

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and city Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members resent: Mayor Pro Tem Robinson, Council Members Rivas, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz and Council Member Lee were out of the city.

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 as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala passed on his report.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works Department, reported that because of all of the rain they were staying busy trying to keep up with all the grass mowing.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that they had a good turnout for the July 4th Bike Parade, that everyone enjoyed hot dogs after the parade and their Kids Program was still going on with good attendance. Ivan reported that they were working with the Food Bank to provide lunch at the gym for anyone under 18 years old and the kids attending the program were receiving lunch as well from 12:30 – 1:30.

Ivan advised that they would be having a blood drive at Town Center on Friday, July 21st and they could call the gym for information.

Ms. Avezuela, Jacinto City Library advised that they had scheduled activities through the summer and you could still sign up for the reading program.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson stated that he would skip the Mayor's Report at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that the thing that we get ask most about is when do we get started working on the pool and at the last meeting we announced that we had the construction plans and the council got to see them so they are ready to go in our view but the builder had a few changes they wanted to make so those are being done now and verbally they are telling us they will be breaking ground the first week of August, he had ask for that in print by tonight but it was not in his email just before he came over here, but tentatively we should have a ground breaking the first week of August.

He announced that there was going to be a spay and neuter clinic on October 10th and it will be absolutely free for cats and dogs, it would be at Town Center and they would do somewhere between 250 and 300 animals in one day and Jacinto City will get first shot at it and he thinks the notice will be in this month's water bill and they will have a chance to sign up first and then we will offer it to other surrounding areas as well.

He advised that I-10 would be closed East bound this weekend from Gelhorn all the way to Akron, it would cause some problems so plan around that.

He stated that the Mayor ask him to mention that we would be having a workshop this coming Tuesday, a budget related workshop for the sole purpose of talking about health insurance for the city and the speaker would be the TML Healthcare Representative, their underwriter was United Healthcare and they had already done a presentation to the City Hall Staff and Department Heads that were able to make it but we knew the City Council would have some question and after this we would start rolling into normal budget workshops.

City Manager Squyres stated that he wanted to comment on something that happened a couple of weeks ago that we are going to prevent from happening again. He stated they might have gotten in the middle of a mess on Market Street with literally over 4000 bike riders invading Jacinto City and leaving their trash behind, it was called Critical Mass and we knew nothing about it whatsoever, it just invaded our city. His understanding was that our police department got a call as they approached the city, this was mostly after dark and most of them were not well lit, most of them did not wear helmets, some were drinking and it was a mess. He stated that HPD escorted those through the city and that would never happen again, we have since squared that with HPD and in the future there would be a lot better communication if they try to do something like that and if they tried something like that again, we would be waiting for them at the city limits and they would be redirected around the city, they were not welcome, there was no permit whatsoever in Houston or here, Houston views it as a protest and doesn't require a permit but in Jacinto City we require a permit, we want to know you are coming. He stated that every store up and down Market Street had them using the bathroom and parking areas. He stated that from this point forward we go with Harris County Emergency Management, they will be monitoring this Organization now and if they try to head out of the City of Houston, and they don't announce the route to anybody, they twitter it out about 30 minutes before so Emergency Management will notify the EMC's and Mayors if it happens to any other city and at least give them a warning.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson stated that the fireworks display was really good and he had heard no complaints at all about it.

There was general Discussion regarding the fireworks.

City Manager Squyres stated that our Fire Chief was not with us tonight, she had a sick child and she was under the weather herself but he did want to commend her and for those that did not know how the fireworks were done, she was the one licensed to shoot the fireworks and had

been for several years now and each city contributed \$7000.00 to that show and it buys you 20 to 30 minutes of fireworks depending on how you shoot them and normally the pyrotechnician get a 10% fee for doing the show so she turned down \$1,400.00 and insisted that it be donated back into the show which elevated the quality of the show and that is the way the city has done this from day one when we started doing this again and she was carrying on that same tradition.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council to confirm Terry Wayne Hodges as Full Time Jacinto City Police Officer**

Chief Ayala advised that Mr. Hodges has worked for the city for a number of years before going to Harris County Constable's Pct. 3 where he had worked for 28 years before retiring with 8 of those years as a Captain, that he came highly qualified and he recommended that the council confirm him as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to confirm Mr. Hodges as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson administered the Oath of Office to Officer Hodges and presented him with his badge.

Officer Hodges stated that it had been 29 years since he left and he was glad to be back over here and hoped that he could be of help to the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson introduced and welcomed new Telecommunications Dispatcher Ester Perez.

2. Council approval of Mutual Aid Fire Protection and Agreement with Harris County.

City Manager Squyres explain the Mutual Aid Agreement.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

3. Former Mayor Allan Jamail to address Mayor, Council & City Administration concerning Zika and other disease breeding mosquito locations in the city and other concerns.

Mr. Jamail stated that before he got into his agenda item he would like to point out that we had a person in our city that was in dire need of our help, the name was Fernando Zarate and anyone interested in taking a bag of food by there the family was in dire need of help, that they could in touch with the President of Keep Jacinto City Clean Teresa Arzapala that she had the address. He stated that Teresa, Irasema, Linda along with the Keep Jacinto City Clean members along with some more ladies had a taco dinner this week and raised \$1,200.00, he advised that the gentleman had a wife and three children and he was the bread winner and he has cancer and there was not much hope for him so the doctors day but we know that God can do anything but it was stage four cancer. He stated that he was proud to see that organization come together and do another good thing in the city as it always does. He stated that Teresa and Irasema go down to the nursing home and take care of those people and also plant flowers and things down there so Keep Jacinto City Clean is all over this city doing good things and they have good officers.

