

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala advised that they were have a few issue with pokieman people. He reminded everyone that National Night Out was scheduled for the first Tuesday in October and if anyone would like to host a party to please contact the police department. Chief Ayala introduced Officer Dennis Martinez, that he had been with the department for about two years and commended him on stopping a burglary at Roland P Harris Elementary school, reported that they had responded to a shooting at the Palms Apartment on Challenger and found that the man had been shot in Houston and turned that over to HPD. He referred to a incident where we had answered a call and the gentleman wanted to give the officer \$20.00, the officer advised that he could not accept it but the gentleman put the money in the officer's car and the officer turned the money in at the station and the money was returned to the individual, that he just wanted to let them know, this was an integrity issue and he wanted to comment Officer Elizondo. He advised the Council there was a ,monthly UCR Report for each of them.

Mayor Diaz thanked the Chief, that she thought it was great and they appreciated the monthly report, it helped them know what was going on, the number of call, arrests, junk vehicles, warrants, etc., and they do appreciate him doing this.

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Chief Ayala stated that he also wanted to advise them that one of his officers was responded to a call and was involved in an accident and both the officer and other driver were ok and the damage was minimal.

Chief Mier reported that over the last two weeks they had a fire in Jacinto City and assisted with a fire in Galena Park. She cautioned everyone to stay hydrated.

Mayor Diaz ask Chief Mier if they knew what caused the fire and was advised that it was still under investigation.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that last Saturday morning about 3:00 a.m. they had three major leaks, they don't have a explanation, there was a possibility they might have been tampered with and they also had a 14" water line break and ask anyone seeing a leak to contact them immediately so that they can get it repaired. He thanked Bernardo and his crew for their hard work getting the line repaired. Kyle reported that Tilia Court water line was all but complete and he thanked the Fire Department for washing down the streets after the repairs. He stated that they had not been receiving any call on mosquitoes but had gotten a couple in the field.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, reminded everyone that movie night was August 19th and that the gym was open if anyone needed to come in and cool off.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director advised that the Texarsize class was over and they had 18 out of 24 complete the program and that the center would receive \$50.00 per person for each one that completed the class and that each individual that finished the program would receive \$25.00.

Riley Mier, representing the Jacinto City Library, reported that the Summer Reading Program was over, that the library and Whittier Elementary were doing a program together. She advised that the

library has a new program director but she wasn't sure of the date he would start.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that the demolition of the old restrooms at Smith Park and the old preschool was schedule to start, weather permitting, the bids came in so low that we were going to be able to do some additional clean up around the city.

He reported that Jacinto City had hosted the North Channel Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Town Center last week.

That our CDBG water line project would be starting soon and that we had information about the Zika virus on our website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. City to award bid on contract for solid waste collection and disposal service.**

City Manager Squyre stated that we took the bids last council meeting and they might recall that the low bidder on the waste contract was Waste Management who was our current contractor, there was an option in the contract to bid for a 10 year instead of a 5 year contract and their nearest competitor on the contract bid that at a lower price and we were able to do some negotiations with both companies and the nearest second bidder actually bowed out yesterday morning, they felt like they could not compete and quite frankly they actually e-mailed him and stated that they felt like Waste Management would be a better choice for our city so Waste Management, on a 5 year contract, matched the bid of \$18.17 per month, that was substantially higher than what we have but we have found that we are putting substantially more garbage than our contract allows, our contract says we can put 40# out and we were

averaging 79# so the recommendation from staff and Mr. DeFoyd was that we award the contract to Waste Management.

He stated there would also be a slight increase in businesses, the twice a week would be going up to \$30.00 from \$21.30 and the six days a week would be going from \$61.36 to \$80.00. and we would talk about what percentages to pass on in the budget meetings.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to award the bid for solid waste collection and disposal service to Waste Manager. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Presentation of fire station design by Mr. Gilbert Hoffman and Possible council action**

City Manager Squyres advised that we had been talking to Mr. Hoffman for quite some time now, that we had the design on the police station done and the final design is at city hall if anyone would like to examine those and Mr. Hoffman had been working to try to get a base concept for the fire station and he had a presentation to show the council tonight.

Mr. Hoffman thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to wear his other hat and outlined his qualifications. He presented a copy of the drawings for review, stating that the reason we were doing anything at the fire stations was because it was very outdated and limit in what it provided and he wanted to make it clear that these were limited drawings. He stated this was a two story addition on the North end of the existing building, he went over the drawings explaining that there was an additional bay and changes to the inside by moving office facilities, etc. to the new added section of the fire station and an exercise room where the present offices are located and the changes to the outside of the building. He stated that right

now it was budgeted somewhere around \$500,000 and he would do his best to keep the price down. There was general discussion about the design cost of the renovation

City Manager Squyres stated that one of the bigger things that they might want to notice , the biggest single thing they found in the old part of the building , including the bay, was that the electrical was just not capable of supporting what they need, that the trucks and ambulances all have pig tail lines which they plug into shore line too basically powers the units where medications have to be kept at a certain temperature, that every piece of equipment we have now has one of and each one pulls about 20 or 30 amps and what we have at the station is just not capable of carrying those loads so they will basically be ripping out the current electrical system and starting from scratch.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to table action on the design of the fire station renovation for further review. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Council to approve going out for bids for paving on Market Street.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he, Kyle and the rest of the Council people had drove Market street and they knew that they had some money budgeted for paving some areas of Market Street from the apron side, not the county owned side, the apron side being the side where the businesses drive in to get to their business and the thing was we looked at it and all the council members agreed to try to pave from Siesta Ln. always west to just before you get to the Schultz's apartments, it was only going to be about 10 ft. away but that was where the majority of the bad spots are.

Mayor Diaz ask that they explain, she was not sure what they meant by apron.

Mr. Sqyres stated this was the easement of right-a-way property that the city controlled between the street and the private property of the businesses, so it would give a uniform nice clean look to the businesses.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he would point out that Kyle and Mr. Rivas had said we had a bad problem with the drainage over by the Popey's area, that the drain actually sat higher than it should be and nothing ever drains that way so Kyle has agreed that he may be able to move that drain or have it where we can actually get some drainage out of that area.

Council Member Garcia ask if they had talked to the businesses to see if they would also like to contribute to beautifying their parking lots.

City Manager Sqsyres stated that yes we were reaching out, they wanted to make sure the project was approve and they would be going from door to door.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve going out for bids for paving on Market St.. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Patrick McMann, a teacher from Whittier Elementary, and he lived in Songwood, 1215 Westshire Dr., he stated that he was coming to night to speak to them because for the second year in a row Whittier has met the Texas Educational Standard but he does not feel that is reflective of the level of education that their students have and as a third grade teacher he could tell them that he thinks that about 70% of their students are only below grade in reading. He stated that the education they are getting is not equipping them for independence in the long run, to go out and take advantage of what this country has to

Offer, he stated the biggest reason why he wanted to come and speak with them tonight was the lack of culture in literacy in this area. He Stated that he had met with the Jacinto City library, Ms. Suelen and they had discussed some programs they could start doing and he had talked with City Manager Squyres today to discuss how he , the school and city could try to work together to face this problem.

Mayor Diaz ask what was he asking us to do.

He stated that he discussed a lot of idea with Mr. Squyres and Ms. Suelen , there was no one specific thing, they were not asking for money that he guessed that we just need to start taking proactive steps to deal with the problems in front of us. He stated that on Fridays, the teachers will tell them their homework is to read and they Say they don't have any books at home of the books are way to hard to read so there was something we had to be able to do as a staff and a city to correct those issues.

Mayor Diaz stated that we would love to help, if he could give us some idea what we could do.

Mr. McMann stated the greatest way to him would be to find a way to get books into the hands of these children, he and Suellen had discussed her coming to the school during the second week of September and she wants to get every single child there a library card so they can have greater access to the Jacinto City public library and when he discussed it with some of his fellow teachers they discussed making field trips to the library ,

There was discussion on possible ways to obtain books, book drives, etc. and he had received a couple of grants for books.

Mayor Diaz suggested that he check with Suellen at the library and see if they had any book they might like to donate and if they wanted to do a book drive, we could set up a box at city hall.

Mr. Hoffman with the North Channel Star stated that he was a member of the Rotary club in Baytown and their organization was giving take home books to children and he would be glad to speak with Mr. McMann after the meeting.

Police Officers Rogers and Martinez came by to meet the Mayor, Council and citizens.

There was discussion about individuals volunteering to read to the students.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

Council Member Rivas advised Mr. McMann that the issue he was bringing forward to us was very important to him and we appreciate him coming forward and Mr. Hoffman's offer of possible help. He wished everyone a good weekend and God Bless.

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for being here.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for being here and he appreciated Mr. Hoffman and Mr. McMann's presentation and he also wanted to make an announcement that at their regular monthly food drive, on the third Saturday of each month, they would also be distributing school supplies, they have a fair supply of school supplies but they were taking donations of supplies or money. that they would appreciate that, they would like to put together about 100 bags of school supplies.

Council Member Garcia stated that Chief Ayala always mentioned National Night Out but she hadn't heard anything, was it still on October 4th this year. Chief Ayala advised that it was.

Mayor Diaz stated that we did have a little issue with that, it was the week the Mayor and Council go to TML and they would have to

discuss it and see what they were going to do.

Council Member Garcia ask Ivan if people were enrolling at preschool yet. Ivan's reply was not picked up by the sound system. Ms. Garcia thanked everyone for joining us today and it was great to see the officers here.

Council Member Gonzales advised that we had already started budget workshops for the next fiscal year and there were a lot of things that we were looking at that were all positive. He stated that we were going to do the paving project on Market but our goal was also to do Holland and Mercury if we can and we would be looking at the budget for that. He thanked everyone for coming out.

City Manager Squyres stated that we had Moe Davis from the Fire Department and everyone probably knew Moe, that he had been here for year and years. He stated that when Moe came here he was a Houston Fire fighter, then he became a junior captain and stayed with us and then he became a senior captain and he stayed with us , then he got the idea that he wanted to wear a white shirt in Houston and then he became a Houston District Chief so we have a District Chief working for us.

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 above the typed name and title.

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**