

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 6:00 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas arrived after roll call and City Attorney DeFoyd absent.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala reminded everyone that the police department would be sponsoring a BBQ Benefit for the Little League and Girls Softball on Saturday May 14, 2016 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and encourage them to come out and support the kid. He stated that they had tickets for sale at \$7.00 each.

Lt. Longrigg stated that he wanted to let them know that Jacinto City Police Department was going to be working in partnership with the Department of Transportation again this year on The click it or ticket campaign and the campaign started May 23rd through June 5th and it was to make everyone aware of wearing seat belts and if they would help them by making sure that everyone in their vehicle was buckled up to help save lives.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that we had some people attend mosquito school and we knew mosquitos were bad and we had been spraying with a borrowed machine and if the council approved the budget amendment on the agenda tonight we would have a new machine and we would be spraying more. He ask for the citizens help in getting rid of breeding areas for mosquitos and went on to discuss things they could do to help. He reminded everyone that the tire round up was on Saturday, May 14th, that they would pick up 4 tires per house hold, no big tires and no tires on rims

Rebecca Mier, Fire Chief, advised that they had 122 calls for service this month and they were still offering CPR classes, if anyone was interested to call the fire department.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that they were registering for swimming lessons and that the ball leagues were still playing, to come out and support them.

Suellen Denton, Jacinto City Library, stated that she wanted to let everyone know that our Children's Librarian, Rosalinda Lucio was retiring after 20 years, that today was the last day but she would be coming up here pretty soon. She advised that until they did get a replacement there would still be a children's story time and programs, they had a summer

reading program lined up and it was one that Rosalinda did put together and they were going to have events and programs lined up at the library.

Mayor Diaz ask Judge George Risner if he would to address the Council.

Judge Risner stated he was glad to be here in Pasadena, (which drew many comments) , that he had been administering the Oaths of office here in Jacinto City for many years and always enjoyed being here and seeing a lot of old friends.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that in addition to no opposition to the three candidates , there was another thing that was on the ballot and that was an elevation of our sales and use tax rate that we had talked about a little and he had scoured the state and various data bases and he could not find anybody that passed any type of proposition, much less one self imposing a tax with a 92% passage rate , that was outstanding, it was a low vote turnout but at the same time it was a 92% of our citizens saying yes to the sales tax increase by 1% and he also found it astounding that no other cities considered taking advantage of HB 157 so they will have to do that every three years. The HB took care of it, it was a one time vote and the County can't take taxes from us now on sales tax, it was a win, win situation for the city and thanked the citizens for that.

Mr. Squyres stated that Kyle was a little off on his tire numbers, that he got the report today and 596 tires were in that truck so we got rid of a lot of tires and not in just Jacinto City but Galena Park as well. Mr. Reed advised that they had added more tire to that and Mr. Squyres advised that would make it over 700 tire we go rid of.

Mr. Squyres stated there was one additional thing, that we had talked about how great it was going to be this summer and they knew we were redoing the pool right now, that we got some bad news Tuesday or Wednesday, while they were redoing the pool, the pool actually floated on the deep end by about four inches, they think they are going to be able to salvage the pool and use it this year but it looks like we were going to have to speed up our installation of a new swimming pool by a few years, that if we were going to have a pool, we were going to have to budget for it next year. He stated that the pool itself and if we put a splash pad instead of the kiddie pool it was going to run around a million dollars and what ever we did for a small changing room so when we started talking about budgets, which was just around the corner now, we were going to have to talk about the pool.

Mayor Diaz stated that a splash pad would be used a lot more and City Manager Squyres advised that it would be a lot safer to, so we were going to change a negative into a positive and have a new pool I, we were in good financial shape, we could afford to do it so we wouldn't skip the swim season this year.

Mayor Diaz stated that today was Anheuser Busch's 50th Anniversary and she attended it around noon and she was told that a lot of our citizens didn't know it but you could go in there anytime from 12:00 and on, enjoy the area there and have a free beer and they will provide snacks and he said it was a ghost town, nobody goes and they even have tables if anybody wants to have a private meeting, etc. , anybody is welcome to go. She stated that she was going to set up a tour for our seniors to go out there and she would talk to Elizabeth about this. She stated that she went through it today and it was totally different and very good.

Mayor Diaz stated that she was glad that we were going to put the pool on our budget for next year but she was also glad that we were going to be able to have the swimming lesson because that was a big thing for Jacinto City.

