

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. City Attorned DeFoyd out of state.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala wished the graduates the best and good luck on their career. He stated that he also wanted to thank the community, that he wasn't here at the last council meeting and he wanted to thank the community for supporting the community and our police department during the tragic situation they had to deal with and he also wanted to recognize Pastor Marin for Second Baptist Church who was present at an incident that happened here in our city, we needed a Spanish speaker and he was there to help us for a long period of time and we wanted to give him our thanks. He stated that he also wanted to point out that CC's Pizza was also in the remodeling stage right now , we had a burglary there and they did quite a bit of damage. He advised there was a big transformation going on at their police department, they were now working on the outer walls. He also advised that they had received \$9,000.00 from TXDOT to purchase 8 raider units. He also wanted to let everybody know that through June 30th the one way street at Whittier Elementary would still be enforced during school hours. He stated that he just wanted to let everybody know that July 4th was just around the corner, there would be people out there with fireworks and it was against the Ordinance and they were going to follow it, there would be citations issued and confiscation of fireworks we don't want anybody getting hurt, it was a safety issue. He stated that he also wanted to recognize Becky Gammage, they had an incident

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where there was a small kitten out in street by the police station at 6:30 in the morning, they called her and she was there within 15 minutes and she had already found a home for the kitten.

Chief Mier reported that things were pretty quite around the station, that July 4th was just around the corner and the fireworks would be on the high road starting at 9:00 p.m..

Bernardo Perez, Public Works Department, stated that we had dodged a bullet with the storm and they were working to take care of the city and would be out spraying as soon as the rain stopped.

Mesha Shuptrine, reporting for Parks and Recreation, advised that they were in the mist of Jacinto City's kids programs and had 44 kids enrolled and the program would continue through July 28th and went over a lot of the activities that were included in the program.

Mayor Diaz advised that our program was free and that Galena Park charged for theirs.

Mesha advised that the annual bike parade was at the gym on the 4th of July at 11:00 a.m., the gym would be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and they would have free hotdogs and chips, etc. so please come out and join them.

Mayor Diaz also advised that the Jacinto City Library provided a free lunch there during the summer.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, reported that last Friday they had celebrated Father's Day at the center with a breakfast and had 43 seniors there. She thanked Precinct 2 for coming by and providing them with important information. She explained how the center worked to the people in the audience and advised that they take the seniors to different events and to Walmart shopping once a month an if

they were 60 plus they would love to have them come by the center and join them.

Ms. Avezuela, Jacinto City Library, stated that she was glad that the weather didn't interfere with any of the summer programs and that their Summer Reading Program was on going and they can sign up until August she also ask that anyone interested in joining Friends of the Library and volunteering to please contact them at the Library

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz advised that we were working on the pool, that she knew they didn't see any progress, that we just got the completed plans and they should see some digging very soon. She ask Lon for a time line and he advised that as soon as they reviewed the plans and the Council approved them work should start. Mayor Diaz reported that the Police Station was progressing and looking good.

Mayor Diaz encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the July 4th fireworks and that Constable Diaz and Precinct 2 would be handing our bags of peanuts and to be sure and bring their mosquito spray.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that for the last two weeks he had been writing the CDBG Grant, this was the large one and the project cost was over 1.2 million for water lines and this was going to be the one from Kirby to Holland and all the streets between.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council Recommendation of Variance Board at 1306 Holland Ave.**

City Manager Squyres advised that we had a little unusual situation, the gentleman that had applied for the variance, Mr. Roberto Espana has applied for a permit for a circus, it was a no ride no animal circus on a piece of property at the corner of Holland Avenue and Palestine and he had a hearing to apply for a temporary use permit and he was not able to make that meeting Tuesday night so he got with the City Attorney and the City Council is the Power of City as far as making these decisions, that the Variance Boards makes recommendation to the Council so the City Attorney was very comfortable with them making the decision with or without the recommendation of the Variance Board.

Mayor Diaz ask Mr. Espana if he would like to come up to the podium and address the Mayor and Council and Mr. Espana explained what they did, no rides, no animals just entertainment, clowns etc., that it was a family circus that they had 290 chairs, it was a small one and he went over a number of locations where they set up and perform

Mayor Diaz stated that she thought it would be great for families and would bring people into the city.

Council Member Garcia stated that she was concerned, that she had just passed by the property and she was trying to visualize the tent and everything and she was wondering about the parking and the hours.

Mr. Espana stated that they plan to park close to the tent and the people who had the gas station had told them they could park in there to and it would be Monday through Thursday at 8:00 p.m. and Fridays and Sunday at 6:00 p.m..

Council Member Robinson ask if he said they were going to put the tent back there and he was looking at 290 chairs and how big of tent was it and he expected to put how many cars from the tent to Holland.

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Mr. Espana stated they thought they could take about 20 spots in front of the circus and another 20 at the station.

Council Member Robinson stated that you had 40 vehicles and you were going to put 290 people in 40 vehicles.

Mayor Diaz stated that you didn't expect 290 people to come in one day.

Mr. Espana stated they could ask about at other businesses.

Council Member Robinson ask if he was talking about parking across the street and people having to cross the street and discussed the danger with people crossing the street at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with no security.

Mr. Espana stated that they could have some security if necessary.

Council Member Gonzales ask if we had any feedback from the residents.

