

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on January 26, 2017 At 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyers and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas and City Attorney DeFoyd absent.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated that they had been very busy; have had a lot of vehicle burglaries around the theater and 24 Hour fitness. He ask everyone to be alert and report any suspicious activity so that they can check it out and reminded them that PD has a free vacation watch Program.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works, advised that they had been very busy with the water line to the water plant, was almost finished except for testing and then the police department could get back to work on their new building.

Bernardo advised that the work on Kerby was going to be busy for the next week or so, putting in service connections there and if they could avoid that area it would probably be a good thing to do.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Department, advised they were busy getting ready for ball season and as of right now opening day was still scheduled for March 4th. He stated that they had to get a new scoreboard for the Girls Softball field, the old one could not be repaired.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that all was going well at the senior center, they were getting ready for their Valentine Ball . She stated that she did want to mention for the first time since she had been here that we had a waiting list for homebound meals and unfortunately this week she went to the Family Menu meeting and there was a discussion that the State had started a pilot plan where A box with frozen meals would be delivered to the homebound and some of our homebound could hardly get to the door and certainly couldn't get a box in the house and would not be getting a hot meal. She stated that our delivery drivers make personal contact with the individuals and this was the only time some of them were checked on, they would contact a family member if they felt something was wrong. She stated that all the centers like ours were against this pilot plan. She explained how the homebound meals worked and advised that at the present time we had 38 homebound with 4 on the waiting list. Elizabeth explained what the senior center had to offer for the people 60 and over, a hot meal and a number of different activities and if they didn't have transportation, we had a bus that would pick them up and take them home after lunch.

Mayor Diaz stated that if anyone knew anybody 60 or over to encourage them to go and visit the center and take advantage of all they had to offer.

City Manager Squyres advised that the information and menus were on the city website.

Council Member Gonzales ask Ms. Elizabeth if she said we were allowed 38 people and how could we get that number raised.

Elizabeth's answer was not picked up by the sound system.

City Manager Squyres advised that we were looking into that, that Jacinto City funds that to some degree, that it was partially reimbursed and our citizens need to come first. He stated there were

other providers that we might be able to shift part of the Galena Park burden to and Jacinto City could take care of more of their own, not that we wanted to be bad neighbors, we didn't want anybody to not get a meal from either city.

Council Member Garcia ask if maybe if we had a petition from the city against the piolet plan.

City Manager Squyres advised that we were looking at that as well, the frozen meal just wasn't going to get it but the main thing we were concerned with was the human contact

CITY MANAGER'S RPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that he had just gotten back from the State Water Development Board Conference, that we were going to be apply for some money next year so we were learning the ropes of that program very well so that we could be talking about building a sewer plant or rebuilding our sewer plant, we learned a lot, it was a great conference and one of the speakers was Dan Patrick, the Lt. Governor, and to be quite frank he didn't like what he heard, it was an assault on cities and on budgets and the State Comptroller spoke as well , the State has a 5.5 billion dollar deficit because of the price of oil so any thing they can do to cut that deficit they are going to do. Programs like Elizabeth was talking about, if they can cut expense by mailing a frozen food package they are going to.

He stated that he also talked to Harris County Public Health, three different times and three different branches today and he would meet with them tomorrow and they were probably going to be hosting a shots vaccination clinic about once a month at one of our city building and if he had to guess he would probably say it would be the meeting room at the gym on Saturday morning but they would see it on the website and also we have a couple of programs, one in particular that may benefit a lot of people, that a lot of our homes were built in

the 50's and when they were built, they used lead paint for the finish and lead paint was very bad, it causes brain damage so there was going to be a program where the County would hire a contractor to check their home if they would like and see if it had lead in it and if it does you have basically won a free remodel on your home. He advised them to watch our website and we would be announcing it here at this table and it would be on the city marques, this was going to be a big boom to us but there was an income requirement .

