



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL**

**OF THE VILLAGE OF VOLENTE, TEXAS  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.  
16100 Wharf Cove, Volente, Texas 78641**

**Present**

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

**Absent**

**Also in Attendance**

City Attorney Tom Buckle

1. Open Special Called Meeting.

Mayor Ken Beck calls the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Call Roll.

City Secretary Julia Vicars called roll and a quorum was established.

3. Citizen Comments.

David Gordon, 15716 Booth Circle, asks if there will be discussion amongst Council in front of general public on the issue at hand.

Mayor Ken Beck states that discussion will take place in Executive session, with a vote taking place in front of the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Scott briefly summarizes the item before Council, stating that the current contract expires on June 6<sup>th</sup> and listing out possible outcomes to tonight's meeting.

Jan Yenawine, FM 2769, states that what is best for the Village is what Council decides tonight. The City Manager is a reflection of Council. Some of the reasons people are angry are a reflection of the past Council and needs to be taken with a grain of salt. The City Administrator is a tool, and it is up to Council how they use the tool. If there are weaknesses, then it is up to Council to ensure those weaknesses do not damage the flow of work in the village.

Judy Barrick, 15907 Booth Circle, agrees with majority of what Jan says. Agrees Council is elected and will take all into consideration for the decision that is best for the Village adding that she trust the Council.

Bob Steichen, 15807 FM 2769, states he does not feel Barbara Wilson should be present at a meeting like this. The things that have been written about and talked about shouldn't be tit for

tat [referring to the amount of letters in support versus the amount of letters against]. States he is against the renewal of Barbara Wilson's contract and feels there is talent locally and in the surrounding areas that can fill the position if need be. He adds that the Council and Mayor work for the citizens, and while it's their vote it's also his vote as a citizen.

Anne Steichen, 15807 FM 2769 states that she wrote a letter but was not included in the earlier list adding that reading the names of who was for or against should not be about the number of respondents but instead about the weight that each letter holds.

Nancy Carufel, 8138 Joy Rd, states that she holds the same position as last week. She is against renewing the contract because Barbara Wilson was hired, despite public outcry not to add a City Administrator. According to the Community Survey, 70% don't see a need for an added employee. The Comprehensive Plan does not include City Administrator of 2 sq miles unless our population is over 1900 people. Council needs to look at the budget, money, and costs, which have only gone up since Barbara has come into office. Also feels that having one at-will employee and one contract employee is unjust.

Terry Spurlin states that she doesn't believe the numbers of for and against accurately reflect what statements have been sent in. She feels that Barbara Wilson has access to Council emails and this should be of concern. She states there are serious issues with Barbara Wilson and her use of authority in the Village.

Roe Fleenor, 7803 Lime Creek Rd, states that he did not write a letter. Has been around for a long time and been involved in government. Our Village Administrative people have been overworked, and have not been able to keep up with the workload as it is intense. He adds that the level of professionalism went up when Barbara Wilson was hired, and again when Julia Vicars was hired. Personally, his relationship with the City Administrator has always been one of helpful, polite, forthcoming information. On the Board of Adjustments, some feel that she directs that committee, he states that he doesn't feel that is the case. He recommends that Council consider renewing her contract.

Linda Limeux, wrote a letter in favor of Barbara, in sticking to the point the things I see in Barbara is that she does bring some background experience and knowledge. Volente is a small city but we need to be more and more careful about following our rules. She states Barbara Wilson has a strong work ethic, often staying in office long after the day is done. Suggests having clear parameters in a job description to alleviate some of the issues people are saying.

Judy Graci, 15775 Booth Circle, reads aloud her letter sent to Council stating she is in favor of Barbara Wilson's contract renewal. She says a single employee cannot manage clerical office demands and oversee big picture projects. Barbara has come into the Village with vast municipal experience.

Kit Hopkins, states she has worked to clean up the finances in Volente and that process was a lot to look at. Barbara's Contract is shocking that it is so unbalanced. The contract should be at-will and allow the Village more control. She says the contract gives Barbara Wilson a lot more authority, which should remain at Council level.

Norma Hutchinson, 7809 Lakeview, voted against incorporation and this comes into play. Attended very few council meetings, not well versed in what goes on with the City but was not contacted by anyone to come and speak in support of Barbara. Her comments are from her personal experience with Barbara Wilson and it has been positive. Found her to be helpful with

several issues on her street and in neighborhood. She recommends Council renew or rewrite the Contract for Barbara Wilson.

Richard Roucloux, states he has given this situation a lot of thought and there seems to be confusion about what this meeting is really about. There seemed to be mixed messages as he cannot discern and the public cannot discern if this meeting is to renew Barbara Wilson's contract or to do away with the position. He states the expense breakdown on Nextdoor did not accurately capture the totality of our tax revenue. He adds he has had more positive than negative experiences with Barbara Wilson stating she was helpful during his variance process. Allison Thrash, 15100 FM 2769, states that she wrote in a letter. Barbara is the Village's greatest advocate. Recommends that Council clarify their expectations of Barbara and rewrite the contract to give her a fair chance.

Shaun Ryan, Sherman St, states he has had mixed experiences with the Village from when he built. One of the important themes he has heard tonight is that maybe there should not be a contract, it should be at will employment. He adds that saying we need a City Administrator because of all the complexities of the ordinances is not a good comparison. The complicated Tax Code makes lawyers and accountants necessary. Our complex ordinances are making a City Administrator necessary. If Council works through the ordinances, this position would no longer be needed.

Michelle Broyles, lived in Village, moved to Arrowhead, feels there needs to be a clear representation for permitting. It's not a real complicated thing to build a pool or outdoor kitchen. Each time he [David Broyles] has built a pool the requirements have changed even though the ordinances haven't. Things are getting better but there's still not a clear understanding of the permitting process. Miscommunication has come from Barbara Wilson. States that the Village is only two square miles, and feels that while she does not want anyone to lose their job there may be a solution where Barbara can stay without some of the problems.

4. Close Public Meeting, Enter Executive Session. *The Village Council will announce that it will go into Executive Session, if necessary, pursuant to **Chapter 551.074 of the Texas Government Code "Personnel Matters"** for discussion on the employment contract of Barbara Wilson, City Administrator.*  
Mayor Ken Beck closes the public meeting at 7:36 p.m. Barbara Wilson, Council and Mayor, and the City Attorney all go into executive session.
5. Close Executive Session, Re-Open Public Meeting.  
Mayor Ken Beck re-opens the Public Meeting at 10:32 p.m.
6. Discussion and Action resulting from the Executive Session, if any.  
Mayor Ken Beck states that discussions have been completed in Executive Session and invites any Council Members to make statements as they see fit.  
Council Member Kristi Belote asks that when the motion is spoken the audience remain civil and respectful.  
**Mayor Pro Tem Scott makes a motion to allow Barbara Wilson's contract to expire and to negotiate a severance settlement with Barbara Wilson. Council Member Kristi Belote seconds. The motion carries unanimously.**

7. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourns at 10: 34 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 16 day of June, 2015.

Signed:

                    *KB*                    

Ken Beck, Mayor of Volente

Attest:

                    *JV*                    

Julia Vicars, City Secretary