

**Village of Point Venture
Village Council Meeting
Monday, December 3, 2001, 7:30 P.M.
Venture Room at Point Venture
555 Venture Boulevard S.
Point Venture, Texas**

MINUTES

- A. Call to Order** – Mayor Hickman called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.
- B. Roll Call** – Mayor Hickman acknowledged that the following Council Members were present: Council Members Hestand, Nesheim, Strong and Stuart. Council Member Hruby was absent.
- C. Consent Agenda**
- 1. Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2001 Village Council Meeting**
A motion was made by Strong and seconded by Nesheim to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2001 Village Council Meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed, 4 – 0.
- D. Citizen Inquiry** – Mayor Hickman mentioned that he has had several inquiries as to why committee meetings were not publicized. He informed the Council that committee meetings were not subject to the Open Meetings Act so they did not have to be publicized.
- E. General Business and Action Items:**
- 1. Old Business**
- a. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Lot Clearing Ordinance** – Strong informed the Council that the Lot Clearing Committee has no official chairperson and that they haven't met since the last Village Council meeting. They probably would not meet until after the first of the year. Strong stated that the stumps had been pulled on the two Venture Drive lots.
- b. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Interlocal with Travis County Sheriff's Department** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that the interlocal with the Travis County Sheriff's Department had been signed by both parties and would be going before the Travis County Commissioners Court for approval this week. He stated that the 2002 fee for the Sheriff's Department responding to Village ordinance complaints would be \$33.90 per hour and that we would not be charged for arrests made in reference to state law violations.
- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Ordinance Authorizing Travis County Sheriff's Department to Enforce Village Ordinances** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that we needed to pass an ordinance authorizing the Sheriff's Department to enforce Village ordinances. Hestand made a motion, seconded by Strong, to pass an ordinance of the Village of Point Venture, Texas vesting the Travis County Deputy Sheriff with the same powers, rights and privileges as though such deputies were peace officers of the Village of Point Venture, and providing them with related authority, and providing an effective date. A vote was taken and the motion passed, 4 – 0. (Ordinance number 2001-12-01)

- c. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Travis County Sign Shop Interlocal** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that the interlocal with the Travis County Sign Shop was approved last week. Some complimentary signs, including those for Comanche Lane, arrived today and will be put up as soon as possible. Mayor Hickman stated that he would review the survey done by Carole Thomas on what signs were needed in the Village. Strong inquired about the possibility of replacing all of the stop signs (44) within the Village which would cost approximately \$400. The current signs were not up to standard with state regulations. The Mayor mentioned that according to Carole Thomas' survey, there were some intersections within the Village that did not have stop signs and that possibly should have. Nesheim stated that he would like us to proceed with this as soon as possible. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Stuart mentioned about having three different streets within the Village with the name Augusta and that this must be confusing for the Sheriff's Department and EMS.
- d. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Valley Hill Drive and Staghorn Drive** – This item was discussed at the last meeting. Mayor Hickman informed the Council that he had done some research with the Texas Municipal League and the Village Attorney. The Village has the right to close roads but the adjacent landowners would need to petition the Village to have that done. Only the Valley Hill Drive segment is currently a road. If it is decided to close that segment, Mayor Hickman recommended that it be kept open in a way that EMS can have access to the adjoining property in case of an emergency. Strong will contact the adjacent landowners for the two segments in question.
- e. Report from Village Treasurer** – Hestand summarized the treasurer's report for the Council. He stated that there were a lot of entries from the Travis County Tax Office. The Village showed a current balance of \$14,455.43. To date, this year we show receipts of \$17,819.01 (includes balance carried forward from last year of \$6,656.37) and expenses in the amount of \$3,363.58. Hestand explained that the Travis Central Appraisal District did not charge us for their services the first year but that our charges for this year will be \$174.40, which will be paid quarterly. The first payment of \$43.60 was paid on December 3, 2001.

2. New Business

- a. Travis County Commissioner Todd Baxter** – (This item was taken out of order after Roll Call.) Mayor Hickman introduced Travis County Commissioner Todd Baxter. Commissioner Baxter will become the commissioner for our district as of January 1, 2002. Commissioner Baxter talked to the Council and audience informing them that he would be resigning his position as Travis County Commissioner to run for the new state representative seat in District 48.
- b. Proclamation – Travis County Emergency Service District #1** – (This item was taken out of order after Roll Call and Commissioner Baxter.) Mayor Hickman introduced John Boydston, President of Travis County Emergency Service District #1, and Fire Chief Jesse Cecil. Chief Cecil spoke to the Council and the audience and then introduced the firefighters that were in attendance. Mayor Hickman thanked Mr. Boydston, Chief Cecil and the firefighters for all of their hard work and then read a

proclamation declaring December 3, 2001 as Travis County Emergency Service District #1 Appreciation Day in the Village of Point Venture, Texas. (The meeting was adjourned for approximately 12 minutes [7:50 – 8:02] for a reception enabling the citizens time to thank the firefighters for their dedication and hard work.)