He also reminded everyone that property taxes were due, without penalty, by January 31st.

He also advised that March 25th we were going to have a household hazardous waste collection day and it was about a forty or fifty thousand dollar project that the city wasn't going to have to pay for, it would be funded by Harris County and the North Channel LEPC and the drop off would be at the fire station, he went over a lot of the items they could get rid of and also advised that they would take tires. All they would have to do was drive through the fire station and they would have volunteers to remove it from your vehicle and this was the second year in a row we had been able to do this and it was a huge accomplishment for the city.

City Manager Squyres advised that the Fire Chief was ill but we should be receiving our new ambulance in three to four weeks.

Council Member Lee ask if we had a date on the Rabies Clinic yet. He was advised that it was Saturday, April 22nd.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council to Appoint Brian Middleton as Associate Municipal Court Judge.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to appoint Brian Middleton as Jacinto City Associate Municipal Court Judge. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office to Judge Middleton.

Mayor Diaz welcomed everyone to the Council Meeting.

- 2. Mayor Ana Diaz and former Mayor Allan Jamail to present Volunteer Appreciation Certificates for the 2016 Christmas Program and other events at the Jacinto City Health Care Center.**

Mr. Jamail stated that he normally started every meeting out with thanking the people sitting at the council table and he wasn't going to do it any different tonight, that he did want to say how much they appreciated their service to the citizens, that we had some people who had never been to a Council Meeting here tonight and they need to know the service the Mayor and Council provides them. He stated that they have a lot of meetings that the citizens have no knowledge of at all and they spend a lot of time studying how to make the city better and in his years in the city this was one of the most productive groups of elected officials he had ever seen, that over the years we have had a lot of good elected officials but as a unit this was one of the best he had seen.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Jamail for his kind words.

Mr. Jamail stated that he wanted to thank particularly Mayor Diaz because she and he had discussed a couple of weeks ago how to make this happen. He stated that Mayor Diaz recognized the value of citizen volunteers and she was in 100% of to nights meeting being a meeting where we recognized volunteering and we had a room full of them. He stated that he didn't want to leave anybody out but he would if he started calling names but he did want to point out a couple, he stated that our City Manager Lon Squyres actually runs this city,

follows the instructions of the Mayor and City Council but he began as a volunteer. Mr. Jamail stated that he began as a volunteer himself and worked himself up from volunteer policeman to Mayor and Lon had worked himself up to be the City Manager so no matter how small of a position you have and doing something free as a volunteer it ends up maybe being something that will provide you with a lifetime of happiness and benefits like the City Manager and some of the others.

He stated that each of the Departments had volunteers and he hoped that citizens consider volunteering after tonight, our city needs volunteers.

Mr. Jamail read some quotes and stated that no act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted so we need to remember that and he read a quote made by President John F. Kennedy “My fellow Americans ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country”. He stated that he was going to tell them how this actually began. He explained that one day while it was raining he passed this house and Ms. Teresa Pena was out trying to keep her house from flooding with a small pump and a number of extension cords and he was afraid that she would get electrocuted so he stopped and at first she was afraid of him and he could understand that, he told her he would be back with some help. He stated that he called Lon Squyres and told him about the lady and Lon said to let him see what he could do and within a little while Bernardo and Kyle showed up with a big pump and they saved the home. Mr. Jamail stated that the lady and her husband was so grateful and said if there was ever anything they could do to call them. Mr. Jamail said that he volunteered at the Health Care Center a lot and there was a man there who he couldn't speak to because he spoke Spanish, he was in a lot of pain and there was nobody there that could talk to him and he remembered that he had Mrs. Arzapala and her husband's phone number, he called her and she said she would see if she could find out what was wrong with him, she came over and brought her friend Irasema Salinas, they came in and talked with the gentleman and this

