

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 24, 2016 with following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Gonzales, Garcia, Lee, Rivas and Robinson; City Manager Squyres; City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines absent.

The meeting was opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated that they had been extremely busy and he would get with them and give some follow up information on some cases they have had in the last couple of days and he would pass on anything further at this time.

Chief Mier stated that she didn't know if anybody was aware, they have had three fires in the city during the last month, the rest of her report was not picked up by the sound system.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works Department, reported that things were going pretty well, they were staying busy keeping everything going.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated that all was going well at Heritage Hall Senior Center, they were currently still accepting applications from all older adults in the community to participate in the senior Olympics until April 16th.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated there was not much going on and she would let Council Member Robinson talk about the Easter Egg Hunt. She reminded everyone that Saturday was heavy trash day to put all their trash out to be picked up.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised the newsletters would be in the water bill at the end of the month, whether it was emailed to them or they got a hard copy and the newsletter would be in both English and Spanish.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2016-2 Declaring Unopposed Candidates Elected.

City Manager Squyres read Ordinance 2016-2 by captions designating the following officials Elected.

Jimmy (JJ) Rivas - Council Member Position No. 1
Gregg Robinson – Council Member Position No. 2
Allen Lee - Council Member Position No. 3

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Ordinance 2016-2 on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Stephanie Harris with Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP presented the City Audit for the final year ending September 30, 2015 issuing a clean unmodified opinion on the city financial statement and this was the highest level of assurance they could provide as the city's auditors. She advised that the city was in very healthy financial position

Mayor Diaz thanked Ms. Harris for all that they do for us.

City Manager Squyres ask to point out one thing that she made as to retirement, stating that the city changed nothing about the city's retirement or anything else, it was the accounting practices that changed where the state was making them look at it differently.

Mayor Diaz thanked Ms. Harris again, stating that we were very happy with the report.

Mayor Diaz advised that we would post the annual report on the website and if anyone would like to look at it, it was open records and they were more than welcome to do so.

2. City to recognize James Aston, Mike Bodak and Jose Garza for heroic and lifesaving efforts.

Chief Mier stated that we wanted to recognize a few of our EMS crew and the Matheny Family, that on February 14th about 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon, our dispatch received a 911 hang up call and the telecommunication operator, Tatianna Vianna dispatched an officer to a hang up call that ended up resulting in a near drowning and with Tatianna quick thinking and skills she was able to dispatch our ambulance and the crew made the location and James Aston grabbed the baby in back of the waiting ambulance and they were able to perform life saving measures and little Joshua Matheny was with us today, she stated that we would like to

recognize Telecommunication operator Tatianna and fire fighter/paramedic James Aston, Michael Bodak and Lt. Jose Garza presented them with certificates of appreciation. She also recognized Joshua Matheny Jr. and his cousin Miguel Muro Jr. who ran to the back yard and discovered his missing cousin in the family's swimming pool and pull him from the pool. (The sound system did not pick up all of Chief Mier's comments)

3. Council to confirm Henri A Mestizo as a reserve police officer .

Chief Ayala gave a short bio on Mr. Mestizo , welcomed his family and friend who were here to support him and he recommended that they confirm him.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to confirm Mr. Henri A. Mestizo as a Jacinto City Reserve Police Officer. Vote: 5 for 0 Against

Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office and presented him with his badge and Welcomed him to Jacinto City.

4. Council to approve Resolution 2016-3R Keep Jacinto City Beautiful Week April 4-10, 2016

City Manager Squyres read Resolution 2016-3R.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to adopt Resolution 2016-3R designating the week of April 4-10, 2016 as Keep Jacinto City Beautiful Week. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

City Manager Sqquyres stated there was also one more thing with the resolution, it Stated that during that week, on April 9th, the city would be doing a few projects around the city so everyone was welcome to join us, that the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts would be joining us and as they walked out the door tonight they would see the round monument and that was the #1 project, it was going to be landscaped and repainted.

Mayor Diaz stated that we had some Boy Scouts in the back and ask if they had anything to say.

Ms. Buck stated that her family had been in Scouting here in this community for many years and some of them knew her son, he had finished 48 years with the same unit

that he joined at 11 years old and she had been a scout leader for 42 years , she was committed to this program and she knew they were and would rather see their children in something worthwhile than the gang down the street. She stated they were on the one fund raiser a year, they have these coupon books and if they used the coupons they would definitely get their \$10.00 back and went over where some of the coupons were from and of the \$10.00 , \$4.00 stated with them for the boys and if they were interested in supporting the scouts, the boys would have the books for sell after the meeting.

Mayor Diaz stated that she always uses the coupons and that you really get your moneys worth.

Ms. Buck ask that they please help to keep scouts in this community.

Mayor Diaz ask the boy scouts to please come up to the front and introduce themselves.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, stated that he had stopped at several of the convenience stores to buy water and bottled water was not a taxable item , he had been to Mr. Mercury and Market St. Food Store and neither of them charged tax on Water, however, he also visited the store at Holland and Wiggins and at Holland and Munn and they both charged tax on a bottle of water so he just leaves it on the counter and walks, one reason was because they told him everything has tax and the other said the computer was pre programmed. He stated this was just a little tip on saving , he was not against paying his fair share of sale tax or whatever but just be aware of things like that.