There was no UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2016-4R Canvassing General and Special Election for May 7, 2016.

City Manager Squyres read Resolution 2016-4R stating that the three candidates were unopposed and had been declared reelected:

Jimmy "JJ" Rivas - Council Member Position No.1
Gregg Robinson -, Council Member Position No. 2
Allen Lee Council Member Position No. 3

City Manager Squyres stated that pursuant to the City Charter and the Ordinances of the City of Jacinto City, Texas and the laws of the State of Texas a Special election which was held in conjunction with the General election on May 17, 2016 and duly returns had been made and a majority of the qualified voters approved and adopted the proposition of a sales and use tax in the City of Jacinto City at a rate of 2% and the proposition is declared passed and adopted .

City Manager explained 2% was what the final tax was, it was already 1% and it was elevated by another percent .

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to accept Resolution 2016-4R Canvassing the election as read. Vote 5 For 0 Against

2. Justice of the Peace George Risner administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Rivas, Council Member Robinson and Council Member Lee.

Mayor Diaz congratulated Mr. Rivas, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Lee, stating that she was glad to have the council we have, that we may have issues and problems and might not always agree but they work through any problems and she was glad to be here and thanked them for their service.

3. Mayor Diaz thanked Council Member Gonzales for his services as Mayor Pro Tem last Year and that tradition was that it passed down the line and ask for a motion for Mayor Pro Tem.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to appoint Council Member Rivas as Mayor Pro Tem. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. First reading of Ordinance 2016-3 Setting Salary for Mayor and Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2016-3 the same as the previous Ordinance with the Mayor's salary at \$350.00 per month and car allowance at \$300.00 per month and Council Members salary at \$300.00 per month and car allowance at \$225.00 per month. Vote 5 For 0 Against

5. Council to amend Fire Department Budget Code 14-6799 in the amount of \$5,000 for repairs to the fire truck and Budget Code 24-6799 in the amount of \$17,900 for repairs to the ambulance. Chief Mier outlined the needs for the repairs for both pieces of equipment.

Their was general discussion on the needed repairs.

A Motion was made by Council Member Garcia and Seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Budget Code 14-6799 in the amount of \$5,000 for repairs to the fire truck and Budget Code 24-6799 in the amount of \$17,900 for repairs to the ambulance. Vote: 5 For 0 Against.

6. Amendment to Police Department Policy Manuel to include Body Camera Policy.

Chief Ayala stated that he just wanted to let them know this was in regard to the body cameras in addition to the in car cameras they already have, that this was a mandatory policy that they need and basically covers everything that enables us to get the body cameras. He stated that each officer gets assigned a camera, that we would have a total of 21 cameras so we would have some extra cameras in the event something happens to one. Chief Ayala advised that he had met with Congress Woman Shelia Jackson Lee and they would provide a grant for the cameras and we would have to match 2 cameras and that we had already Purchased 2 cameras with funds from the seizure account. He stated the policy also cover privacy issues, when the cameras would be on and what would allow them to be turned off, retention times, etc..

Mayor Diaz ask if he was telling her that all our officers, when on duty, would be wearing body cameras and it had to be on at all times, that if they pull somebody over they are going to have them on.

Chief Ayiala replied that if there is citizen contact yes but if it was anything of a privacy issue it would be turned off.

Mayor Diaz ask how did we determine the privacy issue , Chief Ayala advised that if he was talking to someone about a personal issue, they had a right to ask that the camera was turned off but he would be visible. Mayor Diaz stated that she thought this would be good for us.

Allan Jamail ask if a person see this stop, can he ask for a copy of the tape under the open's records act.

Chief Ayala stated that he thought we would have to get permission from the person that got stopped, however, if it was in the interest of law enforcement in this city then he may release the video just so the public can see what is going on.

Mayor Diaz ask what the timing was on the cameras.

Police Chief Ayala stated that he had gotten with the City Manager and we would be having a public hearing prior to a council meeting so that we could make the citizens aware of what was going on.

Council Member Rivas stated that the Chief mentioned that Houston had these cameras and ask what other agencies we knew had them , Chief Ayala advised that the Highway Patrol had them too but we already had these cameras with in car cameras .

