

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council Met in regular session on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Robinson, Council Members Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz and Council Member Rivas absent due to work, Council Member Garcia on vacation and City Attorney Defoyd out of State.**

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

**A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 Against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Chief Ayala stated that he wanted to report on the story here in our city concerning the child predator, that he was in custody at Harris County and commended their department for their work on the case.**

**He thanked public works for all their help with the maintenance of their building.**

**Chief Mier stated that it had been very quite at the station and she had nothing to report at this time.**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that they hadn't been seeing many mosquitoes or receiving complaints but are still spraying. He stated that the contractor would start working on the dip on Market Street in front of the police station on Monday and that it might cause some traffic problems.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Department, advised that tomorrow would be the last day of their Summer Kids Program and they would be having a party with games, etc. and he also announced that we would be having movie night in the park on Saturday.**

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**Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated that everything was going great at the center and they have two more participants to add to the program and she thought they had already gone a little bit over 80 seniors registered for congregate meals.**

**She stated that from July 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> she had attended a conference on Ageing in Texas and the main topic was funding.**

**She stated that she had given Mayor Pro Tem Robinson a letter they had received at the center today and they were very proud to receive these comments.**

**Ms. Avezuéla, Jacinto City Librarian, thanked the City Officials and Department Heads for their help at the Library. She advised that their summer programs were winding up and they were working on some programs for around Veterans Day and anyone that would like to participate or volunteer could call the library.**

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Pro Tem Robinson read the letter that Heritage Hall had received from Maria Catalina, who stated that her mother, a longtime resident of Jacinto City, was so happy to receive the daily meals, that when she called her in the evening she only wanted to talk about the delicious meal she received and how sweet the girl was who delivers the meals. Ms. Catalina wrote that it was such a relief to she and her sister to know that she was being checked on daily and receiving a well balanced meal Monday through Friday. She thanked the staff for all that they do to help the elderly be more independent and sent a donation to Jacinto City Meals on Wheels.**

**Mr. Robinson thanked Elizabeth and Staff, stating that it was rewarding to get letters of appreciation.**

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**City Manager Squyres stated that it was budget time and we would be having budget hearing, workshops and all those things that we were running a little bit later this year, there were a couple of pieces of information that haven't come in yet. Harris County Appraisal District, by law, was supposed to provide us a tax roll by the 25<sup>th</sup> of July and we haven't seen that yet and we also just received some news on an insurance rate hike that scared us all to death so we are talking to a couple of other insurance companies and had a public meeting a couple of weeks ago about that topic and are waiting on proposals and then will put those numbers in and will be presenting that and we had plenty of time to meet all the statutory requirement of the city and we would not be late passing or ratifying our budget and tax roll.**

**Mr. Squyres stated that he did want to mention that we had a problem home on Serpentine that we have all received complaints about, it was 1609 Serpentine and quite frankly it was a trash heap and once they moved out, the city basically took control of the property and public works, brought in dumpsters and equipment, and it was filthy, disgusting work to say the least. They boarded up the house and removed the mess and the dumpster would be gone in a day or two and the neighbors could not say enough good things about the public works guys and rightly so. He stated the flip side to that, obviously the city is spending some money on man power and dumpsters; we got with another family member who is actually going to inherit the house himself and he has already volunteered to pay for all the work we have done and wants to hire a crew to come in and clean up the interior of it and sell or rent out the home so it was nice to see someone step up to the plate and do the right thing, it would be no cost to the city and another decent home restored to the city and we were looking forward to that.**

**There was no Unfinished Business.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Council authorization to re-advertise for bids on police unit #28**

**2013 Dodge Charger to be sold as is.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to authorize re-advertising for bids on police unit #28 to be sold as is with bids due back on August 24, 2017. Vote: 3 For 0 Against**

