

COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Attorney DeFoyd. City Secretary Raines on vacation.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Reports of Officers, Employees and Committees:

Chief Ayala wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and cautioned them to be careful wherever they go, to be aware of their surroundings and reminded them of the vacation watch conducted by the police department, to come by and fill out a form. He advised of a couple of incidents they had and were taking care of.

Mayor Diaz cautioned everyone that if they were going shopping at night to be sure and take someone with them.

Chief Mier, Fire Department, reported that there were no major fires to report since the last meeting and EMS had seem a decrease in call volume. She also reported that the delivery time on the new ambulance was on schedule.

Mayor Diaz advised Kyle that we sure did have a lot of dirty streets but they did appreciate the Christmas lights, that she had already had a lot of call commenting on them.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised her that we would have clean streets before the contractor left the city

Mayor Diaz advised that it was supposed to rain tomorrow so maybe that would clean the sidewalks and streets.

Kyle advised that by the time the construction was finished on the water line they were going to be very proud. He stated that the lights were on city hall and it looked great. Mayor Diaz stated that it looked really nice. Kyle ask that if they saw anything wrong to please let them know.

Mayor Diaz stated the only thing she would like to see was some ornaments on the wreaths here in front of the annex and Kyle said that was going to happen in the morning.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, explained that she was out of the office for a short time this morning, that her daughter had sprained her ankle at school and she had to go to the school and pick her up. She advised that Congress Woman Sheila Jackson Lee had given 55 turkeys to the seniors. She stated that Council Members Gonzales and Lee and Mr. & Mr Jamail were there. There was discussion about whether just active members should receive turkeys and not everyone. It was suggested that they ask Congress Woman Lee who gets them since she is the one donating them. There was more discussion about budget cuts and reductions of amounts and Elizabeth stated she would talk to the Site Council at their next meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Squyres stated that he just wanted to thank Kyle's folk, that for years since we have had Town Center we have had a huge problem with the acoustics in that building, we found a solution, we brought it in parts and got it put together and our own staff installed it to keep the cost down and they finished it about a week ago and it is a different building now, not only are the panels hanging in the ceiling and on the walls attractive but it is acoustically a different building now and ask Kyle to pass this along to his guys.

Mayor Diaz ask if the Town Hall was decorated on the inside and was advised that they had the tree up.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation at 1105 Holland Avenue and 10602 East Freeway.**

City Manager Squyres stated that the Variance Board meet on Tuesday and made the following recommendations:

1105 Holland – Mr. Squyres explained the history of the tire shop, stating that it was attached to a home many years ago and they were granted a variance for a special use permit to use that structure as a tire shop even though it had a home attached to it and it had been a fear of the fire department for years having a home attached to the tire shop, he stated that they didn't have adequate storage or parking and they wanted to tear the building and house down and build a new metal building for the tire shop only. He explain that if they did this they would lose their special use permit so they were once again requesting a special use permit to have a tire shop at 1105 Holland Avenue, all of the tire store would be interior nothing exterior with no residence attached, they would have a waiting room and would meet all city codes. Mr. Squyres stated that the committee voted 3 to 0 to recommend the council approve this request.

Council Member Garcia ask to be allowed to make sure she had this correct, that there would be no house on this property at all, all work would be done inside shop, waiting room inside, handicapped parking.

Mayor Diaz ask how the neighbors felt about it.

City Manager Squyres advised that the neighbor behind them sent a representative and they did not feel there would be a problem.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the recommendation of the Variance Board To allow the special use permit allowing a new tire shop at 1105 Holland Avenue. Vote: 4 for 1 against- Council Member Rivas

10602 East Freeway – Mr. Squyres advised that this was a vacant building that had once been a muffler and break repair shop and was located next door to Discount Automotive on the feeder road and they want to run a tire store there and tire stores anywhere in this city needs a special use permit.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve the Variance Board's recommendation and allow the special use permit at 10602 East Freeway. Vote: 4 For 1 Against – Council Member Rivas

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

Mr. Jamail stated that he wanted to say thanks to those of them serving the city in the position they hold including the City Attorney, City Manager and acting City Secretary Kathy, that a lot of people don't realize the work that they do, they come to a council meeting and see a 15 or 20 minute meeting but that is not were it ends, there is a lot more that goes behind the scenes so he wanted to thank them and wish all of them a happy Thanksgiving as well as the community.

