

*** MEETING MINUTES ***

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014
VENUS SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**VENUS COUNCIL CHAMBERS
103 W. 3RD STREET
VENUS, TEXAS 76084**

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING 7:00 P.M.

THE CITY COUNCIL MAY CONDUCT A CLOSED MEETING AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 551.071 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF ITS ATTORNEY ON LEGAL ISSUES REGARDING ANY MATTER LISTED ON TODAY'S CITY COUNCIL AGENDA.

1. INVOCATION – *Performed by Mayor James Burgess.*
2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG
3. CALL SESSION TO ORDER – *Meeting called to order at 7:03PM by Mayor James Burgess.*
4. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM – *Roll call performed by temporary city secretary/minute taker/City Attorney Cass Callaway, Councilwoman April Stoll – announced present, Councilman Kris Shelman – announced present, Mayor James Burgess – announced present, Councilwoman Judy Faulkner – announced present, Councilman Geronimo Hernandez – announced present, and Councilman Wes Dady – announced present. Callaway declared a super quorum was achieved as is required for special called meetings of the city council. Also present, Chief of Police R.L. Young and Public Works Director, Cesar Rocha. City Secretary Vicki Thompson was absent.*
5. ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PRESENTATIONS BY THE MAYOR.
 - A) Cell phones are to be turned off or placed on vibrate only.
 - B) No conversation or comment from the audience is permitted unless specifically called upon by the Mayor. Please remain respectfully quiet.
6. PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens may sign up before the meeting begins and will be allowed up to 5 minutes to address the Mayor and Council. No personal attacks on any elected official or city employee will be allowed.

No citizens made comments during public forum.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR.

Council discussed the necessity of appointing a new city administrator. Mayor Burgess proposed going into executive session to discuss the appointment. Council held Agenda Item 7 for later action during the meeting.

8. THE CITY COUNCIL MAY MEET IN CLOSED SESSION AS PERMITTED BY SECTION 551.071 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE AND FOR THE PURPOSE AS FOLLOWS:

- A) PERSONNEL MATTERS – TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.074: CITY COUNCIL DELIBERATION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC OFFICER: TO WIT: A CITY ADMINISTRATOR: CANDIDATE FOR REVIEW: APRIL STOLL.

Council went into executive session at 7:05PM. Councilman Hernandez made the motion, Councilman Dady seconded. Councilmembers Faulkner, Hernandez, and Dady voting for, Councilman Shelman voting against, and Councilwoman Stoll abstaining. Councilmembers Shelman, Faulkner, Hernandez, and Dady in attendance, along with Mayor James Burgess and City Attorney Cass Callaway. Councilwoman Stoll not in attendance. At 7:15PM the Council requested Councilwoman Stoll to meet with them for the purposes of interviewing her for the position of City Administrator. At 7:40PM Councilwoman Stoll exited the executive session meeting room. At 8:32PM, the Council requested Councilwoman Stoll to return to the executive session meeting room. At 8:35PM Councilwoman Stoll exited the executive session meeting room. At 8:47PM Councilwoman Stoll returned to the executive session meeting room. At 9:09PM Councilwoman Stoll exited the executive session meeting room. At 9:21PM the Council requested Councilwoman Stoll to return to the executive session meeting room. At 9:26PM Councilwoman Stoll exited the executive session meeting room.

- B) EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT.

9. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION AND CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Council adjourned executive session and reentered regular session at 9:35PM.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AMENDING THE CURRENT CITY ADMINISTRATOR ORDINANCE TO UPDATE THE JOB DESCRIPTION, DUTIES, SALARY, AND OTHER PROVISIONS.

Councilwoman Faulkner made a motion to amend the Venus Code of Ordinances, Section 2-54 striking the sentence "No councilmember shall receive such appointment during the term for which he shall have been elected nor within one year after the expiration of the term."

Councilman Hernandez seconded. Councilmembers Faulkner, Hernandez, and Dady voted for. Councilman Shelman voted against. Councilwoman Stoll abstained.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER.

Councilwoman Stoll filed with the Mayor her written letter of resignation for Place 1 on the city council. Councilmembers discussed the resignation briefly. Councilwoman Faulkner made a motion to accept the resignation of Councilwoman Stoll. Councilman Hernandez seconded. Councilmembers Faulkner, Hernandez, and Dady voted for. Councilman Shelman voted against. Councilwoman Stoll abstained.

Citizen Stoll stepped down to the audience upon the conclusion of the vote.

The Council then returned to Agenda Item 7.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR.

Councilman Hernandez made the motion to appoint April Stoll to the position of city administrator with a starting salary of \$78,000 with a raise of \$5,000 upon the successful completion of Stoll's first year of employment, with an additional \$5,000 raise upon the completion of Stoll's second year of employment, with no employment contract. Councilman Dady seconded. Councilmembers Faulkner, Hernandez, and Dady voting for. Councilman Shelman voting against. Place 1 did not vote due to vacancy.

The Council then proceeded to Agenda Item 12.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, TO APPOINT A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE CITY COUNCIL.

Mayor Burgess addressed the vacancy of Place 1 on the city council. Mayor Burgess explained that not filling the vacancy by appointment could lead to a mandatory special election with substantial election costs to the city, if any other place on the council should be vacated. Mayor Burgess opened the floor for nominations, first asking Councilman Dady for his nominations. Councilman Dady had none. Mayor Burgess then asked Councilman Hernandez. Councilman Hernandez submitted the names Russ Cross, Jeannie Prazak, and Jeff Scott for consideration, and in that order. Mayor Burgess then asked the remaining councilmembers, with no additional names being given. Mayor Burgess then called for a vote on the nomination of Russ Cross. Councilman Hernandez voted for. Councilmembers Shelman, Faulkner and Dady voted against. Place 1 did not vote due to vacancy. As no majority was achieved, Mayor Burgess proceeded to the second named candidate, Jeannie Prazak. Councilmembers Shelman, Faulkner, and Hernandez voted for. Councilmember Dady voted against. Place 1 did not vote due to vacancy. The motion carried, with the appointment of Jeannie Prazak to serve the remaining term of Place 1 of the Venus City Council. No vote was taken on the remaining candidate as a majority vote and appointment had been achieved.

13. ADJOURNMENT.

*Councilman Hernandez made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Dady seconded.
Councilmembers voted unanimously. Motion carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:55PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


MAYOR JAMES BURGESS

11-10-2014
DATE APPROVED

ATTEST:


VICKI THOMPSON, CITY SECRETARY

ATTEST:


CASS CALLAWAY, CITY ATTORNEY

