

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Gonzales absent due to illness.**

**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**

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Lt. Longrigg advised that the police department was staying busy and back at full force after the holidays. He introduced a new dispatcher at the police department, Maggie Hernandez and her two sister, stating that Ms. Hernandez had lived in Jacinto City all her life.**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director advised that the waterline project was still going on, that they had 15 days to finish before penalty starts and he assured everyone that before the contractor left the city everything would be back as it was before the project started.**

**He discussed some of the problems people had with their water pipes during the last freeze and cautioned everyone to pay attention to the weather and protect their pipes.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director advised that they were staying busy, that the baseball league was registering on line and the girls softball would be registering on Saturday. He stated that he was advised by both that opening day would be on March 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that all was going well at Heritage Hall. She stated that our Seniors would be sharing**

**A bus with Pct. 2 for the Rodeo Events this year, that it was a larger bus and more people would be able to participate. She also advised that they were working on the Valentine Ball for this year.**

**Mike Saperstein, Jacinto City Library reported that they were starting to work on summer programs and were working on getting a new sign for the library.**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**City Manager Squyres stated that we were notified that we won a little competition to have a hazardous waste collection event at the fire station, where we usually do it, and he went over a list of items that could be dropped off.**

**He advised that two weeks from now, we had a Water Development Board meeting in Austin, it was their conference that they were having workshops on and we were going to start the wheels turning for the next two large infrastructure projects which would be the sewer plant and water line on the north side of Market Street and they were making some changes to those programs so it was important that we stay up to date.**

**He reported that the Police Station was moving along, a little bit behind but it was not going to change the end of construction, in fact, we might even move it up just a little bit because they were going to make it a one stage project instead of two , they are doing it where we don't have to tear down the old station before finishing up the front porch of the new station.**

**He reported that our website was doing great, we were getting about 1200 hits a week now which makes it very easy for people to do business with the City of Jacinto City.**

**The Fire Chief Came in late due to a car fire in the city and Mayor Diaz ask her if she had a report that she would like to make.**

**Chief Mier advised that our new ambulance was at Frazer being built and should be ready by the middle of February.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Diaz stated that she wanted to welcome everybody back and wish them a Happy New Year, that she had been gone the last two council meeting due to a conflict with her husbands schedule, but welcome back and don't forget to call them if there was anything they could do, they were here to help them.**

**There was no Unfinished Business.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Council action on recommendation of Variance Board at 11205 Verano and 1530 Cheston.**

**City Manager Squyres stated the first one was 11205 Verano which was Dr. A. R. Garcia who had been in practice there for 28 years and he had purchased that lot which had a older home on it that was actually on our demo list to be torn down and he took care of that for us and what he was asking to do was that in place of that older home there he wanted to pour a parking lot there for his employees, put a wrought iron fence and hedge around it to make it look good and a couple of questions the Variance Board had for them was whether or not there would be a drive through connecting the lot on Varano to the existing parking lot ; there was some concern about people possibly cutting through and try to cut through for a short cut to the feeder road.**

**Mayor Diaz ask which doctors office this was and Mr. Squyres advised it it was the one next door to the Assembly of God Book Store, and**

**Mayor Diaz stated it was were Dr. Benavides used to be and Mr. Squyres advised where it was at on Verano and that they had made it very clear that if this variance was allowed it did not in any way give him the right to make a drive through from one lot to the other, in fact, Dr. Garcia stated it was going to be a clicker to click your way in, it would be employee parking only and they would have a walk through gate from the parking lot to the building. Mr. Squyres advised that the vote on it was 3 For - 2 Against and this was the recommendation to council.**

**Mayor Diaz ask if Council had any questions.**

**Council Member Rivas ask if this parking lot was for employees only .**

**Dr A. R. Garcia stated that his office was at 11110 East Freeway directly behind the lot in question and they have about 30 parking spaces now and about half of them were taken up by employees, their business was growing and by having that space for employees, that would free up additional parking for patients.**

**Council Member Garcia stated that she gave it thought and went around it and the good thing was that he knocked down that house because it was condemned and she like the idea that there was going to be fence around it and she ask if there was still going to be a fence between it and the residential area.**

**Dr. Garcia advised that it was, that currently there was a wooden fence back there and he planned to put a wooden gate in that fence so that his employees could walk through that gate, from the lot there, to reach the building area, in the evening they would come back out and the area would be lit and have a gate in the front operated by a clicker or a code.**

**Council Member Garcia stated that she gave it thought and there were three things that she considered, (1) was uniformity, because it was a residential area and coming from Holland you would see a**

**home, home, parking lot, home, the uniformity would be off. She stated the (2) thing she considered was the taxes, that the majority of our money that comes through the city is property tax and now that there is no home, it was considered a vacant lot and would not generate the same amount of tax revenue but again you have that sales tax if you have more business so she tried to weigh both areas and then she also thought that at the end of the day , that she had lived here since 1998 and see feels safe, she knew that the neighbors on both side of her are taken care of her and she thinks about that as well, would the people living around the parking lot be able to say that as well and it was a hard decision, sitting up here making decisions was not always easy but she did have to vote against it and just wanted to say that she was not for the decision the Variance Committee decided on.**

**Council Member Rivas ask Dr. Garcia how well he knew his neighbors, the book store, did his patients sometimes park in their parking lot and did they come and complain about it and had they ever tried to work something out.**

**Dr. Garcia stated that they had people coming in and out as well, they had visitors to the facility as well, but yes that had given them permission to use their parking lot as overflow if we needed to.**

**Council Member Garcia ask if there was a second plan if this didn't pass and Dr. Garcia advised there was no other plan.**

**Mayor Diaz stated so there would be no house or anything, it would be just an empty lot and he stated yes**

**Council Member Rivas ask if there was any near by residents that were concerned about this.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that as they knew, letters went out to all the surrounding residents and they had one show up and she was here in the audience, he didn't want to speak for her but she could**

**speak up if she chose to.**

**Flo Flores, 11206 Verano, which was just across the street from the address and her concern was that a lot of people take a short cut from Siesta and come through Verano so they don't have to do that stop sign and her concern was that she thought he was going to have an opening to go in but he says this doesn't and she wanted a security but her concern was also that there was going to be cars parking out there in the back and there could be like people breaking into the cars and she is by her self during the day .**

**Mayor Diaz stated that he said there was going to be a fence and no one could get in there unless they had a clicker and she ask Dr. Garcia if the most of his cars that would be parked there would be during the day and he advised that was right. Mayor Diaz stated that they had a fence at there house and no one could get in unless they had a clicker.**

**Ms. Flores ask if the parking lot would be closed on the weekend and was advised that it would.**

**Council Member Lee ask Dr. Garcia how many patients did he have and Dr. Garcia advised that right now they were averaging about 380 new patients every month.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that his patients come from every where, was that correct, that she worked there in that building for 20 years when Dr. Benivades was there, she was there when he built that building and it was a big building and the church used to allow them to park on their lot so she knew what he was talking about and all of these patients did bring revenue into the city.**

**Council Member Lee stated that he would like to personally say that he thought it was exactly the type of improvement we look for and had been talking about.**

**Mayor Diaz said it also saved the tax payers money because he demolished the old house.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Lee to accept the recommendation of the Variance Board and allow the parking lot at 11205 Verano. Vote: 3 For 1 Against (Garcia)**

**City Manager Squyres advised that the next request was from Mr. Valdez, 1530 Cheston, that Mr. Valdez poured a driveway some time ago and there was a mix up on it and to make a long story short, he ended up cutting a section out of it and he would like to go back and re-pour it now and he thought most of the council was familiar with the project. Mr. Valdez came before the Variance Committee and presented his request, they recommended 4 to 0 that the request be granted.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the recommendation of the Variance Board to allow Mr. Valdez to re-pour the driveway at 1530 Cheston. Vote 4 For 0 Against**