- c. Election Results and Drawing for Terms of Office** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that we were able to cancel the November 6, 2001 general election because all of the candidates were unopposed. He explained that in the first general election held in November 2000, all of the candidates were to serve a one-year term. Ordinance number 2001-04-01, passed on April 2, 2001, provides for two-year staggered terms of office for the Mayor and Council Members. The Mayor and two Council Members elected in November 2001 will serve two-year terms and the other three Council Members will serve one-year terms this year and two-year terms after that. A drawing was held to see which Council Members would serve one-year and two-year terms and the results were as follows: Hestand and Nesheim will serve a two-year term and Hruby, Strong and Stuart will serve a one-year term.
- d. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Municipal Court** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that he had talked to Judge Robert Thompson from Lago Vista and that the Judge agreed to handle our court cases for \$35 per session. The Judge recommended Drew Sartin, the Court Clerk from Lago Vista, and he has agreed to serve as our court clerk for a fee of \$11 per hour. In addition, the Sheriff's Department will supply a bailiff for our court sessions at the \$33.90 per hour rate which is stated in our interlocal. An associate from Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Keever & McDaniel, L.L.P., the same firm that Alan Bojorquez, our Village Attorney, works for, will be the prosecutor. The Mayor will hold a meeting with all of the parties involved and come up with a court schedule that will be agreeable to all involved. You have a sample ordinance to review before the next meeting. Discussion followed.
- e. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Computer and Phones for Village Office** – Mayor Hickman stated that the Village Office was furnished with donations and this enabled us to function with very little expense. The computer and phones need to be updated because we are spending too much time trying to get them to work properly. The Council agreed that Mayor Hickman should move forward in purchasing a computer and phones for the office. We did not budget for a computer but it was agreed that we should use the surplus from last year.
- f. Report from Animal Control Officer** – Stuart informed the Council that there are currently 78 dogs registered in Point Venture and 9 visiting dogs registered. He stated that we have had a successful program so far. He informed everyone that if you are bothered by an at-large dog, the perfect weapon is a camera. If you can get a picture of the dog, then Stuart can approach the owners with the picture as proof that their dog was running loose. He informed the Council that he was called about a dead dog in the Village and realized there were no procedures set up on how to handle that situation. Thanks to Jack Tyler and the POA, there is now a procedure in place. He also informed the Council that he is keeping a log and diary of all incidents, warnings and citations given out which is required by law. Stuart stated that to date we have received \$450 in dog registrations and have had \$305.48 in expenses for equipment. Once he purchases a dog pole and muzzles, our equipment should be complete. A database has been designed and the data from the registrations is being

entered so we should have an easier time locating dog owners, etc., in the future. Stuart has been visiting owners of dogs that are not registered and informing them of the ordinance and registration requirements. Once the municipal court is set up, citations will be handed out instead of warnings.

- g. Living Christmas Trees Project** – Strong suggested that citizens of the Village purchase afghan pines as their Christmas trees and then donate the tree to the Village after the holidays. Then the trees could be planted on common property within the Village. Jan Nesheim, Co-Chair for the Landscape Committee, thought this would be a good idea but stated that the Committee was not equipped to plant the trees, and recommended that possibly could be handled by the WCID and the POA. Strong stated that it was pretty late in the season to get the word out this year but that this might be a good project to consider for next year.

h. Mayor's Report:

- (1) **Southwestern Bell Project Status** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that the target date for Southwestern Bell to complete the current phase of upgrades is the end of January.
- (2) **Point Venture Baby** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that the first baby born in Point Venture was born in October to Jorge and Kim Alvarado. Baby Alvarado was born at home with the help of a midwife.
- (3) **Future Village Council Meetings** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council and the citizens that a list of the 2002 Village Council Meetings was available at the back of the room.
- (4) **Franchise Fees/Taxes** – Mayor Hickman informed the Council that he was informed by a citizen that on his Mid Tex bill, it showed that the tax was listed for Leander. Everyone needs to check their bills to ensure that it shows Point Venture tax or franchise fee so that money owed to the Village will not be sent to other cities.

F. Adjournment – A motion was made by Strong and seconded by Hestand to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed, 4 - 0. Mayor Hickman adjourned the meeting at 9:12 P.M.

PASSED AND APPROVED AT THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON January 7, 2002

Terry Hickman, Mayor
Village of Point Venture

ATTEST:

Charlotte Banasik, Village Secretary