

**MINUTES
CITY OF VON ORMY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2008**

1) CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Art Martinez de Vara called the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Von Ormy to order at 7:01 p.m. on the 17th day of December, 2008, in the Paris Hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 13466 IH 35 S, Von Ormy, Texas.

THOSE PRESENT INCLUDED: Mayor Art Martinez de Vara, Mayor Pro Tem Alex Quintanilla, Councilmember James Sweeney, Councilmember Sammy Martinez, Councilmember Leonardo Ruiz and Councilmember Verna Hernandez.

2) INVOCATION: Invocation was made by Mr. Albert Uresti.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Art Martinez de Vara led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR PRIOR MEETINGS: Motion was made by Councilmember Sammy Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Alex Quintanilla to approve the December 3, 2008 regular and special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5 to 0.

5) CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

David Pena asked about the fire ban that is in affect at this time, he was told that the only type of fire that is allowed is one in a BBQ pit that has a cover lid.

6) TASK FORCE REPORTS:

A) EMERGENCY SERVICES: Mayor Pro Tem Alex Quintanilla reported that he is discussing with the City of Somerset and the City of Lytle the possibility of their Emergency Service to serve our area.

B) INFRASTRUCTURE: Councilmember James Sweeney reported he has contacted local water companies to discuss water service, and also announced that 18 more fire hydrants will be installed. Councilmember Sammy Martinez reported that he contacted Tex Dot in regards to street lighting and also announced that lights underneath the bridge at the Medina River turnaround were replaced.

C) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Charlie Brown was not present therefore, no report was made.

7) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER POLICY REGARDING OUTDOOR BURNING:

Council decided to coincide with the burn ban that is in effect until February, 2009 in Bexar County. An ordinance was passed that a fine of \$100.00 would apply for a first offense,

\$200.00 for a second, \$500.00 for a third. Motion was made by Councilmember Sammy Martinez and seconded by Councilmember James Sweeney. Motion carried 5 to 0.

8) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BUDGET FOR 2009:

Budget for 2009 was considered and discussed. Mayor Art Martinez de Vara suggested that further discussion should resume at next meeting.

9) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER STREET MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS:

The street maintenance proposal was postponed until the next meeting. Motion was made by Councilmember James Sweeney and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alex Quintanilla. Motion carried 5 to 0.

10) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SETTING AD VALOREM (PROPERTY) TAX RATE FOR 2009:

Council did set an Ad Valorem (property) tax rate, being 39-cent per \$100.00 property valuation tax rate.

11) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REPEALING THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES:

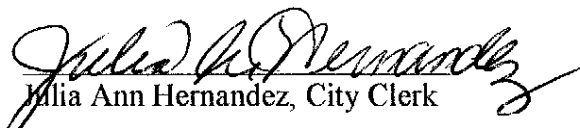
The consideration of repealing the sales tax exemption for telecommunications services was motioned by Councilmember Sammy Martinez, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alex Quintanilla. Motion carried 5 to 0.

12) ADJOURN: Motion was made by Councilmember James Sweeney and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alex Quintanilla to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5 to 0.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 7TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2009


Art Martinez de Vara
Mayor

Attest:


Julia Ann Hernandez, City Clerk