

VILLAGE OF VOLENTE, TEXAS
MINUTES OF MEETING
City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 P.M.



I. ITEMS OPENING THE MEETING

A. Call to Order: Mayor Dan Thost called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

B. Call Roll and Establish Quorum: Mayor Thost calls roll. Officers Present are: Council members Isabelle Evans, Kit Hopkins, Kristin Ruff and Claudia Wilson. Absent was Council member Ed Racht at Roll Call; however, he joined the meeting at 6:49pm. Quorum is established.

Others Present: City Attorney, Cristian Rosas-Grillet; Citizens Tom Blauvelt, Ken Beck, Judy Barrick, Mary Scherer, Tony Ruff, David Gordon, Gwen Colman, Debbie Gold, Cynthia Mallow, Steve Baker, Jan Yenawine, Tim McMillan and Allison Thrash.

C. Approval of November 17th Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes by Wilson, and Seconded by Ruff, with the condition to accept edits/corrections presented from Hopkins. Discussion ensued and culminated in a Motion to withdraw the November 17th minutes for consideration at the January Regular meeting by Hopkins, with Wilson seconding.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

D. Presentation of Committee Reports

Public Works: Claudia Wilson reported on a joint meeting of the Public Works and Public Safety Committees, stating it had generated many ideas for the Public Safety Committee to consider. Also reported on a meeting of the Public Works Committee, stating that the tree trimming contract was not yet complete, but being worked on actively and expected soon.

Public Safety: Deferred until arrival of Council member Racht.

Public Relations: Isabelle Evans reported on the Village Christmas display with the VVFD's "Ole Red" fire truck. Council member Ruff added they'd not yet received any citizen photos with it. The committee had considered posting an online newsletter for December, but was waiting on an ILA update. The committee is also focusing on recruiting citizen volunteers and gathering more citizen email and physical addresses. Evans stated there was a related message on the sign near VJ's across from the VVFD. Ruff also reported on her ongoing work to revamp/update the VOV website, asking Council members to check the BCRUA and Ordinances material presented under the Government tab.

Motion made to defer consideration of Agenda Item II. Citizen Communications, and Agenda Items III.A. and III.C. until Council member Racht is present by Council member Evans, and Seconded by Claudia Wilson.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

II. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Deferred until arrival of Council member Racht.

III. GENERAL BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Update to the latest Travis County Covid situation.

Deferred until arrival of Council member Racht.

B. Update on the latest discussions with BCRUA regarding the ILA.

Mayor Thost reported on his telephone conversation with BCRUA Executive Director Karen Bondy, stating that BCRUA wants an ILA as soon as possible, but that both parties are continuing to go back and forth on specific points. Construction will predominately stay outside of the Village, while a cap on reimbursement of costs and size of trucks through the neighborhood are some of the items still being negotiated. There will be a BCRUA Board meeting tomorrow, December 16.

C. Update on the Fire/City Hall conceptual development project and MOU.

Deferred until arrival of Council member Racht.

D. Discussion and possible action to resolve transition issues with IT administrative functions and processes of the Village office.

Mayor Thost explained that the present lack of passwords, missing hardware and inability to access applications was stymying the current Council's work. Two solutions were discussed: (a) employ a contractor for a quick fix of the most critical challenges, or (b) revisit previously submitted IT proposals.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to contact the Geek Squad by Wilson, with friendly amendment to add other IT candidates offered by Ruff. Wilson accepts friendly amendment, adding to her motion that all IT proposals be considered to assess and fix Village's IT issues, and it is Seconded by Ruff.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Council member Racht joins Council Meeting at 6:49pm, and Council returns to deferred Agenda items.

I. ITEMS OPENING THE MEETING (continued due to Racht joining meeting)

D. Presentation of Committee Reports

Public Safety: Ed Racht reported further on the joint meeting of the Public Works and Public Safety Committees, stating that citizens can call 311 to report moving violations. He added that a solar-powered speed limit sign was being considered for Lime Creek Road, and that they were assessing speed limits for small rural roads. A question was asked about the possibility of utilizing weight limit signs and Council member Wilson stated her Committee would research the matter.

II. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Ken Beck: City Engineer Marc Dickey has informed him that his Site Development Permit approval requires him to build out Mary Street. Mary Street is identified in the VOV Thoroughfare Plan of the Village's Comprehensive Plan as a Thoroughfare.

