

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular session of the City Council was called to order Monday, September 14, 2015 at 7:05 PM with a quorum present, to wit:

James Burgess	Mayor
Wes Dady	Mayor Pro Tem
Jeannie Prazak	Councilmember
Robert Wood	Councilmember
Judy Faulkner	Councilmember
Geronimo Hernandez	Councilmember

The Invocation was given by Mayor Burgess. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Administrator April Stoll introduced City of Venus staff.

Police Chief Michael Boese announced the promotion of Officer Mateo Villarreal to Sergeant. Mayor Burgess swore him in.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Mayor Burgess called to order, at 7:20 PM, a Public Hearing on the Tax Year 2015 Proposed Property Tax Rate. No one from the public spoke. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:25 PM.
2. Mayor Burgess called to order, at 7:25 PM, a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY2016. No one from the public spoke. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:30 PM.
3. Mayor Burgess called to order, at 7:30 PM, a Public Hearing to receive input on recreation improvement priorities for Fielder Park and the submission of an application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for a Small Community Park Grant. A representative from Public Management Inc. informed Council that the grant was in the amount of \$75,000; was a 1 to 1 match; and that the City would be matching by \$55,000 in cash and \$20,000 in labor.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 4. Approval of the minutes for the August 17, 2015 Budget Workshop; August 17, 2015 Special City Council Meeting; and the August 24, 2015 Special Meeting.

ITEM 5. Ratify the payment of the bills for the month of August 2015.

ITEM 6. Approve an amendment to the General Fund budget in the amount of \$79,000 for the purchase of properties located at Oak Street and 8th Street.

Councilmember Prazak made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dady, to approve the Consent Agenda. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

V. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

ITEM 7. Discuss and consider a rental reduction request for the Civic Center for the Girl Scouts as requested by Geronimo Hernandez and presented by Kathy Stewart.

Ms. Stewart and Councilmember Hernandez addressed Council regarding a Civic Center fee reduction for the annual 'Pinwheels for Peeps' event hosted by the Girl Scouts. Councilmember Hernandez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Faulkner, to approve a \$25 Civic Center rental fee for the Girls Scouts. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 8. Discuss and consider taking action on an Inter-Local Agreement with the Venus Independent School District for the placement of a School Resource Officer for the 2015-2016 School Year.

Police Chief Boese outlined to Council the benefits of the agreement to provide a School Resource Officer to the Venus Independent School District, to include encouraging a better relationship between the district and the city; placing a current officer and hiring a replacement in the department; and having an additional officer for the city during the summer months. Council discussed the district reimbursing the city 75% of the total cost and the city providing a vehicle to the officer. Councilmember Prazak made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez, to approve an Inter-Local Agreement with the Venus Independent School District for the placement of a School Resource Officer for the 2015-2016 School Year. A vote was cast. 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 9. Discuss and consider taking action on a Resolution of the City of Venus to submit an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a Small Community Park Grant to complete improvements at Fielder Park.

Councilmember Prazak made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dady, to approve the submission of an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a Small Community Park Grant to complete the improvements at Fielder Park. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 10. Discuss and consider taking action on a Resolution of the City of Venus nominating one candidate for each of the five positions to be filled on the Ellis Appraisal District Board of Directors.

No action was taken.

ITEM 11. Discuss and consider taking action on a Resolution of the City of Venus authorizing the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power, Inc. (TCAP) to negotiate an electric supply agreement for three years for deliveries of electricity effective January 1, 2018; authorizing TCAP to act as an agent on behalf of the city to enter into a contract for electricity; and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement.

Councilmember Hernandez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wood, to approve a Resolution authorizing the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power, Inc. to negotiate an electric supply agreement for three years for deliveries of electricity effective January 1, 2018; authorizing TCAP to act as an agent on behalf of the city to enter into a contract for electricity; and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 12. Discuss and consider taking action on an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Venus consenting to the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Venus, and extending the

boundary limits of said extraterritorial jurisdiction so as to include said hereinafter described property, and granting to all inhabitants of said property all the rights and privileges of other citizens and binding said inhabitants by all the acts, ordinances, resolutions, and regulations of the City of Venus that may be applied or enforced within the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Councilmember Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Faulkner, to approve an Ordinance consenting to the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Venus, and extending the boundary limits of said extraterritorial jurisdiction so as to include said hereinafter described property, and granting to all inhabitants by all the acts, ordinances, resolutions, and regulations of the City of Venus that may be applied or enforced within the extraterritorial jurisdiction. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 13. Discuss and consider taking action on the creation of the position of ‘Corporal’ for the Venus Police Department and the accompanying pay scale.

Police Chief Boese spoke regarding the position of Corporal to include the lower cost to the City, and five applicants including one current officer. Councilmember Prazak made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Faulkner, to approve the creation of the position of “Corporal” for the Venus Police Department and the accompanying pay scale. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 14. Discuss and consider increasing the pay scale for the Animal Control/Code Enforcement position.

City Administrator Stoll informed Council of the termination of the Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer and the lack of applicants due to the pay scale. Councilmember Hernandez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wood, to approve increasing the starting pay for the Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer to \$16 per hour. A Vote was cast, 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (Dady). Motion passed.

ITEM 15. Discuss and consider taking action to relocate the Memorial from town square to the front of the Venus Volunteer Fire Department.

Item was tabled.

ITEM 16. Discuss and consider taking action on a Memorial Dedication Policy.

Councilmember Hernandez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wood, to approve the Memorial Dedication Policy as presented. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 17. Accept the resignation of City Councilmember Judy Faulkner and present Appreciation Award.

Mayor James Burgess addressed Council and the audience regarding the contributions of Councilmember Judy Faulkner to the City of Venus. An Appreciation Award was presented to Councilmember Faulkner’s grandson. Councilmember Hernandez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wood, to accept the resignation of Councilmember Faulkner. A vote was cast, 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion passed.

ITEM 18. Discuss and consider taking action on filling the Councilmember seat vacated by Councilmember Faulkner for the remainder of the term.

Mayor Burgess opened the floor to Council for nominations to fill the seat vacated by Councilmember Faulkner. Council nominated as follows:

Wood – Jeanie Toland-Scott
Hernandez – Robert McCurdy
Mayor Pro Tem Dady – Kris Shelman
Mayor Burgess – Cody Gilreath

Mayor Burgess called for a vote; Jeanie Toland-Scott won by a vote of 3 in favor, 2 against, and will fill the seat vacated by Judy Faulkner for the remainder of the term.

ITEM 19. Presentation of monthly department reports.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 8:57 PM.

APPROVED:

James L. Bequest
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Angie Wade
CITY SECRETARY