He stated that he was on the last agenda as a representative of the Democratic Party and that tonight part of his talk would be on that and he said that he would never vote for Donald Trump, he didn't and he still wouldn't . He stated that he is the President and he had Republican friends and they remained friends throughout the campaign. He stated the Republicans won the big prize, they got the Presidency but here in Harris County the Democrats swept every seat that was on the ballot and in State they won five State Representative

seats. He stated that Constable Diaz was reelected and we got a new sheriff that was a Democrat.

He stated that to move on to the other things that he wanted to talk about, that she mentioned the turkey give away today by Congress Woman Sheila Jackson Lee but he just wanted to say, in case she didn't know it or didn't mention it, that Sheila gives away thousands of turkeys every Thanksgiving, not just what she give away here in Jacinto City , every single senior citizen center in the 18 Congressional District receives turkeys from her and she told him to be sure that he mentioned tonight that she was very appreciative of the job they had been doing and for allowing her to come over here and take care of the seniors in the small way that she does. He stated that the main thing that he wanted to talk to them about tonight was normally when he come up here he brings up something that is important to community health and he doesn't normally get into patrician politics and so that is what he is here for tonight, a concern that he has for the well being of our police officers, that seeing across the nation a rash of police officers being killed and we can't prevent all of these crazy people from doing things like that but there were some things he thought we could do to enhance the protection of Jacinto City's police officers. He recounted some thing they used to do when he was a police officer to raise money to buy things, that back then they didn't even have hand held radios , when you stopped a car you were just out there. He stated that we had made progress ,that we bought vests. He recalled an incident where the vest has saved one of our officer's life. He stated that our officers here in Jacinto City were wearing vest there were considered a Level 2 or Level 3 and the higher the number the more protection you have and what he things we need to do is for her and the council to consider upgrading vest and he wasn't talking about buying vests for every police officer , he stated that he had been doing research on this and they make a jacket that will hold an armor piercing plate in the front and back and those plates are \$300.00 each and if need while making a call they can throw this vest on over their existing vest and then

they will be able to withstand the bullets these murders are using. He stated that he talked to Congress Woman Sheila Jackson Lee and they all know that she always tries to help Jacinto City and she said if Lon and or the police chief contacts her, she will work toward getting the funds to pay for these vests for our officers, they come in different sizes so you can't just put one in the back of each car, you might have to put 3 difference sizes in there and identify them so that an officer can quickly identify what size he needs and that was the biggest reason for him coming up here tonight.

Mayor Diaz ask City Manager Squyres to please look into this.

3. Dee Maner to address Mayor and Council regarding the proposed swimming pool.

Mr. Ray Morlock, 11509 Celtis, stated that he was not Dee and he promised that he would not offend anybody, he was here to talk about the swimming pool again, that he has had time to think about it and again, he has had 35 years in commercial and residential swimming pool business , he had done the University of Houston, everything down Clear Lake way , Indian Shores, etc. and also he had 37 years working for what some of the older people would remember as Houston Lighting and Power , Reliant Energy and now NRG, he was a plant manager and he had a project coming up that was about 10.2 million dollars and Shell gives him this money and he spends it like it was his own. He stated that he sent out 6 RFQ's , he didn't solicit for business, he goes and looks for who is the best and prices come all over the ballpark , that he spent 5 minutes today on one phone call and he didn't know if they saw on the news about the Marriott being built downtown, they had put in a Texas shaped swimming pool and a big walk lazy river type and Monarch pools was putting that in and Monarch pools is a local company and there was another one, sweet water pools is putting in a Town House Complex, putting in a 1/2 million gallon pool on the roof and Patio Pools of Houston are doing everything out in Katy, any subdivision going in they are putting in

their pools and water parks. He stated that was three and he could probably name 50 other but the three he discussed were probably the best in the city. He stated that the more he had heard about all of this it sent up a lot of red flags, was there an RFQ put out and what is on the RFQ, why doesn't this committee that was formed all know what is on the RFQ. He stated that we all know that the swimming pool was damaged. He stated that the last one that he drained and put in valves was over in Woodforest and before the pool was a third of the way empty he was drilling, they drilled 6 valves and never saw a bit of water and he also went back the two months prior to starting work on the pool and we had 27.3 inches of rain and that was a red flag, if they had come to him he would have said hell no, he wasn't draining it , he wouldn't have drained it until July or August when it got really hot and dry. He stated that then they hear that the company that caused the damage is going to be awarded the bid, that was another red flag. He stated that he had bid several jobs on Galena Park's pool and he had to have a million dollar retainer, that million dollars was in case he screwed up.