**2. Becky Gammage to address Mayor and Council regarding needed Dog pound updates.**

**Becky Gammage, 1318 Belin, stated that she would like to thank the Council for allowing her to address them about the dog pound, that our city was growing larger each passing year and the city departments were having to be made bigger and better to try to keep up with this growth and serve the need of the city and with this said, she would like to bring attention to the animal control department, it was the same as it had always been, the building has been there always and it can no longer serve the city as it should and with the city's growth of residents comes many pets and although there is a lease law in Jacinto City many ignore it. She stated that at this time we have an animal control officer, Eric Jones, that does a great job keeping those loose dogs picked up and sometimes it was hard for them to find places in this short time to send the unclaimed dogs and that was the rescue's problem not the city's. She stated that she would like to say that since the city had implemented the trap and release program for all the JC cats, the JC animal control department had successfully altered more than 65 cats and that was a great job. So they could see the city had made some changes, with the help of JC Rescue dogs are no longer killed unless they are being to aggressive to place and they appreciate the city allowing them to partner with this department to insure that the animal's rights are enforced. She stated it was the time of year to decide where money would be spent and tonight she stood before them and ask that the animal control department that had been passed over time and time again get the needed money to meet or exceed State guidelines, that grants were found to improve other departments and**

**she knew that grants were available to get this new facility for animal control, she knew that this might not be important to some of them but to the rescue and many animal lovers here in the city it was very important that changes be made to keep up with the changing of time. Ms. Gammage stated that she would like to mention that even the truck was not up to standard anymore, that dogs should never be placed in a cubby hole and transported without air conditioning, she stated that she believed that Kyle had budgeted for a replacement vehicle to insure that the dogs are not put in danger of overheating. She stated that with the City's help, the Rescue would continue to educate and assist residents as they could, that she would love to see an ordinance passed that said all dogs and cats must be altered, that the entire State of Texas had a problem with pet overpopulation, they had to have a bigger place to house those loose dogs and it had to come up to today's standards. She stated that she was open for questions or remarks.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Robinson advised Ms. Gammage that she needed to do that after the meeting or during comments from the public, not at the podium. He assured her that everyone appreciated what they were doing.**

**Chief Ayala recognized Lt. Walker and Detective Silva and he just wanted to say that Detective Silva did a tremendous job investigating the child predator case here in our city and getting the predator off the street, that without delay she worked on the case, presented it to the media, located him and brought him in and he wanted to thank her for the fine work she did.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**Katherine Roses, 1319 Oates Rd., She called attention to Heritage Hall on Oates Rd. and stated that by law she had always heard for years that you were a senior at 55 and she had tried with this Heritage Hall for a while, and even her Pastor had tried to help her with it and we are stuck with 60 and that was that. She stated that she was 59 now and she**

**couldn't understand that because by law you were a senior at 55 and she had heard that a lot of different ones start at 55.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that it was not the city that gets to make that decision, that program was funded with Federal dollars, it was a grant that we receive and Elizabeth was really a nice person and if she could include you in that feeding program she would but they don't allow us to do that, they have very strict regulations, it was a Federal level decision, it comes from Washington and they dictate, when we sign on that grant we have to meet all the requirements to get that grant to feed our seniors and they are very rigid about what age limit that can and can't receive those meals so we don't have a choice.**

**Ms. Roses stated that she wasn't wanting to go there for food, that she had food stamps, it was about participating in the programs, doing arts and crafts, going on trips, etc..**

**City Manager Squyres stated the whole program was funded with that grant, he was just using the food as an example, that if she would see him or Elizabeth after the meeting they might be able to include her as a volunteer or something but as a participant in the program she would have to be 60 and it sounded like she was almost there now.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Lee stated that he wanted to thank everybody up here at this table and even the one who were not here tonight and all of them out there, they were doing a great job, he commented to Detective Silva that she should be on television she looked great on there and they did a great job and he appreciated all of them.**

**Council Member Gonzales commended the police department, everyone involved, it took everybody's dedication to do these jobs and we as citizens appreciate it. He commended Kyle and public works on the job the did when the storm blew through yesterday, they did good work getting the city cleaned up afterwards.**

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**Mayor Pro Tem Robinson stated that like everyone said, he also appreciated what they do out there, the police department did a good job, we need to keep those kind of people out of here.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m..**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**