**2. Council to confirm Robert Fisher as Jacinto City Reserve Police Officer.**

**Lt. Longrigg introduced Mr. Fisher and his family, gave a short bio on him and recommended that the council confirm him as a Reserve Jacinto City Police Officer.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to confirm Mr. Robert Fisher as a Jacinto City Reserve Police Officer.**

**Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office to Officer Fisher, presented him with his badge and welcome him to the Jacinto City family.**

**3. Resolution 2017-1R approving interlocal agreement between Harris County Department of Education and City of Jacinto City**

**A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Resolution 2017-1R. Vote 4 For 0 Against**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Gloria Partida, Big Bass Resort, wanted to know what could be done about all the pot holes on the side street by Big Bass and was advised by Mr. Squyres that it was a private road and if she would come by his Office he could give her the name of the owner.**

**Ms. Partida wanted to know what could be done about the trains blowing their horn at 6:00 a.m. in the morning and late at night and why did they have to blow the horns so long and loud.**

**Council Member Lee stated that we had a meeting with the railroad and had ask the same question and still didn't have an answer.**

**Mr. Squyres advised that the Railroad Commission didn't have anything to do with trains, they worked with oil and gas, she would need to contact whoever owned the line and he would try to help her get a number.**

**Ms. Partida stated another complaint her had was that last year Mercury and Market Street had been restriped and you can't see them now.**

**Mr. Ssqyres advised that project had been done by a County contractor and he didn't know if they put to much water in the paint or what but we had discussed this with the county.**



**Debbie Martinez, 10109 Rumar, stated that she was here again with Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts and she was here to announce that it was cookie season so they would be out selling cookies and she just needed to touch base with them what their do and don't are because they would like to promote as much as possible here in the city. Ms. Martinez stated they would start picking up cookies the first week in February and she had order forms if anybody was interested and the Boy Scouts would be coming soon with their coupon books.**

**Mayor Diaz advised that our next council meeting after they got their cookies was February 9<sup>th</sup> and they were welcome to sell them here after the meeting.**

**Mayor Diaz advised that if they were sitting up in front of businesses, they just had to get permission from the businesses.**

**Ms. Martinez stated they had been invited by the Gathering of the Eagles, the American Legion here to set up and she knew that ball season was coming up here and didn't know if that would be a problem with them coming up here.**

**Mayor Diaz advised her to get with Ivan.**

**Ivan Campos stated that he was not a resident of Jacinto City but he was invited official by Joe Muniz, who was a resident here, and he was actually a Marketing Manager for Gathering of Eagles and he wanted to invite them to some events they had coming up and the opening of their new facility. He provided some history of the their organization which was a Veteran Group committed to community and was always ready to give a helping hand.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Rivas welcomed everyone and stated that one thing he wanted to let them know about the train people and read the**

**pattern they use when blowing the horn and that it was up to the conductor.**

**Council Member Robinson welcomed everyone back and hoped that they had a good holiday. He advised Elizabeth from Heritage Hall that He heard they had a good breakfast and was sorry that he missed it but was out of town. He welcomed Officer Fisher aboard.**

**Mayor Diaz welcomed Officer Fisher and the new dispatcher to the Jacinto City family.**

**Council Member Lee wished everyone a Happy New Year, Welcomed Officer Fisher and Dispatcher Hernandez and God Bless everyone.**

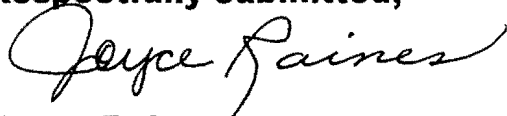
**Council Member Garcia welcomed Officer Fisher and Dispatcher Hernandez aboard. Ms. Garcia ask Ivan if we had a date for opening day for baseball and softball and was advised that it was March 4<sup>th</sup>. She ask Mr. Squyres if we going to be needing volunteers for the Haz Mat event and Lon stated we could use a few volunteers but to contact him, they had to be pre qualified.**

**Some one in the audience ask if they were taking electronic and Mr. Squyres advised that The LEPC would fund the electronic products and the tires, including funding the tire roundup and collection for our city as well.**

**There was general discussion on the Girl Scout cookie sale.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m..**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**