



Minutes
City Council
Village of Volente, TX
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
7 pm.

Council Members Present

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

Others Present

Tom Buckle, City Attn.

1. Call to Order of the City Council.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

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

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

Mayor Graber read the Vision statement.

4. Citizens/Public Communications.

Roe Fleenor, 7803 Lime Creek Rd. Volente, TX addressed law enforcement. He stated if we could save money and the police we are thinking of hiring would enforce ordinances, this would be good. It would have been nice if the police would have been able to enforce our ordinances before now.

Verna Browning, TX Disposal System, appreciates our business and is available if we have questions. They would like to continue to be our service provider.

Nancy Carufel, 8138 Joy Rd, Volente, TX is not happy with voting here at City Hall instead of the Volente Fire Department. She is not sure of how the voting was moved here. She wants to be able to have the option to give back the annexed water if we do annex.

5. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Graber reminded Council training certificates need to be on file with the Village. He still needs articles for the newsletter. He announced there is a local events for the Village on Saturday, April 12th from noon to 2 p.m. It is an Easter Egg hunt and picnic. He does not anticipate any need for funding from the Village with volunteers working on this. The surface water annexation has had three public hearings and good feedback has been received. He



also announced the two annexation readings on April 2nd and April 4th. A banner will be placed by the monument sign with the date of the readings on it for the public. Public opinions can be given at the readings. A vote by Council could be taken after 2nd hearing. The Primary Election was held here in March and the ramp did allow handicap service for the building. Variances will be heard at Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustments this spring. The Advisory committees are meeting. The new website is being populated with data now. It will be efficient to the people and get the information out to the people. Council Member Beck is working with communication. The Environmental Committee met and they will be meeting again March 22nd. The Committee will start here and then take a ride over to Lake Creek Park. Ann Steichen reported good things there to see for the committee. Council Member Beck asked if the Mayor's report could be included in the package for early review.

6. Finance Report

Mayor Pro Tem Scott reported the finance committee will meet and will do a mid-year review.

Public Works Report (Council Member Jan Yenawine)

Council Member Yenawine gave a report concerning Wharf Cove, tree trimming and mulching. He stated the Public Works Committee went down every street and prepared a report for each item. They met with 2 residents with serious problems including drainage. A report is included in the handout for agenda.

Comments:

Roe Fleenor, 7803 Lime Creek Rd. Volente, TX asked about his pot holes and fixing them and it is on the list to be fixed.

7. Staff reports.

a. City Administrator/City Secretary Project Report.

Barbara Wilson, City Administrator, gave the report for the City Administrator and City Secretary. The report is included in the packet. She thanked Council Members who have contributed time on different projects.

Comments:

Scott Atwood, 16515 Jackson Street, Volente, TX asked about if there was a new park in Volente.

Ms. Wilson explained the park that was dedicated to the Volente Village and she gave the history with it.

Council Member Beck asked if we could get the report in the packet. Ms. Wilson explained that time is a factor. Council Member Beck said we approved an ordinance requiring all material to be in 11 days before the meeting.

b. Construction Report.

Joan Jackson, City Secretary, gave the construction report and any new information on building permits.



8. Approval of the minutes from the February 18, 2014 meeting.

Mayor Graber reported the minutes have been reviewed and are still in the process of being reviewed to include all resident's comments.

Comments:

Council Member Beck asked if there were any action items in the February meeting, could those items be pulled out and we could have action on them.

Council Member Yenawine asked if the minutes could be presented and let the Council make the changes.

Council Member Yenawine made a motion to postpone the approval of the February minutes.

Council Member Wilder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and action to move Robert Nelson from active voting member of Public Works Committee to advisory member.

Council Member Yenawine asked if this item could be moved to the end of the agenda.

10. Discussion and possible action on law enforcement contracts.

Councilmember Wilder would like to see this item referred to his committee. He has a lot of questions that need answers. He would like the Committee to compare Travis County law enforcement and Sunset Valley enforcement. The Council would like to see the which ever law enforcement agency that is used enforce ordinances of the Village.

Comments:

Scott Attwood, 16515 Jackson Street, Volente, TX asked if Sunset Valley or Travis County would be paid when they left their city and were in route here or does the pay start when they arrive here.