Allan Jamail, 10510 Flaxman St., stated that he would like to thank the Mayor and Council for the work they were doing toward keeping the city clean, that the Resolution passed tonight was just an example of the new direction the city has taken in the last couple of years and this city was a city that was remarkable, that just tonight we saw the Fire Chief present awards and that was just the tip of the ice berg on what you get from living in Jacinto City. He stated the Police Department , a couple of weeks ago, apprehended a murder and again this was just one of the things we get from living in this city and he was proud to be from here and he thought the city was headed in the right direction under the leadership we have here and he just wanted to make those comments so they would know his feelings.

Mayor Diaz advised him that we appreciated it.

A gentleman spoke from the audience and his comments were not picked up by the sound system. He was thanking Ms. Maner for helping him and Mayor Diaz stated that was Mama Dee and she was always ready to help everyone.

Debra Martinez, 10109 Rumar, stated she was the event coordinator for Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts of Jacinto City and she just want to say thank you for the city being open to having them here within the community and actually they were looking to becoming more involved, that she really appreciated the fact that the boys were here today and was looking forward to having them participate more because this was a great experience for them to experience how the world revolves. She stated that if there was any event or project coming up they would be glad to participate

Mayor Diaz invited her to bring her girls at the next council meeting.

Mayor Diaz stated that we used to have to have a stool for the next speaker to stand on when he was speaking for the FFA but she didn't think we needed the stool now.

Josh Matheny stated that earlier they saw his son Joshua, that he currently didn't live in the city anymore but his parents lived at 1614 Cheston and at this point he was sure everybody was familiar with the story of everything that happened and he couldn't come up here and say the words that expressed his appreciation for the fire department and for the city, Jacinto City had always been a family city, he grew up here, he no longer lived here, but from the way the city operates and the people they choose to work here, the guys that showed up at his mother's house that day were all outstanding individuals, all of them have an outstanding reputation that goes well beyond this city and he wanted to thank the Chief for everything she has done and the quality she has upheld in that department. He stated that he couldn't express the gratitude he had and he just wanted to say thank you.

Mayor Diaz stated that he grew up here and he had been with us for a long time. She ask him what kind of work he did.

He stated that he worked for the Cloverleaf Fire Department.

Mayor Diaz stated that she was very glad that his son was doing well and talked about all the Matheny family being involved with city events over the years.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked the Fire Chief and Police Chief for being there and being a part of that and thank you to all of our responders as well, He thanked Mama

Dee for help that she provided the gentleman in the back , he thanked the boy scout leaders for all that they do . that it did resonate through the community and he advised Mr. Jamail that we were going to keep Jacinto City Beautiful and that also goes to show on stories like this or on events that take place, it does make Jacinto City beautiful when we do help one another and are there for our neighbors and friends. Mr. Rivas welcomed the new reserve officer aboard and wished everyone a happy Easter.

Council Member Robinson expressed his thanks to the first responders, we appreciate what they do . He stated that our Easter Egg Hunt last week was a little short, we didn't have the big crowd we usually have, maybe because of the weather or Spring Break but the kids that showed up had a good time and got plenty of eggs. He wished everyone a happy and safe Easter

Mayor Diaz stated she didn't know if they noticed but at the baseball field the Astros donated turf that they had on that field .

Council Member Garcia welcomed Officer Mestizo, stating that this had been one of our better meetings with all of the recognitions, that Jacinto City was very family oriented so welcome to the family, that he had a chance to win him a raise today and ask what date was Jacinto City established, he was not aware of the date. He stated that if they hadn't notice the sidewalk on Holland was almost complete and it was looking very good and she was sure that all of those people that walk that way would appreciate it. She advised Ms. Debbie Martinez that she thought the girl scouts had used our meeting room at the gym some in the past and if they every needed to use it to contact Mr. Rojas at the gym and they were certainly welcome to use it. She thanked all of those that risk their lives everyday to protect us.

Mayor Diaz apologized to Council Member Lee for skipping him.

Council Member Lee stated that he forgave her. He stated that it was good to see all of them out tonight, that it was such a good crowd and he advised the first responders that they were all heroes all the time as far as he was concerned and the police as well as all the department heads, God bless everyone and have a safe weekend.

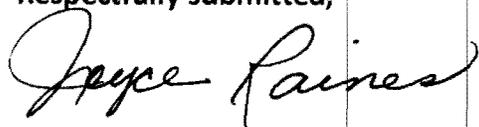
Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone for coming out and enough couldn't be said to the police and fire department for the job they do and the way they serve the people in Jacinto City , a million thanks goes out to them and also Mr. Jamail and he thanked the council for the job we do but the thanks actually go to the people of Jacinto City for electing us and having the confidence in us to do the job to the best of their ability. He thank them and wished a happy Easter to all.

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Mayor Diaz wish everyone a Happy Easter even if it was rainy and cold.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary