

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Rivas, Council Members Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz absent.

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: 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala cautioned everyone to stay safe, watch for suspicious activities and let the police department know if they were going to be out of town so that they could watch their homes. He thanked the Mayor and Council for all they do for the police department.

Chief Mier advised she had nothing to report, that they were on track with the ambulance and wished everyone safe and happy holidays.

Candilar Aleman, Public Works, advised that he would be on call over the holidays, to please call if there were any problems or they needed anything.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that the seniors had a good week. She thanked Council Member Robinson and Council Member Gonzales for providing food for the senior breakfast, which was enjoyed by all. She also thanked Council Members Lee and Garcia for coming down and spending time with the seniors and also everyone who helped with the Senior's Christmas Party. Ms. Flores advised that they had signed up four new people for homebound meals.

Mayor Pro Tem Rivas ask if the seniors enjoyed their Christmas Party and was advised they did and was ready for another one.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pro Tem Rivas announced the winners in the Christmas Parade And Christmas Yard Decorations:

Most Beautiful Float :	Family 4-H
Most Original:	JC Preschool 3 Yr. old, Mon.-Wed. P.m.
Best Marching Group:	GPHS Jacketeers
Mayor's Choice:	JC Preschool, 3 Yr. old, Tues.-Thur P.M.
Honorable Mention:	Scroggins Elementary Toe Tappers & Cheerleaders

10722 Burman – Nikki Rodriguez
10413 Palestine Vivian Crawford
10613 Munn - Bethany Stephenson

Mr. Rivas stated that Mayor Diaz had ask him to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Diaz family.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that we had received a letter , which included not only Jacinto City but Galena Park, Houston, Harris County, etc. stating that we were no longer eligible for flood insurance, this had all been taken care of, that the main FEMA office had made a mistake and this had been resolved and we had something in print from FEMA saying that our insurance was still in tact, that the problem was not ours it was the FEMA offices in DC and if they go to our website under Public Notices they will see a copy of this letter in Case they are contacted by the flood insurance carrier.

He stated that we had just received a Federal Grant through Harris County CDBG Funds for the next phase of our water project so we know that we are doing the water line project right now on the streets between Lane Street and Flint and this would take us from Kerby all the way to Holland and the grant was \$125,000.

Mr. Squyres discussed the increase in the sales tax that we are receiving since the 2% rate became effective on October 1st.

He stated that even though Friday and Monday were holidays for the city, the gym would be open so that there would be a place for the kids that were out of school.

He discussed the remodeling of the theater and the new Chinese restaurant that should be ready in about 5 weeks, that we had received over a 1000 hits on the website, the new LED street lights that had been installed in the city and advised that normal trash pickup would be as usual this week.

There was discussion on when and where the additional street lights would be.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Council to award bid for electrical provider to supply power to Various facilities in Jacinto City.**

City Manager Squyres advised that they had reviewed the bids and the best rate was submitted by TXU and his recommendation was that we award the bid to TXU.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to award the bid for a electrical provider to TXU. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council approval of budget amendment to Parks and Recreation budget in the amount of \$5,500 on purchase of brush chipper.**

Council Member Lee explained the different brush chippers they had looked at and the different ways they would benefit the city and the Chipper they felt would do this cost \$5,500 more than they had budgeted for the chipper and they were recommending the budget be amended.

There was general discussion about the safety features on the chipper and the additional benefits it would provide the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to amend the Parks and Recreation budget In the amount of \$5,500 to cover the additional cost of the brush chipper. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Rachel Muniz thanked Council Members Gonzales and Robinson for allowing them to help with the Toys for Tots and Food Basket distribution.

Chris Vasquez presented a plaque to the Mayor, Council and Citizen for helping Team Peanut out with donations and assistance with the Toy Drive they do for the Texas Children's Hospital each year.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for their help with The Toys For Tots and Food Basket Program. He thanked Elizabeth and her staff and volunteers for doing the breakfast for the seniors and he

hoped that they enjoyed it. He wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Council Member Lee Thanked everyone for coming out, wished everyone a wonderful and happy Holiday Season, we appreciated all of them, our Council, City Manager, City Attorney, City Secretary and thanked them for everything they do. He stated that we had new challengers and blessing ahead and God Bless everyone.

Council Member Garcia stated that Chief Ayala was thanking them for another year, was there something she didn't know. Chief Ayala replied no, he was thankful for every year. Ms. Garcia reminded everyone that Candy was on call and if there were any water or sewer related issues to give the Police Department a call and they would know where to direct the call. She ask Chris Vasquez to keep us updated as far as pictures, etc..

Council Member Gonzales stated that he just wanted to give thanks to all of the Department Heads, the Council and the City Administrators for all of the hard work they do with all the special events that are carried out for our city, that all of this was actually planned January 1s and goes through the whole year to make this a success. He wished everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

City Manager Squyres reminded everyone how dangerous Christmas trees could be and cautioned them to remove them from their homes as soon as possible and we would put the new chipper to work.

City Attorney DeFoyd stated that he want to tell everybody, on behalf of the Shriner's Hospital for children in Galveston, because of the Mexico City fireworks explosion they now have five children they have

transported so far from Mexico to Galveston for treatment for very serious burns, consequently their transportation has been depleted and they have some more children that were going to be distributed between Boston, Sacramento and Cincinnati so if they had any friends that could send any contribution to the Shriner's Hospital in Galveston and designate on their check Transportation Fund for Mexico City and it would be put to use. He stated that they did send two doctors down with a staff of four nurses but there was quite a number of children injured in that explosion, they thought approximately 20 to 25 children and the Shriners only take the ones that are seriously burned and the non serious they treat in Mexico by their doctors they send down there and by the doctors in Mexico because they have a hospital in Mexico City.

City Manager Squyres advised Mr. DeFoyd that if it would facilitate him, City Hall would be glad to be a drop off for those collections, they could go through the drive in window or see Joyce, whatever it took to get it done.

Mr. DeFoyd advised that would be great.

Mayor Pro Tem Rivas ask when exactly did this happen and was advised two days ago and Mr. DeFoyd advised that they started flying them in at midnight two days ago.

City Manager advised that the Hospital had helped some of our own several years ago after a house fire here in Jacinto City and Jim helped facilitate getting her out of the hospital here and into the Shriners Hospital in Galveston and it totally changed her life.

Mr. DeFoyd stated that they didn't accept insurance or money from the government , this was strickly the Shriners and the people,

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the children and families are charged nothing. The children have to be accompanied by a parent and the Shriners pick up the tab for that.

Council Member Rivas ask about putting that on our website.

Lon advised that he would be working in the morning and he would put it on the website and advised Mr. Vasquez that if he could get him some pictures from the event at TCH he would get it on there as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Rivas adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines".

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**