

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm. With the following members present, Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee and Gonzales,; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas and 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 Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 3 for 0 against

Mayor Diaz welcomed Senator Sylvia Garcia and Galena Park Commissioner Broussard to the meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala reported on National Night Out, stating that we had 11 parties with good turn outs. He reported that for the month of September they had 1009 calls for service and 117 arrests.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that the contractor had officially put the signs in the ground today to start the new water line project and would officially start on Monday. He stated that we had gotten a break from mosquitos with the weather but to call if your were having problems with them.

Mayor Diaz welcomed State Representative Ana Hernandez

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, reminded everyone of the Pumpkin Fest Saturday, October 22nd starting at 5:00 p.m. and that flyers were on the table.

Mayor Diaz commented on the decorations at the entrances and ask what movie were we showing.

Ivan advised that we were open for suggestions.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, reported that the seniors were staying active, they were attending Congressman Gene Green's Bar-B-Cue and they would be selling water and drinks at the Pumpkin Fest. She advised that they had new member at the center and for homebound meals.

Mr. Michael Saperstein, the replacement for Ms. Denton at the Jacinto City Library introduced himself and advised that they were working on new programs and redecorating at the library and hopefully he would have more to report on at the next meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Squyres advised that on October 29th we were having a free garage sale throughout the city, you could have it at your home or in the parking lot at the swimming pool. He ask that they please get a permit (at no charge) so that we would have a list of all the garage sales on our website and people could get a list of addresses for all the sales.

He advised if anyone was missing their cat, we might have it, that we had a big feral cat problem in the city and we were doing a program called notch, fix and release where we pick up feral cats, take them to the vet, have them fixed, their ear notched, give them a rabies shot and then turn them loose exactly where we picked them up and hopefully this would help control the feral cat problem in the city.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Recognition of Jennifer Simpson Castaneda as a recipient of 2016 Star of Texas Award by Governor Greg Abbott.**

Senator Sylvia Garcia, State Representative Ana Hernandez and Mayor Diaz presented Resolutions to Jennifer recognizing her as a 2016 Star of Texas Award recipient .

Chief Ayala talked about the day the shootings occurred, stating that he was very proud of his officers, that they put their lives on the line everyday , that he had two of the greatest officers, officer Castaneda and Officer Walker and he was so glad that they were still with us, the outcome could have been very different. He thanked HPD, Harris County Sheriff's Department, Constable Pct. 2 officers for coming to our aid that day. He stated that Officer Simpson-Castaneda was welcome to come back at any time, the door is always open.

2. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation at 9715 Market Street and 11613 Flaxman.

City Manager Squyres advised that the Variance Board met on Tuesday Night hearing the request recommended that the Council approve the request for the variance to installation of a 10 Ft. security fence operated by a 12 volt battery inside the existing perimeter fence. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to accept the recommendation of the Variance Board and allow the variance at 9715 Market St. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

City Manager Squyres Explained that at 11613 Flaxman the permit application did not show the existing driveway when the permit was approved for a new driveway and after the driveway had been poured, the problem was identified. He went on to explain all the circumstances and stated that the Variance Board had recommended that the council approve allowing the exiting driveway to remain.

Council Member Rivas made a motion to deny the variance, there was no second to the motion.

Council Member Rivas stated he thought he should have to remove the old driveway, it should be corrected now.

There was general discussion concerning why the error was not caught and what could be done in the future to prevent these problems from happening.

City Manager Squyres discussed the possibility of adding a fee and actually going out and viewing the site plan before approving it.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the recommendation of the Variance Board and allow the existing driveway to remain. Vote: 3 For 2 Against (Rivas and Robinson against)

3. Council action on Zoning Board's Recommendation at 10237 Market Street.

City Manager Squyres advised that Templo Gethsemani Church , 10237 Market Street wanted to tear down the existing church and build a new church there that would hold a bigger congregation. He stated the existing building had at one time been a warehouse for office supplies and had been given a variance to have a church in the building but they wanted to tear down the existing building and build a new church which would require a zoning change of the property. He advised that they also owned the property on Mercury where the blue building was by Dairy Queen and they planed to tear that down as well and make a drive way so they could have an entrance and exit and increase their parking area.

There was discussion about he lack of parking now and how a bigger church would affect that. Mr. Squyres advised that the zoning change would not affect the requirements for building and they would have to have parking required for the projected attendance.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the Zoning Board's recommendation and allow the rezoning of 10237 Market Street. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. Council to designate representative and alternate to serve on HGAC 2017 General Assembly

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to allow it to remain the same with Council Member Garcia as Representative and Council Member Gonzales as Alternate on the 2017 HGAC General Assembly. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

5. Penny Taylor, GPISD addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the FFA'S Livestock Show and Auction.

Ms. Taylor advised that the GPISD FFA Livestock Show would be November 14th – November 16th with the Auction on November 17, 2016. She discussed the FFA mission, how hard the kids worked and how expensive it was to raise the animals. She invited everyone to come out and support the kids at the GPISD Ag Facility, 2000 Holland Avenue and invited them to the North Shore Campus where the students had several gardens growing.

6. Allan Jamail, Executive Committeeman of the Texas Democratic Party to address Mayor and Council with concerns of the city.

Mr. Jamail thanked the Mayor and Council for all the service they gave to the community and he thanked the Chief and officers who participated in the drug raid here in the city.

He also thanked City Manager Squyres and the Public Works Department for all the work they had done to eliminate the areas of standing water which allowed the Zika mosquitoes to breed and called attention the area on Lane Street where trees and brush had been removed.

He stated that he was up here as a representative of the Texas Democratic Party to bring up something about the upcoming Presidential election he feels is of a great concern to the citizens. He

stated that in all the years he's spoken as a citizen and an elected official he had never brought up anything to do with partisan politics but this year was different.

Mr. Jamail stated that he had Republican friends who disagreed with him on the issues but they had never let it interfere with their friendship and he hoped that his comments tonight would not harm their friendship.

He stated that usually both the Republican and Democrats had a very good qualified candidate for President but this year the Republican's had a candidate, who in his own words, had admitted committing sexual assaults on females, he discriminated against Hispanics, Muslims and was very divisive for the Nation.

Mr. Jamail said he wanted it on the records of the meeting he would never vote for Donald Trump the Republican Candidate.

Mr. Jamail encouraged voters to support both Congressman Gene Green and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee who had always been a friend of our city.

He stated that just recently Congresswoman Lee had gotten grant funds to purchase body cameras for the police officers and funds for a new ambulance.

There were no comments from the Public.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked everyone for showing up tonight, that we had the honor and privilege of having Officer Jennifer Simpson Castaneda with us today and for this we were very grateful.

Mr. Rivas reminded everyone of the Pumpkin Fest on October 22nd.

He stated that we needed to look at improvement that people make to their homes, are these improvements made because they plan to stay in Jacinto City or just be here for a year or so and move on. He state that he plan to be here even if he wasn't on council and wanted to see things done the way they should be for the betterment of the city.

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for coming out and he appreciated Jennifer for coming out and allowing us to honor her for her services. He reminded everyone to come out and enjoy the Pumpkin Fest.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out and supporting us. He advised that we were having a Restaurant Contest, that you could go to the city's website and vote on your favorite food or restaurant and maybe we could get them to provide samples at Town Center after the Christmas Parade. He stated that the City Wide Garage sale would be on October 29th and his church, Calvary Baptist was having a Bar-B-Cue fund raiser and he hope everyone would come out and enjoy the food and support them from 11:00 a.m. until the food was gone.

Council Member Garcia thanked Jennifer for her years of service to Jacinto City and allowing us to honor her and thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the council and city.

Council Member Gonzales thanked Jennifer and all the officers for their services.

Mayor Diaz reminded everyone that early voting started October 24th and ended on November 4th and there would be Saturday voting on October 29th and Sunday voting on October 30th and they would be able to vote early at the Alvin Baggett Community Center in Galena Park.

City Manager Squyres advised that there were businesses in Jacinto City still charging 7.25% sales tax and as of October 1st we now

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charge 8.25%. He ask that if they see this happening to please advise us so that we can get it corrected, that the State did sent out notices to all the businesses but some of them had not made the change.

State Representative Ana Hernandez's office advised that they would have refreshments after the meeting and ask that everyone please join them.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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 printed name and title.

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**