



Minutes
City Council
of Village of Volente, TX
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
7 pm.

Council Present

Frederick Graber, Mayor
Mark Scott, Mayor Pro Tem
Judy Graci, Council Member
Chris Wilder, Council Member
Matthew Hammond, Council Member
Jan Yenawine, Council Member

Staff Present

Joan Jackson, City Secretary
Barbara Wilson, City Administrator

1. Call to Order of the City Council.

Mayor Graber called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

2. Roll Call.

Joan Jackson, City Secretary, called roll. A quorum was established.

3. Pledge of Allegiance/Reading of the Village Vision Statement.

The Pledge of Allegiance was read and the Vision Statement was read by Council Member Hammond.

4. Citizens/Public Communications.

None at this time.

5. Mayor's Report

a. Strategic goals for 2013.2014.

Mayor Graber read a statement regarding his goals for his term of Mayor. A copy of the goals is attached to this agenda. Some of the goals he listed are: a council retreat, an open house in December in the new City Hall, Special Use Permit policy, fall and spring clean- up days for Volente, review of standing committees, and the ESD #14 funding will be reviewed by the finance chairman and committee. He appointed Council Member Yenawine to oversee culverts and illegal dumping sites in the Village.

6. Staff reports.

a. City Administrator/City Secretary Project Report.

b. Financial Report

c. Construction Report.

The Staff and Mayor present the following agenda items (7-9 a-e) 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, it will be moved to the end of the agenda and considered at that time. City Council Members may add additional items to be considered for the



consent agenda.

7. Approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2013 meeting.
8. Acceptance of Jan Yenawine's resignation as Municipal Judge.
9. Consider approval of Annual Contracts and Purchases for the Village of Volente for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2013.
 - (a) Legal Services Contract with Scanlan, Buckle and Young for City Attorney Services.
 - (b) Legal Services Contract with TRE and Associates, LLC.
 - (c) Legal Services Contract with Jay Engineering Co, Inc. for Engineering Services.
 - (d) Legal Services Contract with ATS for temporary code enforcement and inspections and suspension of code enforcement with Peter McKinney until notification that he is physically able to return to work.
 - (e) Designate Community Impact as advertising newspaper for legal ads and notices for Village of Volente.

Council Member Graci made a motion to approve items 8-9(a-e) from the consent items. Council Member Yenawine seconded the motion.

- Council Member Scott voted yes.
- Council Member Graci voted yes.
- Council Member Wilder voted yes.
- Council Member Hammond voted yes.
- Council Member Yenawine voted yes.

Council Member Yenawine made a motion to change Council Member Hammond's vote to yes on Item 16 of the September 24, 2013 minutes and accept the minutes with the change. Councilmember Hammond seconded the motion.

- Council Member Scott voted yes.
- Council Member Graci voted yes.
- Council Member Wilder voted yes.
- Council Member Hammond voted yes.
- Council Member Yenawine voted yes.

Regular Agenda Items:

10. Close Public Meeting.
 - The Council did not go into closed executive session.
11. Consideration and possible action on appointment of Denise S. Thrash as Municipal Judge for Volente.



Council Member Yenawine made a motion to appoint Denise S. Thrash as Municipal Judge for Volente. Council Member Hammond seconded the motion.

Council Member Scott voted yes.

Council Member Graci voted yes.

Council Member Hammond voted yes.

Council Member Wilder voted yes.

Council Member Yenawine voted yes.

12. Consideration and possible action on appointment of Mayor Pro Tem for the Village of Volente.

Council Member Graci made a motion to appoint Council Member Scott as Mayor Pro Tem for the Village of Volente. Council Member Hammond seconded the motion.

Council Member Graci voted yes.

Council Member Wilder voted yes.

Council Member Yenawine voted yes.

Council Member Hammond voted yes.

13. Discussion and presentation of the Administrative Ordinance for City Council first draft.

a. Presentation by staff.

b. Discussion by City Council.

Questions were asked by Council regarding Sec. 24.10 Addressing the Council; Sec. 24.16 Adjournment; and Sec. 24.03 Agenda. The Council discussed these issues.

a. Open public hearing.

The public hearing began at 8:07 a.m.

Citizens Comments:

Ann Steichen, 15807 FM 2769, Volente, TX asked about Item 24.3: if a citizen asked about placing an item on the agenda and would it have to be submitted 11 days before meeting and have 2 council members approve it.

c. Close public hearing.

The hearing was closed at 8:09 p.m.

d. Further discussion by City Council.

e. Direction to staff.

Staff and City Council to incorporate any changes made and resubmit to Council at next meeting.

14. Adjourn

Council Member Yenawine made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member Scott. The motion passed with unanimous vote.

Approved this 19th day of November, 2013.



Frederick Graber, Mayor

Joan Jackson, City Secretary

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AGENDA ITEM 5: MAYOR'S REPORT

a. Strategic Goals for 2013/2014

Mayor's Report

Setting Our Strategic Goals and Bringing Our Community Together

Since taking over the reigns of Mayor, I've become determined to manage our operations pro-actively and to broaden our outreach to the residents to play a more active role in our city governance. With a very competent City Administrator now handling more and more of the daily challenges, the Council is afforded time to more fully concentrate on policy issues and community outreach.

To this end — I have drafted an initial list of Strategic Goals for 2013/2014. I ask everyone to start looking at their calendars so that we can schedule a City Council retreat in January in hope that by working together we can flesh these projects out and add to the list.

While your calendars are open, let's also look at potential dates in December to have an open house at our new office location, an event that could also include caroling or perhaps a movie night.

It will be a great opportunity to say thanks, and celebrate the unique quality of life we enjoy in Volente.

Major Undertakings for 2013/2014

- Special Use Permit Ordinance
- New Fee Structure Adoption
- Fall/Spring Clean-up Day
- Commercial loading & unloading regulations
- Volente Fire Dept and Emergency Services Provision
- Appointment of Municipal Judge and alternate Municipal Judge
- Deputizing of enforcement officers for municipal regulations
- Health and Sanitation Ordinance
- Review and clarification of Tree Cutting regulations
- Trainings for Council, Standing Committees, Board of Adjustments & Planning & Zoning Commission
- Review of- and appointment to Standing Committees, BOA & P&Z
- Trails & Parks Planning
- Nuisance Ordinance
- Monument Message board for • Village Announcements
- Land Code Ordinance issues –including review of existing small subdivided lots; commercial standards currently required on residential construction; water tank setbacks; and building regulations within the floodplain

- Surface Water Annexation
- Long-term water provision alternatives and drought contingency planning
- Emergency Management Plan, and
- A long-term plan for Wharf Cove

VFD at a Crossroads: Asking the Finance Committee to Study Options

During the Village budget process, the City Council discussed the very serious financial problems that will occur if Cedar Park follows through with their planned expedited annexation of land historically served by the Volente Fire Department. The reduction of service area and subsequent reduction in tax base could cause VFD to have a budget shortfall as early as January 2014. VFD has asked the Village of Volente for emergency funding.

Of course both the VFD and the Village Council recognize that this loss of revenue to VFD is permanent, and that the VFD's budget shortfall requires a long-term solution. Again, this is not a temporary request but a request for permanent and ongoing funding.

Village property owners currently pay a 10 cent property tax rate (per \$100 dollars appraised value) to ESD #14 to provide fire and emergency medical services. In addition to the funding received from the ESD jurisdiction, the VFD is now asking for permanent, additional funding to pass through the Village of Volente's annual tax rate. Again, this is not a temporary request, but rather a request for permanent on-going funding. This would significantly increase our resident's property taxes.

The Council, as you can imagine, is in a tight spot. Our Village has a long history of being conservative with our finances and anticipating future needs. To increase tax rates, without having a say in VFD budgeting and spending leaves us without the oversight power taxpayers expect.

At the same time — we realize, that failure to resolve this-- could result in declining fire and medical services. Additionally, it could financially impact our residents because if an adequate emergency service level is not maintained, homeowners' insurance rates could rise.

To insure informed decisions are being made by the City Council, due diligence requires we review VFD budgets, short and long-term plans, as well as what immediate steps they're taking to cut spending in anticipation of their reduced revenue stream.

To help us address this challenge, I've asked the Finance Committee to begin an in-depth analysis of the impact VFD's request will have on the Village's finances and to explore alternative options. We'll once again be relying on the leadership and financial expertise of Councilmember Mark Scott, Chair of the Finance Committee. His extensive financial experience, along with his commitment to the Village, is a true blessing. This investigation, we realize, will be time consuming but it is one that cannot be ignored. It is our goal that the Finance Committee will report back to the Council for consideration in January 2014.

Budget Tracking

Village residents have been saved literally tens of thousands of dollars thanks to the varied expertise of individual Councilmembers and other volunteers who have devoted numerous hours without compensation.

As Volente matures, there is a growing consensus we need to move to a more structured process in the way we commit Village finances, helping us avoid duplication and keeping us in line with Governmental fiduciary regulations, while continuing to be more transparent for Village residents to hold us accountable.

To that end – we’ve created a new chart of accounts that reflects our adopted budget and will hopefully serve to keep the Council better apprised of changing needs, especially those that were not foreseen during the budget planning process. We’re asking all Committee Chairs to check in with the City office before making financial commitments on behalf of the Village.

Make no mistake –we’ll continue to rely on the vision and expertise of our band of volunteers who serve on committees. But we believe this new process will serve to ensure everyone is informed of new developments and financial commitments. I want to thank everyone for their help and cooperation in setting up these new procedures.

Mapping Drainage Culverts

While clearing the right-of-ways, two major discoveries were made. One, it revealed a lot of debris that has been illegally dumped for years and secondly, we discovered culverts we didn’t even know existed. Not only are they not functioning; they are hard to find. I’d like to ask that Councilmember Jan Yenawine, to work with our staff to map the location and condition of culverts within the Village and also to address their maintenance. *Additionally Jan will work with city staff to weigh our options on cleaning up the illegal dumping sites.*

Looking Ahead, the follow events are scheduled:

Oct 23 Meet the Candidates Night

- 6:30pm at the VVFD Community Center

Nov 4 Planning & Zoning Commission will be discussing the Special Use Permit Ordinance

Nov 5 Volente City Council Election

- Early voting will begins Oct ___ at any Travis County Early Voting location
- 7am – 7pm at the VVFD Community Center on Nov 5th

Nov 19 Volente City Council Meeting agenda items will include:

- Canvassing of the City Council election results and swearing in of new Councilmembers
- Review and Chair appointments to the Standing Committees
- 2nd Draft Review of Health and Sanitation Ordinance
- Appointment and deputizing of Municipal Enforcement Officers