Jan Yenawine: Citizens should know what's going on with the BCRUA ILA. Also, regarding truck traffic signs, the Village has an ordinance and has put up signs at city limits allowing through traffic for 18-wheelers to make deliveries.

III. GENERAL BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

A. Update to the latest Travis County Covid situation.

Council member Racht provided update on Covid situation, emphasizing the need for citizens to be proactive in the practice of their preventative measures, and in their search/scheduling of vaccine appointments.

B. Update on the latest discussions with BCRUA regarding the ILA.

See Above.

C. Update on the Fire/City Hall conceptual development project and MOU.

Council member Racht provided update on Fire/City Hall Project/VVFD MOU, explaining that the Village is waiting on the bids and construction needs from the VVFD based on the architectural drawings. The Village Lease with Linda Carter goes through March 2021. The Mayor said he'd talked with Linda and that she is okay with going month-to-month after March 31st. Citizen Judy Barrick asked if the three acres on Lime Creek Road was being considered as a possible site, with Racht responding that all possibilities are being considered. Steve Baker offered past history of Village office search. Jan Yenawine explained that things had changed since 2017, and that while it was important for this Council to look at past efforts, it was more important to evaluate the where and how of things now.

D. Discussion and possible action to resolve transition issues with IT administrative functions and processes of the Village office.

See Above.

E. Consideration and appointment of Interim Acting City Secretary and contracting immediate temporary office help.

Mayor Thost explained the search is ongoing. Council member Ruff explained that she is talking to the firm regarding possible help during the holidays, but that both Covid and the holidays make it challenging.

F. Discussion and possible action on adopting Resolution 2020-R-11, designating Mayor Thost with the authority to select a new bank for the Village of Volente.

Mayor Thost expressed his desire to move to Frost Bank on Hwy. 620, explaining its advantages. Motion made to move to Frost Bank by Evans, and Seconded by Ruff.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Racht, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration and possible action to update the Codification of the code of ordinances with Franklin legal and appoint Council responsibility.

Council member Hopkins explained that 2016 was when the last codification occurred, and briefly went over the process required. She stated that it was a process needing to be overseen by a Council member other than her, to which Evans volunteered.

Motion made for Hopkins to assist Evans in starting the codification process by Hopkins, and Seconded by Ruff.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Racht, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

H. Discussion and possible action to change section 4.02.33 Exemptions from permit requirement of the Volente Code of Ordinances (Ordinance 2010-O-19, sec 4 (C), adopting the 2009 International Building Code) to correct the conflict between the original ordinance and the 2009 building code.

Council member Hopkins provided the historical perspective of this item, explaining it was a long overdue needed correction to our ordinances. The proposed edited language reads, "...provided the floor area does not exceed and is in accordance with the current version of the Building code...".

Motion made to adopt the recommended language change by Hopkins, and Seconded by Evans.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Racht, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

I. Discussion and possible action related to permitting activities without plan review or inspection, large number of credit memos issued recently without support and ongoing cleanup of the transaction processing and reporting for fiscal year 2019 and 2020.

Council member Kit Hopkins briefly explained the permit application and credit memo process, explaining that her focus will be chiefly on the activity for years 2019 and 2020. She further stated that this work would provide the Village with an up-to-date development report.

J. Discussion of agenda preparation and meeting minutes review and approval in accordance with the administrative policy.

Council member Kit Hopkins directed Council and the Mayor to review the requirements of the VOV Administrative Ordinance, explaining there is a deadline for members to provide Agenda back-up materials. She further explained that having meeting back-up packets would also allow Council members the time to read meeting minutes in advance of the meeting wherein they are expected to approve them.

K. Discussion and possible action to designate Hill Country News as the official newspaper for the Village of Volente. Resolution 2020-R-12 is attached for approval.

Council member Kit Hopkins explained how the Texas Local Government Code requires municipalities to adopt a newspaper as its official source for Village public notices.

Motion made to approve the Resolution to adopt the Hill Country News as the Village's official newspaper by Hopkins, and Seconded by Wilson.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Racht, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn the Council meeting by Hopkins, and Seconded by Wilson.

Affirmative: Evans, Hopkins, Racht, Ruff, Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:01pm.