Council Member Rivas ask if he knew how long these agencies had been using these cameras And he advise that he did not but the cameras has been in use for about four years or so.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to amend the Police Policy Manuel to include the Body Camera Policy. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

7. Proclamation for Rosalinda Lucio, Jacinto City Children's Librarians retirement.

Mayor Diaz read the Proclamation, stating that Rosalinda was certainly going to be missed, that she was always there to help with whatever the city had going on, that she was just like a fixture here we did not want her to go.

Rosalinda thanked everyone, stating that she had enjoyed the 20 years she had spent here that we were like a family.

8. Mr. Allan Jamail addressed the Mayor and Council stating that to start with he wanted to congratulate those who were reelected and was proud that in most of our races we don't have contested races and that was good for the city and good for the health of the city and a lot of the credit goes, not just to our elected officials but to the city department heads that get out and does a good job and that helps the officials so he takes his hat off to quite a few people and before he addressed the issues he was here for he wanted to thank Joyce Raines, our City Secretary, she got out there and upgraded the paint and stuff on the monument and he thought that Lon and the Boy Scouts might have got out there and done some planting in the front, making the city look good and making us proud to live here.

He stated that the issue that he had on his mind was that back on March 10th, and he knew the Mayor couldn't be here due to another commitment but he passed out a similar paper so He went ahead and gave her a copy of the one from March 10th as well as today's. He passed out pictures of the easement in the 10500 block of Palestine between the railroad tracks and homes which was a mosquito breeding ground and stagnant water standing stopped up by drainage entrances at Flint easement and the railroad tracks and also showed pictures of the blocked entrances on the Palestine easement at Flint. He discussed the fact that Texas was one of the states where the zika virus was located and he was saying this to try to bring it back to the council's attention, he knew that Lon was doing a great job and he was very proud of the job he was doing as City Manager but this was something that he really believed that the City Council needed to get involved in before we have a case of this happen to one of our citizens. He stated he didn't think it would take a lot of money to do this, that we just needed to go in and change the elevation on them so they would drain.

Mayor Diaz ask Lon if he would look into this and if she wasn't mistaken that was railroad property..

City Manager Squyres advised that we were already negotiating with the railroad , that it was between us actually and we were trying to get the railroad to help with this, that it was a confusing situation, we think we have a couple of solutions, initially we thought we would drain part of it toward Kerby but that was not going to work so the vast majority of that would have to be moved toward Holland Avenue.

Council Member Rivas aks Mr. Jamail if in between the fences and the back houses facing north here to the railroad tracks, that property, was that railroad easement .

Mr. Jamail stated he was thinking it might be and explained the typical easement of a residence.

City Manager Squyres stated that he agreed and we were in negotiation with the railroad, they have a new gentlemen in the Public Affairs office who actually came from Judge Emmet's office, he was very easy to deal with, he was doing his research and we were doing our research to make sure where that responsibility lies and there was also one other drainage problem that Mr. Jamail has not brought up because it is not visible to the public being a large sheet metal fabrication there and the railroad has put some materials behind it on either side which is creating a dam for the water and it was causing water to flow through this gentleman's business, there were several issues to it and they were trying to get that taken care of as well .

City Manager Squyres stated that we didn't even mind doing some of that work but we don't want to trespass on the railroad property to do it and face their wrath. He stated they were also look at using mineral spray, if this is a problem , because it is legal to spray and it will suffocate the mosquito larva as well.

Council Member Rivas stated that he knew from what he does for a living, that working on railroad there is a charge and requirements and he thinks it is pretty expensive.

City Manager Squyres stated we went through that when we ran pipe under the railroad and it was unreasonable.

Council Member Rivas stated that if we could get the railroad to help us on this, it would be the best way to go about it because we wouldn't be paying the labor cost.

Council Member Rivas stated that he had one more thing, Holland at Palestine the culvert, did Kyle know why.

Kyle advised that they had actually dug this out some but they couldn't do anything about the trash from the apartments, he stated that he would look at it in the morning, that they try to keep the culverts clean from Holland to the Bayou.

Council Member Rivas advised that the intersection at Munn and Holland floods.

Kyle discussed how the water runs off (all of his comments were not picked up by the sound system.

9. Council to amend Budget Code 13-6938 in the amount of \$9,000 for the purchase of a mosquito sprayer.

There was general discussion on the fact that our old machine was broken, mosquitoes were really bad and there was a definite need for the mosquito sprayer. Mr. Squyres advised that our machine was nine years old and even though it got us through last year, we had a lot of maintenance and down time on it and there no way we could get it certified to use this year.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to amend Budget Code 13-6938 in the amount of \$9,000 for the purchase of a Mosquito sprayer. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chasen Dr., stated that she was glad to see the guy here again, she thought they did a good job and we didn't have to have an election again and our city also saves money by not having to have an election and that was really good. She stated that she was glad that we were getting the mosquito sprayer and she knew that we had water problems here but she would like to commend Kyle's department because we had 15" of rain and we did pretty good, because when Allison went through here we didn't do as good and she was really glad that our men were out working and she would like to say thank you as a citizen for what they do, that we really appreciate them. She stated that her question was besides taken tires off, etc. was there anything they, as citizens, could do to help control mosquitoes.

City Manager squyres provided some information on the zika virus and things that everyone can do to help control mosquitoes.

Donna Daily stated that she did want to say good by to Rosalinda, that she had done a good job and we would miss her greatly.

Robert Hernandez, 1025 Chadwick, stated that he and Rosalinda went back a long way and it would be sad to not have her at the library. He thanked her for taking care of the books and children, that she had a great impact him and a lot of other people in this room and they couldn't thank her enough, Happy trails, traveling and reading to her.

Linda Jamail, on behalf of State Representative Ana Hernandez, advised that the run off election early voting would be May 16th through May 20th and election day would be May 24th and they had been able to help get the election place moved back to Galena Park at the Alvin Baggett Community Center.

Mayor Diaz advised that her husband Chris was on the ballot and please go out and vote for him.

Mayor Diaz announced that May 15th was National Police Officers Day so if they saw an officer to be sure and thank them for their service.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated the sales tax was a good thing especially with the news coming out today about the swimming pool and that was going to be a big project and it would change the looks of that whole section there. He congratulated his fellow council Members and stated that he looked forward to working with them. He ask the Chief to get some more information for the On the cameras, there was still some question and maybe some concerns of the citizens and if he would get back with them, they would be able to discuss it with them. He stated that he was glad that we were getting the mosquito sprayer . He stated that he got to meet Rosalinda a couple of years ago , they had a great conversation and he go to meet her wonderful husband. He wish everyone a great weekend and thanked them for keeping him here for another two years.

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone, stating that he was looking forward to being here another two years . He stated that as a Mayor and Council they had some challenges ahead of them and he thought they were making some good strides toward them. They might not always get along or agree on everything but they always worked toward what was best for the city. He commended Rosalinda on her retirement and thanked everyone for being here.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out and congratulated his fellow council Members and he looked forward to working with them again, also the Mayor, Lon and everyone. He thanked Rosalinda so much for not just being our librarian but also our friend and we would miss her. He reminded all that we were having a benefit for the little league and softball this Saturday at the Town Center so everyone come out and buy some BBQ and support the kids. He thanked Judge Risner for being here in Jacinto City.

Council Member Garcia thanked each of our city directors for taking care of the city , she knew that each of them had standing jobs that they go to and they knew the city was in good hand with each of them, they didn't say it everyday but they trusted the work that they did and the city was doing well. She stated that Rosalinda was more than just her librarian, she was her friend, that she had know her ever since she started her career and she thanked her for taking care of all her babies that went in to ask her for help on their projects and research and anytime she needed something specifically she was always there.

Ms. Garcia stated that a couple of year ago we had one of the honored graduates from Furr High School here and she was back in the audience tonight and she would be interning in Congressman Gene Green office for the summer.

Council Member Gonzales congratulated Council Members JJ, Gregg and Lee on a fantastic job and this show when you go unopposed and he would like to thank the department heads for the jobs that they do, they do a great job. He thanked Ms Rosalinda for the time that she put into the City of Jacinto and its residents and she would be missed but he would say that she would enjoy every minute of retirement.

Mayor Diaz stated that we did forget to announce some events coming up this weekend, The North Channel Rotary Club would be having their Fish Fry and Crawfish Boil at the North Shore Pavilion this Saturday so once they get their BBQ go get some fish or crawfish and all of the money goes back to the high school students for scholarships.

She also stated that the GPISD Bond election went through and we would be getting a new Jacinto City Elementary School and Pyburn as well as renovations to a lot of the schools. She also stated that Galena Park High School was getting a make over and they thanked all of the people that went out and voted.

Lon stated that GPISD call him today to tell him that the Jacinto City voters pass the bond with a higher percentage rate than any where else in the district.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p. m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary