

**CITY OF VENUS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019
Council Chambers 103 W. 3rd Street
Venus, Texas 76084**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

James Burgess, Mayor
Jeannie Prazak, Place 1
Laurna Shaw, Place 2
Jeanie Toland-Scott, Mayor Pro-Tem, Place 3
Geronimo Hernandez, Place 4
Robert McCurdy, Place 5

Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. followed by the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor welcomed everyone.

CITIZEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one spoke.

I. PROCLAMATIONS-

Mayor Burgess proclaimed the week of May 12th through May 18th National Police Week.

II. ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE MAY 4TH ELECTION.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF CANVASS ELECTION RESULTS AS PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR.

Mayor Burgess and Council presented and reviewed the election results Councilmember Prazak had some questions regarding voter's address and identification.

2. APPROVE AN ORDINANCE CANVASSING THE 2019 MAY GENERAL ELECTION.

Councilmember Prazak made a motion to approve Ordinance 676-2019-05 canvassing the General and Special 2019 May Election, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott. Motion carried (4,1) with 1 abstention by Councilmember Shaw.

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE AND STATEMENT OF OATH TO THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS.

City Secretary, Rana Gamel administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials for Places 1 & 2 and Mayor. Councilmember Shaw exited the dais. She was thanked for her time and devotion as Venus City Councilmember Place 2. Councilmember Harris took her seat in place 2 on the dais.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF ALL MINUTES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.

2. RATIFYING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.

Councilmember Hernandez had a question regarding a payment to WatchGuard and an expenditure of \$600,000. City Administrator, Michael Boese explained the WatchGuard is the software for the police body cameras and the \$600,000 was the payment of the current road construction. There were no further questions. Councilmember Hernandez made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott. Motion carried unanimously (5,0).

Councilmember Prazak made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilmember Shaw. Motion carried (4,0).

IV. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. APPOINT A MAYOR PRO-TEM.

Mayor Burgess asked if there were any nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem starting with Councilmember Prazak. Councilmember Prazak nominated Councilmember McCurdy. Following Councilmember Prazak's nomination, Councilmember Harris nominated Councilmember McCurdy. Councilmember Scott had no nominations. Councilmember Hernandez nominated Councilmember Scott. Councilmember McCurdy had no nominations. 3 voted for McCurdy (Prazak, Harris, and McCurdy) 2 abstentions (Scott and Hernandez). Councilmember McCurdy was appointed as Mayor Pro-Tem.

2. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A REQUEST BY VENUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT, SYLVIA ALLEN FOR AN OFFICE SPACE OWNED BY THE CITY OF VENUS.

Chamber of Commerce President, Sylvia Allen gave a presentation on her opinion of why it is essential for her to have an office space provided by the City. Mayor Burgess explained he does not think the new City Hall nor the Venus Civic Center would be a proper location for an office space for Mrs. Allen to conduct the Venus Chamber of Commerce's business. He explained the offices would need to be used to facilitate the employees and the future employees of the City of Venus. If the Chamber was to be housed in the new City Hall, the Chamber would have to relocate once the staff increased. He also explained the room at the Civic Center would not be a good location due to customers renting it out and possibly needing the space of the room for their event. There could end up having conflicting schedules between both parties which would not be ideal. Councilmember Prazak asked City Attorney, Brenda McDonald for her advice regarding the request. Mrs. McDonald responded that it be best to discuss legal advice in Executive Session. Councilmember Harris explained to Chamber of Commerce President, Sylvia Allen she had researched and notice the Venus Chamber of Commerce did not have an EIN number filed and asked if it was revoked. Mrs. Allen explained she was recently informed by someone there were some issues with the EIN number that she was not aware of. Mrs. Allen explained the Chamber had paid a fee and the 501 was issued that day. There was a discussion regarding the old Police Department. Councilmember Harris asked City Administrator, Michael Boese the cost of the renovations for the old PD due to its poor condition. Boese explained they had a study done with an architecture firm that said it would cost the city over half a million to renovate it. Mayor Pro-Tem McCurdy asked Mrs. Allen a question regarding the percentage of members. Councilmember Harris asked the City Attorney, Brenda McDonald exactly what kind of liability would the City have if the Chamber were to be housed in the old Police Department. Mrs. McDonald explained it would be best to talk about it in Executive Session.

- 3. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE FOR A ZONING CHANGE FROM AN AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION TO A HEAVY INDUSTRIAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION ON THE PROPERTY OF APPROXIMATELY 16 ACRES LOCATED AT 1115 EAST COUNTY ROAD 109, VENUS, ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS, GEO NUMBER 85.0042.000.066.00.108, CHISOLM TRAIL REDI-MIX CONCRETE BATCH PLANT.**

There was a discussion on the concerns regarding the roadways that would be accessed by the batch plant truck drivers. Councilmember Prazak made a motion to approve Ordinance number 677-2019-05 with the addendum of the access to the road be VV Jones with the condition of the trucks not going through the city and taking VV Jones or it will be addressed with a \$2000 fine. Seconded by Councilmember McCurdy. Motion carried unanimously (5,0).

- 4. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A RESOLUTION GRANTING A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION FROM PROPERTY OWNER VENUS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS JOHNSON CAD ID 9768, GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF E. FIFTH STREET AND NORTH OF E. COUNTY ROAD 109 AND BEING AN APPROXIMATE 10.0-ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE WILLIAM HILL SURVEY, ABSTRACT 379, TRACT 16 AND 17, JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS; SETTING A DATE, TIME, AND PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF VENUS, TEXAS; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY SECRETARY TO HAVE PUBLISHED NOTICE OF SUCH PUBLIC HEARINGS; AND DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF A SERVICE PLAN.**

City Administrator, Michael Boese explained there would be better city services provided with the Cemetery being in the city limits. Mayor explained it is a voluntary annexation. It was explained back in 1982 the Venus Cemetery Association had requested to be annexed into the city limits but the city never filed with the county. Councilmember Prazak made a motion to approve Resolution number 11-2019-05, seconded by Councilmember Harris. Motion carried unanimously (5,0).

- 5. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE FOR A ZONING CHANGE FROM AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ON A PROPERTY APPROXIMATELY 8.0 ACRES OF LAND REQUESTED BY WALID ALAMEDDINE OF SALDENA PROPERTIES, LP IN ASSOCIATION WITH PALLADIUM PROPERTIES.**

Councilmember Prazak made a motion to approve Ordinance number 678-2019-05, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McCurdy. Motion passed unanimously (5,0).

- 6. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER INCREASING THE MINIMUM SQUARE-FOOT REQUIREMENT FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL HOMES.**

Mayor explained this is for discussion only. Council decided to table the item and move to number 7.

7. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CREATING A PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE AND A MASTER ZONING MAP.

There was a discussion among Council and the City Attorney, Brenda McDonald regarding a future land use map, the effect certain zoning would have on the lower income citizens. City Attorney, Brenda McDonald explained the City needs to come up with a comprehensive plan. Development of the future growth will lead to the planning and zoning committee. No motion was made.

8. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING A CITY PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION ON RESIDENTIAL HOMES THAT ARE CLASSIFIED HOMESTEAD FOR CITIZENS THAT ARE 65 OR OLDER AND THE DISABLED.

Mayor Burgess presented the item with the new release from the Johnson County Appraisal District. City Administrator, Michael Boese explained to council it would be best to do more research and come back to this item when starting to develop the new Fiscal Years budget.

9. PRESENTATION OF MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY** – Captain James Groom
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY** – Fire Chief Allen
- **PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER/SEWER MONTHLY ACTIVITY – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**, Andy Wolfe-absent. The report was presented by the City Administrator, Michael Boese.
- **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY ACTIVITY** – City Administrator, Michael Boese

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Recessed into Executive Session at 8:45 PM)

- *Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney) on official complaint by Sylvia Allen regarding City staff, regarding item #2 provision of office for the Chamber of Commerce.*

I. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

(Reconvened into Regular Session at 10:05 PM)

VI. ACT UPON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS IF NEEDED.

Regarding item 2 legal counsel advised there is no city office available at this time.

Executive Session Item regarding Sylvia Allen's complaint towards City Staff, Mayor explained the response for Mrs. Allen's complaint will be in a form of a letter which will be mailed to her.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 10:05 PM

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Rana Gamel, City Secretary

James Burgess, Mayor