



**VILLAGE OF VOLENTE, TEXAS
MINUTES**

Regular Called City Council Meeting
March 16, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

I. ITEMS OPENING THE MEETING

A. Call to Order: Mayor Dan Thost called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

B. Call Roll and Establish Quorum:

Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers Isabelle Evans, Ed Racht, Kristin Ruff and Claudia Wilson. Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Kit Hopkins. Quorum established.

Also Present: Mayor Dan Thost, City Attorney Cristian Rosas-Grillet, Judge Denise Thrash, and City Secretary Sonja De La Fuente.

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Oath of Office – City Secretary

Judge Denise Thrash administered the Oath of Office and Statement of Officer to City Secretary Sonja De La Fuente.

B. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Dan Thost reported that he attended a recent meeting with Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard and her staff, along with Allison Thrash, Mayor Pro Tem Racht and City Secretary De La Fuente. They introduced the Village of Volente and provided them information regarding BCRUA and traffic issues.

III. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

Public Comment

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Approval of the Minutes from the February 17, 2021, Regular Called City Council Meeting.

B. Approval of the Minutes from the February 27, 2021, Special Called City Council Meeting

City Secretary De La Fuente reported the following amendments to the minutes of the February 17, 2021 Regular Called City Council Meeting:

- Added the last sentence to Phil Mitchell's comments on page one, which reads as follows: He advised the Commission approved both the zone change and Conditional Use Permit.
- Revised the City Attorney's comment on page three for more clarification to say the following: The City Attorney explained that you cannot enlarge, extend or relocate the use without having to come back for approval."

She also reported the following amendments to the minutes of the February 27, 2021 Special Called City Council Meeting:

- Changed the word regular to special in the header of page one.

Councilmember Hopkins also provided updates to the minutes of February 27, 2021, which were posted in the revised packet online. They include the following:

- Under Item II.A. add a sentence to the second paragraph as follows: The Mayor mentioned that Council Member Hopkins recommended moving money out of checking and into savings, which was done on February 18th. Under Public Comment, revise to read as follows: Cindy Metro expressed concern with fraudulent checks.
- Item II.B. add language at the end of the first sentence of the paragraph as follows:...and informed Council that the scope for the requests for bid would be revised.

Public Comment:

None

Motion by Councilmember Wilson to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 and February 27, 2021 as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Hopkins was absent.

V. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- A. Discussion and possible action on a Resolution confirming and ratifying the hiring of an Assistant City Secretary, effective March 1, 2021.

Motion by Councilmember Wilson to discuss this item in Executive Session as per Government Code 5510745 (personnel matters). Seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Hopkins was absent.

- B. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Mayor to re-bid IT services.

The Mayor reported that he has reviewed proposals from Univista, Integritek and Project Overwatch. There was discussion held regarding the number of users, services needed for the Village office, and the budget.

Public Comment:

Chris Wilder recommended ensuring a vendor data sheet is returned with the bid.

Motion by Councilmember Evans to rebid for IT services with a new scope of services. Seconded by Councilmember Ruff. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Hopkins was absent.

- C. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a new bank.

The Mayor provided a report for this item, advising that Frost Bank seemed to be the best choice for the Village of Volente.

Public Comment:

None

There was a consensus of the Council directing the Mayor to bring back a resolution with the recommended bank for approval.

- D. Discussion and possible action regarding scheduling a workshop for goal setting and committee formation; and hiring a facilitator.

The Mayor requested direction from the Council regarding a date and time for the next workshop and hiring a facilitator.

Public Comment:

None

There was a consensus of the Council that a Thursday evening at 6:30 P.M. would be best and limited to two hours.

- E. Discussion and possible action on distribution of Spring Newsletter.

Councilmember Evans provided the report for this item. She advised that the Public Relations Committee met last week, and it is their recommendation to distribute a Spring newsletter.

There was discussion regarding mailing the newsletter or posting on the website and distributing electronically.

Public Comment:

Bethany Reinhardt offered marketing support services and recommended printing the first newsletter with instructions on how to sign-up to receive future newsletters electronically.

Councilmember Evans will reach out to Bethany Reinhardt to move forward with her recommendation.

F. Discussion and possible action regarding moving the Village Office.

The Mayor provided the report for this item. The current lease ends and will continue month to month. He recommended providing sufficient notice. He asked the City Attorney if a long-term lease would be allowed, and the City Attorney confirmed it would be.

There was discussion among the Council regarding the lease and terms and details regarding the current office situation and potential new situation.

Public Comment:

Jana Nace thanked Linda Carter for everything she has done all these years. She raised concerns regarding internet security, cost to move (would like to see an itemized budget), summer parking, and where the Village meetings will be held, as the Fire Hall is closed until the end of the year. She recommended tabling the item and bringing back for future consideration.

Dorothy Wilhelm expressed that she shared many of the concerns that Jana raised, including the cost (i.e., extra month of rent, movers, and signage). She recommended letting the Fire Hall know if not planning to move there when it is completed.

Linda Carter shared that she has always worked well with the Village office and will consider ideas. She would like at least 90 days' notice to advertise the space and get a new renter.

Motion by Councilmember Evans to table the item until the next meeting to gather more information. Seconded by Councilmember Wilson. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Hopkins was absent.

Motion by Councilmember Evans to adjourn to Executive Session per Government Code Section 551074 (personnel matters). Seconded by Councilmember Ruff. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Hopkins was absent.

Council convened to Executive Session at 8:35 P.M.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers Isabelle Evans, Councilmembers Ed Racht and Kristin Ruff, and Claudia Wilson. Councilmembers Absent: Council Member Kit Hopkins. Quorum established.

Also Present: Mayor Dan Thost, City Attorney Cristian Rosas-Grillet and City Secretary Sonja De La Fuente.

1. Receive legal advice pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 relating to personnel matters.

The City Council reconvened to Regular Session at 9:45 P.M.

Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers Isabelle Evans, Councilmembers Ed Racht and Kristin Ruff, and Claudia Wilson. Councilmembers Absent: Council Member Kit Hopkins. Quorum established.

- V.A Discussion and possible action on a Resolution confirming and ratifying the hiring of an Assistant City Secretary, effective March 1, 2021.

The Mayor provided a report for this item.

Public Comment:

None

Motion by Councilmember Racht to approve a resolution confirming and ratifying the hiring of an Assistant City Secretary, effective March 1, 2021. Seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Hopkins was absent.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Evans to adjourn the regular called meeting of the City Council at 9:50 P.M. Seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Hopkins was absent.

[Exhibit to Minutes](#)

Meeting Packet: [Packet\(1\).pdf \(villageofvolente-tx.gov\)](#)

Prepared by Sonja De La Fuente, City Secretary