He stated that he knew they had a meeting earlier about the litigation, that he didn't know why it was not their fault, they should have never drained that pool at that time. He stated that he put a pool in his back yard and they had access to his pool and gave the standards for a swimming pool, he exceeded the standards and his pool wasn't coming out of the ground but that was because he did it for himself. He stated that he also heard about the chemicals, the chlorine versus Clorox and explained the difference between the two and that for safety Clorox was the only way to go. He discussed the size of the pool estimating approximately 240 thousand gallons and ask if we were going with that same foot print.

He discussed the bidding and one company bidding on everything and they changed their mind and it only went out to Progressive and ask if that was business ethics. He stated that he thought there needs to be a lot more research done , that there were a lot more questions that still needed to be ask and why weren't their experts being involved,

your city building inspector and the one person that holds a water permit, swimming pool water was no different than sewage water.

He discussed what they should have done when they drilled the holes and the water shot up into the air and they needed to be held accountable for it and nobody can do it but the Council because evidently the people who are supposed to be involved with the decision making of this pool aren't and he was all for the splash pad, that could be off to the side, we could take in some of the park if we had to. He stated that pool had been in there for 50 years and he guaranteed that if the concrete was tested it would be just as good as when it was put in. He stated that he had talked to Lon earlier and he didn't know if he has had time to check but that concrete itself has to be tested because as it sits right now it could be a hazardous waste because it has chlorine and acid in the concrete.

He stated he thought they were moving way to fast for something this expensive and we wanted the biggest bang for our buck and he didn't think we were doing that, there were a lot of questions and he would be glad to sit down with any of them.

Mayor Diaz stated that we did appreciate all the input that he was giving us, it was a lot to consider, that maybe he and Ms. Debbie could set up a meeting with Lon and give us more information on what we need to do.

City Manager Squyres ask if we could include the two council members that were on the committee.

Mr. Morlock stated that he would meet with anyone.

Mayor Diaz stated that way it was not just us, they could go one on one, that it was a council decision on the pool so if he wanted to get with Mr. Rivas and Mr. Robinson and whatever council members wanted to attend, she stated this pool was swimming lessons and the

kids could have their fun on the side and we would like to get Ms. Debbie's idea on it, that it was everybody pool but she would be using it most often and we did want to work with them.

Mr. Morlock stated that if the foot print was not the same size you were going to be standing wall to wall

There was discussion about talking with other pool vendors.

4. Council to approve hiring Hoffman-Liu Design Associates as architect for remodel of fire station.

City Manager Squyres stated that we knew Mr. Hoffman as wearing a different hat obviously, we normally see him as a newspaper guy, that he did respond to the request for qualification some time back and actually made a presentation to city council a few months ago and polling the council it seem to be a wise choice, he could do it for budget so we put it on the agenda for their consideration.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve hiring Hoffman-Liu Design Associates as Architect for remodel of fire station. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Girl Scout Troop Leader from the San Jacinto Council stated that she was trying to reach more girls for her troop and would like to ask for their help in getting more girls and volunteers involved.

Mayor Diaz advised that we were having our Christmas Parade on December 3rd and she was more than welcome to participate.

The Troop Leader stated that was the thing, she didn't have any girls so she didn't have a troop.

Mayor Diaz stated that our parade started at 3:00 p.m. and she was more than welcome to pass out flyers there, and suggested that she might want to place flyers at City Hall, businesses in the city and the Library.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked everyone for coming out and wished them a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Robinson wished everyone a good and safe Thanksgiving.

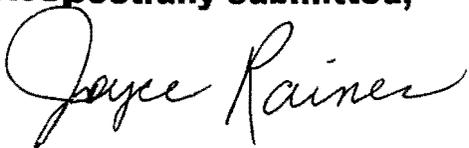
Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out, God Bless them and to have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Council Member Garcia ask the Heritage Hall Director what time the Site Council meeting was held and ask if on the vest that were discussed was there a HGAC grant that might be available. Chief Ayala advised that they have a grant right now and the remainder of his comments were not picked up by the sound system. Ms. Garcia wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Gonzales wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**