

**MINUTES
CITY OF VON ORMY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2008**

1) CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Art Martinez de Vara called the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hondo to order at 7:08 p.m. on the 3rd day of December, 2008, in the Parish Hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 13466 IH 35 S, Von Ormy, Texas.

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Verna Hernandez.

3) INVOCATION: Invocation was made by Pastor George Ruiz of Highway to Heaven

4) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Martinez De Vara led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR PRIOR MEETINGS: Motion was made by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla to approve the November 19, 2008 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4 to 0.

6) CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

7) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH MARIN, NEUVO LEON, MEXICO: The Honorable Hector Martinez, Presidente Municipal of Marin, NL. Mexico and Dr. Calixto Mauricio of our proposed Sister City introduced themselves. After giving a brief description of their city Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla made a motion to accept Marin, NL. Mexico as our Sister City and Councilmember Sweeney seconded the motion. Discussion followed as to annual dues, which are \$150.00. Mayor Art Martinez, de Vara stated he would donate the first year's dues. With no further discussion, motion carried 4 to 0.

8) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST: Mayor Art Martinez de Vara nominated Gerome (Billy) Martinez as Archaeologist of the City of Von Ormy. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla, seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Motion carried 4 to 0.

9) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT FOR THE

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY: Mayor Martinez de Vara nominated Melissa Castro Killen as city attorney with a contract rate of \$100.00 per hour for one year. Ms. Killen will donate her services free of charge for the first 3 months and leaving 9 months on her contract. Motion made by Councilmember Martinez to accept Mayor's recommendation and contract of Ms. Killen, seconded by Councilmember Sweeney. Motion carried 4 to 0.

10) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF CITY CLERK: Mayor Art Martinez de Vara nominated Julia Hernandez for the office of City Clerk. Ms. Hernandez will accepted position with acknowledgement that at the current time, the position is strictly voluntary. Motion made by Councilman Sweeney to accept Mayor's recommendation of Ms. Julia Hernandez as City Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Ruiz. Motion carried 4 to 0.

11) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES BY ALBERT URESTI: Mayor nominated Albert Uresti as the Management and Organizational Consultant. Mr. Uresti accepted for a fee of \$10.00 per month through February 2009. Motion made by Councilmember Ruiz to accept Mayor's recommendation of Albert Uresti as Management and Organizational Consultant, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla. Motion carried 4 to 0.

12) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE BY THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE: Mayor Martinez de Vara informed Council that the Texas Municipal League offers general liability insurance with coverage of up to \$1 million dollars. In addition, Mayor Martinez de Vara informed the Council that the Southwest Chamber of Commerce would donate the first quarter payment. Motion made by Councilmember Martinez to award general liability coverage to the Texas Municipal League with Southwest Chamber of Commerce making the first payment, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla. Motion carried 4 to 0.

13) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BUDGET FOR 2009: Mayor Martinez de Vara presented the proposed 2009 budget. Motion to table was made by Councilmember Sweeney, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla. Motion carried 4 to 0.

14) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SETTING AD VALOREM (PROPERTY) TAX RATE FOR 2009: Mayor Martinez de Vara presented a proposed ad valorem 2009 tax rate. Motion to table made by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla. Motion carried 4 to 0.

15) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REPEALING THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES: After brief presentation by Mayor Martinez de Vara, Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla made a motion to table item, seconded by Councilmember Sweeney. Motion carried 4 to 0.

16) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER STREET MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS FOR 2009: After brief presentation by Mayor Martinez de Vara, Councilmember Martinez made a motion to table item, seconded by Councilmember Sweeney. Motion carried 4 to 0.

0.

17) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTING CITY FLAG AND SEAL: Mayor Martinez de Vara presented a sample of the flag and seal to be considered for adoption. The flag is described as: the left 1/3 is a blue field with a white star with the letters T-E-X-A-S interlaced between the points of the star. This design was borrowed from the first provisional flag of the Republic of Texas designed by Lorenzo de Zavala. This memorializes those brave Von Ormians who have fought for liberty from the time of the Texas War for Independence to the present day. The right 2/3 is a white field with a Prussian Double Headed Eagle. The white field represents purity, innocence and trust, and memorializes our insistence that the government we are forming is for the benefit of all and not the profit of a few. The Prussian eagle is in honor of Count Norbert Von Ormay, our community's namesake. It is double headed to represent our community's dual heritage: American and Mexican, since both counties use the eagle as a symbol of their nation. The eagle holds a sword to remind us that freedom comes at the price of being forever vigilant to defend it. The banner above the eagle says "Von Ormy, Texas". The banner below says "Dios y Tejas" meaning "God and Texas," this motto was borrowed from a Letter by Stephen Austin, who used it as an expression of Texas Independence. The flag was designed by Art Martinez de Vara. The City Seal is thus described: The City Seal is utilizes the Prussian Eagle described above with the lower banner containing the words "Dios y Tejas". This design is contained within a circle on which the words "City of Von Ormy" and "Texas" are printed separated by five-pointed stars. Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla made a motion to adopt the flag and seal as presented, seconded by Councilmember Sweeney. Motion carried 4 to 0.

18) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CREATION OF MAYOR'S TASK FORCES: Mayor Martinez de Vara recommended creating an Emergency Services Task Force; an Infrastructure Task Force, and an Economic Development Task Force. Motion to create Mayor's Task Forces on Emergency Services, Infrastructure, and Economic Development made by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla, seconded by Councilmember Sweeney. Motion carried 4 to 0.

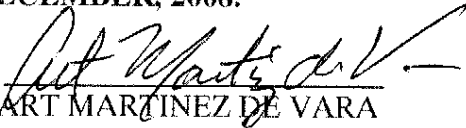
19) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE REGULATING BILLBOARDS: Mayor Martinez de Vara presented an ordinance for council consideration to regulate off premises signs by prohibiting the issuance of permits for off premises signs and requiring the removal of obsolete signs. Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to accept the billboard ordinance as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla. Motion carried 4 to 0.

20) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES: mayor Martinez de Vara presented an ordinance for council to consider restricting sexually oriented businesses by prohibiting such businesses within various distances of schools, churches, day cares, etc. Councilmember Martinez made a motion accept the sexually oriented business ordinance as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla. Motion carried 4 to 0.

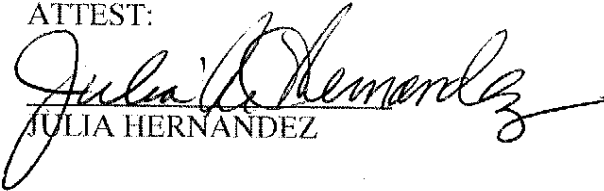
21) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CONTRACTING WITH A NEWSPAPER CORCULATED IN THE CITY OF VON ORMY TO BE VON ORMY'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER: Mayor Martinez De Vara suggested that the council consider contracting with the Leader News of Lytle, Texas as Von Ormy's official newspaper for the remainder of 2008. Motion to accept Mayor's recommendation of the Leader News as Von Ormy's official newspaper for the remainder of 2008 made by Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla, seconded by Councilmember Swcney. Motion carried 4 to 0.

22) ADJOURN: Motion was made by Councilmember Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Quintanilla to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by acclamation and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2008.


ART MARTINEZ DE VARA
MAYOR

ATTEST:


JULIA HERNANDEZ