man no family at all, they found out that he had some severe problems with his stomach, they sent him to the hospital, he was treated and it got ok, so when Christmas time came around they decided they wanted to do something for all the seniors at the Health Care Facility and Mr. Jamail mentioned one patient that was there, Mr. Charles Scott who retired from this city with 25 years of service ,that a lot of the people there were citizens of this city and we needed to do all we could to comfort them. He stated they decided to put on a Christmas program and they involved the Zumba Class, they got ahold of a professional clown and that day there was people there that smiled that had not smiled in a year. He stated that one of the volunteers told Teresa and Irasema that what she did that day was her Christmas gift, that it made her feel so good and we all know that the bible says it is better to give than to receive and that was what was going on in her heart and he couldn't forget what they did so he called the Mayor and said let's bring them up here and give them certificates for what they did. He stated that his wife, Linda donated her time and made the certificates, Constable Chris Diaz bought the cake and punch and the city joined in and did a few things so this was a night we should all be proud to live in Jacinto City.

The following names were called out by Council Member Carmela Garcia and certificates of appreciation were presented by Mayor Diaz and former Mayor Allan Jamail to the following individuals:

“Chispirrin” Jaime Valdez, Erick A. Jaime, Erick Pena, Angel Jaime, Oziel Salinas, Jr., Vicente Salinas, Miguel Pena, Edgar A. Salinas, Jose Angel Pena, Felix Ochoa, Marisol Gonzalez, Teresa Tamez, Francis Gonzalez, Marisa De L Cruz, Maria Guadalupe Barba, Maria Guadalupe Jaime, Maria Teresa Arzapala, Irasema Salinas, Noema B. Gonzalez, Rosa M. Godinez, Myriam Cortez, Esther Gallardo, Rosa De La Cruz and Maribel Tamez.

The following names were called out but were not present to receive the certificates.

Nora Elia Cruz, Patricia Nava, Susana Palacios, Oziel Salinas, Carmen Ochoa, Irma Ochoa, Ramiro Alvarado, Armida Patricia Pena and Nancy Patricia Romero.

At the close of the council meeting, prior to adjourning, entertainment was provided by a Zumba exercise dance by Lupita's Crazy Z Fitness, Magic tricks performed by Chispirrin Magic Show and Norteno Mexican Folk Music by brothers Edgar Salinas, Oziel Salinas Jr. and Felix Ochoa.

A special volunteer appreciation award was presented to City Secretary Joyce Raines for her valuable volunteer service to the city...both Mayor Diaz and former Mayor Allan Jamail stated how much Joyce had done in the many events annually as a volunteer. Mr. Jamail stated that they had another one for her running mate and that was Kathy Greiner, the bookkeeper and Assistant City Manager but she wasn't here tonight so the Mayor would present it to her at another meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Salinas, 10910 Lane St. thanked the City Officials and Mr. and Mrs. Jamail for giving them the opportunity to participate and volunteer.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for coming out and for volunteering, that as Mr. Jamail stated, volunteering comes from the heart and he enjoyed their presentations.

Council Member Lee stated that it certainly wasn't the average council meeting, he thanked them for what they did and appreciated them being here. He thanked Mr. Jamail for letting us know about it and God Bless everyone.

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Council Member Garcia stated that she seconded that motion, that it hadn't been an average council meeting tonight but she really enjoyed the performances. (She translated this in Spanish) she thanked Mr. Jamail for getting all this together and recognizing each of our volunteers.

Council Member Gonzales thanked Mr. Jamail for presenting the volunteers and advised the ladies that they did a great job and maybe we could do this at some of our Christmas parties also.

Council Member Garcia stated that she forgot to mention one other thing, that at the police station there was a jar where residents or anyone could make donations that goes toward our pound in Jacinto City and those funds go to help pay the cost of their doctor, etc..

Mayor Diaz thanked Mr. Jamail for bringing all the volunteers up here so that we could meet them and express our appreciation for all that they do in the city and we hope to see them back at future council meetings and reminded everyone to stay for cake and punch.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**