that there are options to research and then the Council will meet together during Work Session and put common sense ideas in place to present to the public.

Bob Steichen, 15807 FM 2769, states he has lived in Volente around 40 years. When they would call Travis County for help with Wharf Cove they would say it is a ramp, and not in their jurisdiction. And when they would call LCRA, they would say it is a road and not in their jurisdiction. States he has volunteered and picked up trash and helped make the end of Wharf Code more accessible. He suggests the city invest in making Wharf Cove a beautiful boat ramp, possibly through contract with Austin Cameron of VIP Marina.

Rett Scudder, Booth Circle, states that the problem is all the cars and trailers and trucks – congestion of vehicles. The big problem is the volume of cars coming down and parking on the side of the road, where there is nowhere to turn around, then getting on the lake and leaving. Pedestrian access is great, but the cars are the immediate problem.

Nancy Carufel, 8138 Joy Rd, states if there are private property and no trespassing signs then violations of those signs can be reported to the Sheriff's office.

11. Recommendations from the Budget, Finance, and Administration Committee in regards to Budget Line Item Transfers for this fiscal year. (Mayor Pro Tem Mark Scott)

Council Member Babs Yarbrough makes a motion to postpone item 11 to the next meeting. Council Member Connors seconds. Carries unanimously.

12. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourns at 9:01 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 21 day of July, 2015.

Signed:

KB
Mayor Ken Beck

Attest:

JV
City Secretary, Julia Vicars