City Manager Squyres stated that we had one person at the meeting and he knew that they had already spoke to that person immediately west, who was a renter there and their only concern wasn't the circus at all, it was the fact that they have this overgrown area between their property and that property that is clear for the circus and their fear was that they see rats, etc. now on that property and were fearful that with all the activity it was going to drive rodents on to their property so in preparation for this meeting they had already talked to the property owner and this gentleman and if they give him permission it was going to be conditional because we were going to put other conditions beyond what council does, we were going him to do life safety codes and things like that and one of those restrictions would be that they clear that piece of land that is overgrown as well and whether council allowed it or not, they were going to have to have

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sufficient parking as per the Zoning Ordinance that would match his occupancy to the parking and explained how this was arrived at.

Mr. Espana was ask how long they would be there and advised it would be three weeks from July 14th to July 31st.

Council Member Robinson ask where the performers were going to stay and was advised by Mr. Espana that they would stay in trailers park behind the tent and there was discussion as to how much space this would take. Council Member Robinson stated this would not comply with our ordinance which required them to be parked on concrete or a paved area and would require another variance.

Council Member Garcia stated that she had done her homework and didn't find anything bad on the circus.

Chief Ayala was ask for his thoughts on the circus and stated that he would need more information but the would work with them.

Council Member Lee stated that if they decide to do it and obviously it was a work in progress we would have to deal with the problems as they come up and ask if he would be willing to do this on an annual basis and would he be coming back.

He stated they try to play every year about two weeks a year.

Council Member Rivas ask if they would be serving concessions there, Or have any fire acts or smoking allowed.

He was advised that they would see concessions, no alcohol, they have 16 members, all family except 2 and they sell cotton candy, popcorn candy, sodas & water.

Council Member Robinson ask what would they do with their garbage and was advised that they would have a dumpster and Porta cans.

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Council Member Lee ask if they charge admission and was advised that they did.

There was general discussion about the circus.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to allow the variance for the circus. Vote: 2 For 3 Against (voting against: Robinson, Rivas and Gonzales)

2. Mayor and Council to recognize top 10% Galena Park and Furr High School Graduates residing in Jacinto City.

Council Member Garcia stated that on behalf of the Mayor and Council she would like to thank the graduates and their families for being here today, stating that this was probably their first council meeting and we Wanted to show them what we do because in year to come some of them might be sitting up here. She stated that it was quite an accomplishment for them to be in the top 10%, that they had put in a lot of work and hours and we were happy and honored to be able to recognize their accomplishments. She reminded them to always remember that they didn't make it on their own and if they looked right behind them they would see their support system back there. She shared a story with them that she shares each year.

Council Member Garcia and other members of the Council presented Certificates, hats, pins and a gift bag from Capital Bank to the following graduates who shared their plans for college with the audience: Ana Ayarzagaita, Mariana Mayorga, Angelica Rodriguez, Carla Benavides, Shelby Loya, Andrea Marroquin, Jailene Salinas and Jesus J. Armenta, Jr..

The graduates and audience were invited to share cake and punch after the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

A representative from Furr High School announced that they would be moving into the new building on July 10th and it was a very exciting time for them.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, spoke to and congratulated the 2017 graduates of Furr and Galena Park High Schools. The topic of his speech was in training to develop a system of success for life.

Garret Berg, Port of Houston Authority congratulated the graduates on their hard work and accomplishments. He advised that the Port of Houston has an intern program where they can get on hand experience as to what the Port does and also get paid for that and he hopes that they will consider applying for one of those positions and he had heard a lot of them talk about San Jacinto College and they had a great program there. He stated that mosquito season was upon us and stated that they are testing for mosquitoes with drones and explained how it worked. He stated that 4th of July was coming up and the fireworks and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday. He stated that City Council had actually joined them this past week and a lot of people did not know that they do free boat tours and it was a good chance to come out and see what the port is doing and see the ship channel and they would love to have them come out and he brought some information that he would place on the table and he brought a bunch of Texas Bluebonnets so feel free to take them and help beautify the area. He stated that if anyone ever had question or wanted to reach the Port, they had a community information line and the phone sat right next to his desk and if they called for any reason the number was 670-1000 and it was on the information he was leaving on the table.

Mayor Diaz thanked Garret for coming out and encourage the graduate to look into the intern program and take advantage of the free boat tour.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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Council Member Rivas stated that graduation was an exciting time, it closed up the past but opened up the future and it sounded like everyone has a plan and that was great, stick to it and go forward and he congratulated the graduates.

Council Member Robinson stated that he wanted to congratulate all of them on their hard work and accomplishments, they had their whole life ahead of them and to keep shooting for the stars and wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July.

Council Member Lee congratulated the graduates, stating that we appreciated them and one day they would look back at high school and think how great those years were. He wished them the best and he would be praying for them.

Council Member Garcia stated that we had one graduate come in during the meeting and ask Jesus J. Armenta Jr. to please come forward and be recognized and he was presented with a Certificate and other items and announced where he would be going to collage.

Council Member Garcia reminded everyone to not forget to call Public Works or City Hall to report mosquitoes so that the city could continue to spray.

Council Member Gonzales congratulated the graduates, stating that hard work pays off and they did their families proud and wished everyone a safe 4th of July.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**