Councilmember Wilder said they pay when they are here plus an hour for report writing.

Mr. Scott also asked about a Municipal Judge and do we have one here. Ms. Wilson explained that we have a Judge and she is not paid. The only expense is her training that is required yearly.

Nancy Carufel, Joy Rd, Volente, TX asked about costs on having Jonestown do our enforcing on the Lake. Ms. Wilson explained that there is not a cost to the Village at this point. Nancy asked if we keep public records on complaints that are called in. Ms. Wilson explained we keep a complaint file in the office. We did request the complaints on file with Travis County from Volente and do have them but would like to retract names from them.

Allison Thrash, 15100 FM 2769, Volente, TX commented on the officers and we keep talking about long weekends and 3 day weekends and we know summer brings out more incidents, so are these contracts really year round? Ms. Wilson explained about down time on officers and how much they can work at a time. Allison says she understands that but gave an example of a middle of the day call and Barbara Wilson explained that would not be our off duty officer who would respond to that call. Allison recommends documentation no matter who we use. Barbara Wilson said we have a valid contract with Travis County except the ordinance enforcement but, like Councilmember Wilder is pointing out they may be willing to enforce now. She would like to see what ever gets us closer and get ready due to time restraints.

Mayor Graber said let's wait till Councilmember Wilder has his meeting and bring it back in April. No action is needed now.

Scott Atwood, Jackson Street, Volente, TX asked who determines when the law enforcement come out. Councilmember Wilder said he, the committee, and the City Administrator.



11. Discussion and possible action on a contract for trash and recycling services for the Village of Volente.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott said we are going to meet with Finance Committee and a recommendation will be coming back from them.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott made a motion to adopt the amendment to the contract which extends the contract month by month and authorize Mayor Graber and staff to extend contract for one month. Council Member Yenawine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and possible action on usage of back room at City Hall for a community meeting room.

Council Member Beck said proposal was presented at last meeting and as a result of that a committee was formed and met and came up with recommendations. The information is in the packet. In the last 24 hrs., Allison Thrash has submitted a proposal on leasing the space on a personal level. We can take the committee's proposal and submit to the Finance Committee and ask Allison Thrash to submit to the finance committee a lease. He would like to route this item to the Finance Committee.

Comments:

Allison Thrash, 15100 FM 2769, Volente, TX sent email regarding leasing the space in the back of the office. She is happy to work with finance committee on a lease contract. She would like a simple lease agreement maybe 6 months or a year at the most. She also mentioned when the Municipal Court gets running and if a jury trial is needed, a place will be needed for the jury and this could be a safe place for a jury.

Joyce Beck, 15911 Booth Circle, asked if we did talk about leasing the room and if there was an amount discussed. Barbara Wilson told her the amount was \$400.00 to \$500.00 a month.

No action was taken on this item and it was agreed to move it to the Finance Committee.

13. Discussion and possible action on brush and re cycled mulch material on Lime Creek Rd.

City Administrator, Barbara Wilson explained the recycled mulch is free to public and it has been recycled 4 times now by the public using it. Council Member Yenawine explained there was a concern level and the pile will continue to diminish and grow at other times. They will keep it knocked down and mulched as much as possible. There was discussion of another area to keep the brush and mulch but no action was taken on moving it.

14. Discussion and possible action on Amending the Administrative Ordinance to set procedures and categories of expense reimbursement.

City Administrator Barbara Wilson explained the need for a council reimbursement policy. She did write the ordinance presented and the City Attorney reviewed it. The Council and staff reviewed the Ordinance and made suggestions to it. The changes are:

Section 1(a) mileage to and from their residence to the conference, meeting, or training at the current federal standard rate and reimburse from the starting point of the trip. Remove any mileage requirements.

Section 1 d(i) remove any times for meals and reimburse for per diem for each meal. No receipts are necessary. Per diem: breakfast \$9.50, lunch \$14.50, dinner \$19.50



Sec. 1 (g) All expenditures must be pre-approved by Mayor or City Staff.

Add 1 (h) Pre-request for the conference, meeting, or training must be turned in to Mayor, or City Staff. Reimbursement will be for City Council member only.

Council Member Beck made a motion to approve the amendment to the Ordinance. Councilmember Wilder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Amendments to transfer from Code Enforcement to Leasehold Improvements for the Change Order for the Handicap Ramp of \$1,800.00, and \$10,000.00 to Road and Right away by transferring \$2,500.00 from Website Maintenance, \$5,000.00 from Tree Trimming, and \$2,500.00 from Code Enforcement.

City Administrator, Barbara Wilson, explained the need for the transfers. Mayor Pro Tem Scott made a motion to approve the amendments Councilmember Wilder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Communication Improvement and Lowering of the Village of Volente's Mailing Cost.

Mayor Graber explained the problem with mailing the newsletters and post cards from the Village and how the rates have gone up. The Leander Post Office also begins the mailings at the beginning of the route here which is not in the Village of Volente's city limits. Money can be saved by printing only what the Village needs and not extra copies. He suggested buying metal magnetic clips and adding them to the resident's mailboxes. The Village would add a newsletter or mailing to the clips. The Council was willing to try this way of communication if it would save money and time. Comments:

Scott Atwood: 16515 Jackson Street, Volente, TX said he would prefer emails than having something on his mailbox.

Nancy Carufel, 8138 Joy Rd, Volente, TX asked if we have checked with Post Office about putting something on the mailbox. City Administrator Barbara Wilson said it is against federal law to put something in the mailboxes. Nancy said not everyone has email means.

Joyce Beck, 15911 Booth Circle, Volente, TX thanked the Council and appreciated them following through with communications so as many people can receive communications. She suggested the first mailing should be explaining what it is.

Allison Thrash, 15100 FM 2769, Volente, TX said yes, if we can leave it on the mail box and hopes it will be as successful as we are hoping it will be. This speaks volumes in reaching out to the Village and giving them what they want. She will volunteer to help deliver.

Mattie Adams, 15941 Booth Circle, Volente, TX said don't buy cheap ones; get quality ones so they don't end up on the ground.

Councilmember Wilder made a motion to spend up to \$500.00 to improve the communication by buying the magnetic clips. Council Member Yenawine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



17. Discussion and possible Action on the Priorizations of Council Goals for the Village of Volente for the Fiscal Year of 2013/2014.

Mayor Graber feels we have been tracking very accurately the goals . We are 6 months into the fiscal year and 6 months away from another fiscal year. The goals we are working on include annexation and a Master Water Plan. The community comprehensive plan is being updated and we have put that back on Planning & Zoning. Council Member Beck is working on the Community survey. We are reviewing ordinances and codification of our ordinances and we will identify where the problems are. Councilmember Wilder's committee is meeting on law enforcement and Emergency Management plan. Communications is being enhanced. He said the Special Use Permit will come back this fall to Council from P&Z. Work on roads is progressing and a committee is working on fire department service provision. The fee structure will be worked on and the Environmental Committee is coming up with projects for the next 6 months. Council Member Beck said as a result of the Council retreat he would like to prioritize the eleven goals they decided on.

Comments:

Allison Thrash, 15100 FM 2769, Volente, TX asked given on what Barbara Wilson reminded Council that these items are not budgeted for, what are you going to accomplish now. Everyone is maxed so why invite another project that is time consuming. Great idea for next year.

Joyce Beck, 15911 Booth Circle, Volente, TX thinks it will be good to have a strategy and a plan and puts everyone in focus.

Barbara Wilson asked if Council would like a spread sheet with a simple loading of the goals on it numbered 1-11.

Council Member Beck made a motion for each Council Member to prioritize the goals and then a spreadsheet with the goals presented to Council. Councilmember Yenawine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9 from above.

Robert Nelson is on the committee with Council Member Yenawine and because Mr. Nelson does road work for the community, there was discomfort in him being on the voting committee. Robert needs to be a consultant not a voting member. He is being moved to a consultant for the committee.

Councilmember Wilder made the motion to move Robert Nelson from active Public Works member to consultant. Council Member Yenawine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. Council Member Beck made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Yenawine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Approved this day of , 2014.

Frederick Graber,
Mayor

Attest:

Joan Jackson,
City Secretary