Mr. Jamail stated that he had on the agenda to discuss the Zika and other disease mosquito breeding locations and he had talked

with the City Manager and the Chief of Police about this and he had been up here several times talking to the Mayor and Council and he wanted to thank each and everyone of them sitting up there because he knew what it was like in those positions, there was a lot of weight on their shoulders, they had to make a lot of decisions that affect ten thousand plus citizens in this city and those decisions were sometimes not easy so he knows that what they are doing they need to be commended for.

Mr. Jamail stated that getting back to the reason why he was here, he was not complaining on the city and very seldom would you ever hear him complain on the city, he always praised the city but we have a problem and the problem is that some of the locations that they are reporting of high grass is of repeat offenders, it is not something that our ordinance deals with and the latest numbers that he came up with was that on 197 reports that Keep Jacinto City Clean reported concerning high grass where Zika and other disease mosquitoes are nesting out of that 197 reports, 96% of those are falling on rent houses and most of those rent houses are vacant and the others are vacant lots and normally vacant lots are owned by someone who doesn't live in the city as well as a lot of the rent houses. He stated the way the City Ordinance was written and he was asking for their help and he was very serious about this and he explained how the procedure of notify property owners of the violations and the time frame for correcting them. The Committee had provided picture of different violations they were bringing to the Mayor and Council's attention. He stated that the bottom line was that the city send out these letter and these people who are repeat offenders are waiting to receive that letter, they are not going out until the receive a threat by this city that they are going to be taken into court and this is repeated month after month. Mayor Jamail requested that the Mayor, Council and City Attorney look at this and do something if they are repeat offenders, if they get more than three notice in a year, instead of sending them a letter, give them a ticket, that we had to do

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something. The City was doing a good job but we had a weak spot in the ordinance and people were abusing it.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson thanked Mr. Jamail for his comments.

There were no Public Comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked Mr. Jamail for bringing this to their attention and that he didn't have any problems with trying to correct these problems, that they were bad, that one of the things that he would like to see done and ask if there was an issue with us going onto private property and ask the City Attorney that if we go onto the property would we be trespassing.

Mr. DeFoyd stated that we could go on the property and inspect it, the city had every right to inspect the property but we didn't have the right to do anything else without notifying the owner. He called attention to one of the pictures that Mr. Jamail brought up at 10246 Chadwick and ask him if he said that someone was living in that and was advised that it was vagrants and he advised that it was not for human habitation and it looked to him like the building could be condemned because it was an unsafe structure. He stated that maybe Lon could get the building official to inspect it closer and see whether or not it was a safe structure and if not, we could ask the owner to tear it down and if he didn't we could go through the process to condemn it and have it torn down.

Council Member Rivas stated that sending out certified letter and getting a receipt back that they received it was good but could we go further and place a sign on the property stating that they needed to notify or call the city concerning an issue the city would like to resolve.

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Mr. DeFoyd stated that the city could start issuing citations to the owner but before we do anything like tearing building down you have to notify the owner and go through the process.

City Manager Squyres advised that City Attorney DeFoyd had just gotten back from his association meeting for City Attorney's and was nice enough to bring him his binder on it and he was reading it because of these and a couple of others we have and there was a whole section on hoarding which this come close to in some areas and he had all kind of ideas that he wanted to sit down and talk to Jim about because of this so we might have some tools from that presentation to work with.

City Attorney DeFoyd talked about hoarding being a disease which could be a danger to them as well as the neighbors.

Council Member Rivas stated that another concern he had was the swimming pool, that we talked about it every meeting and he was asking that we start getting updates weekly by e-mail.

Council Member Garcia ask Lon what were the dates on the Spay and Neuter event that was scheduled and was advised that it was October 7th and we didn't have the hours yet, it would be on the City Website soon, the organization was moving into the building On the evening of the 6th so it might be as early a 7:00 a.m. but it would be a schedule the animal kind of thing, it would be on your water bill and on the website and you would schedule you animal and have it there at that time and this was on top of the ongoing Spay and neutering program we have for cats and explained how this worked as well.

Council Member Garcia related an incident she experienced with a litterer and suggested that if they see someone littering to call the police, we didn't want to issue them a ticket but we did want them to be aware of the ordinance.

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She welcomed Officer Hodges back to the city and reminded everyone to be sure and call if they were having a mosquito problem.

Council Member Gonzales ask Lon what the date and time was for the closing of I-10 East Freeway and was advised that it was from 6:00 p.m. Friday evening until 5:00 a.m. on Monday morning.

Council Member Gonzales commented on the pictures that Allan had given out, stating that he knew that we did a lot of this already and he thought Mr. Jamail was wanting more consistency out of that but we had to keep in mind also that we have had a lot of rain and the grass is going to keep growing until it dries up but we are working on it and what he was going to ask the Chief if there was a problem with these people getting the letters and did they ignore them, he knew that we could certify them and they answer them that way.

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

Council Member Gonzales stated that he was sure some of the renters were the problem, they neglect to take care of it and ask if having the city mow it and charge them might be an option.

City Manager Squyres stated that was exactly what we do, we go ahead and mow it and then we lien that property where they can't sell that property and what we were trying to do also on that, let say if it was a rent house and we have to mow your yard, you aren't going to be able to rent that house out until you pay your bill for mowing because we aren't going to hook your water up, it keeps them from renting the house out until they pay for mowing. He stated that we were looking at potential ordinance as to ways to communicate better with owners of rent property because he was sure that an argument could made that there was two sides to this by property owners, maybe they live out of town and they don't see

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that that their tenant isn't mowing the grass and if they were aware of it they would probably take care of it and if we have a way to contact the owner if we have a problem with the renter.

Council Member Gonzales welcome Office Hodges.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson advised that he, Council Member Garcia and City Manager Squyres had met with Harris County and we might possibly be able to get some streets asphalted by them.

Mayor Pro Tem Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**