

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2017

The Mayor and City Council met for a public hearing on the proposed tax rate for 2017 on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Robinson, Council Members Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas and Council Member Garcia absent.

City Manager Squyres stated that the budget that was proposed this year and then slightly revised with the council's input was based on an identical tax rate as last year which was \$0.783554 per \$100 valuation so there was no tax increase, in fact, as they would see in a little bit there was a very small tax decrease, he stated that he would like to cover a few primary issues much like he did on the original hearing. He stated the pay scale would be a 3% raise across the board and a lot of that was going to be a cost of living with a slight portion of it being merit so if they were a typical employee they would see a 3% raise and this applies to contract employees, part time employees and fulltime employees. He stated that our biggest concern in this budget process was health insurance, the initial proposal from Blue Cross Blue Shield contained a 26.1% increase which was absolutely not something the city could adjust to and as they knew, we had a workshop based on it, talked with TML who quoted an even higher rate than Blue Cross so we went into negotiations with Blue Shield and was able to bring that rate down to a 15% increase which was what we had put in the budget and the plan number was MMO and discussed some of the change from our original plan. He stated that tomorrow we were meeting with Colonial Insurance to see about creating a Flex Medical in the city and explained how this would work and that we would bring it back to council, that this was a plan that the individual employee could opt in or opt out of.

He advised that we had talked a lot about new legislation and there was still the same cap on small cities as there was before, that we did not fall under the new cap for property taxes so it was still 8% before

a rollback. He stated that the tax rate that we were giving council tonight was actually below the effective tax rate, so we were going to be taxing our residents at what would effective be a lower rate, now that doesn't mean that if your property appraisal went up a little you might have a slight increase but on average everybody in the city would be paying slightly lower this year than last year. He stated that this proposal also carried a \$2.50 increase which was agreed to last year for the garbage fee. He stated the budget did not include a water rate increase, we were able to come up with some ways to avoid that but he did recommend that when we receive Houston annual increase in April that we pass it along to the customers and he would suggest that we do that every year forward instead of trying to eat those increases.

There was discussion on how often Houston had an increase and how long it had been since we had increased our water rates.

Mr. Squyres went over the Capital Outlay cost include in the budget and stated that we also included some money for roads and instead of us spending the money directly, the County had allowed us to enter and MOU with them and they would tack it onto the \$500,000 they were going to be spending because they get about 30% more roadway for their money than we do because of volume they spend.

Mr. Squyres went over the proposed revenue and expenditures for the FY 2017/2018 budget.

The Public Hearing was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem Robinson at 5:45 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

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The meeting was opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala passed on his report.

Chief Mier passed on the Fire Department Report.

Public Works Director, Kyle Reed, advised that mosquitoes were bad, they were spraying and that the Air Force was also doing aerial spraying and we would continue to spray as long as there was a need. He stated that they had picked up a lot of trash but there was still a lot of trash out there.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that on Friday, September 22nd the Food Bank would give out food at the gym from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and on September 23rd the We Care Program Would be at the gym from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and they had a representative here that would give more information about the program.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that a few of the seniors didn't want the MRE they had handed out, they said they were too hard to prepare and all else was going well.

Council Member Robinson stated that he appreciated all the citizens and staff did during the storm.

City Manager Squyres just to give you an idea, we all think we are getting back to normal and this could go on for years, we had just finished paper work for Hurricane Ike before this storm hit so we are in for the long haul, they would see a lot of paperwork on the agenda

tonight, FEMA, GLO, etc. and they all disagree with each other and it makes it very difficult for cities to get anything done.

City Manager Squyres stated that he could not say enough about staff, he had two girls spending the week at city hall, literally 24 hours a day, Joyce and Kathy were both there from the time this started, phone were answered, they were not transferred to anywhere else, there were answering the telephones at city hall 24/7 for one full week after this storm started coming in and he didn't know of another city that could make that claim, we got every kind of call you can think of, we probably should have kept the number of call we received. He stated that our hits on the website went up into the thousands so the citizens know how to use the services provided and we also were not happy with face book, there was a lot of misinformation on face book, like we were going to turn their water off and then turn their power off so if you want the correct information please call city hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Second and final reading of Budget Ordinance 2017-3 adopting a budget for FY 2017-2018**

**The Council was polled for a vote of the budget ordinance:
Rivas – For, Robinson – For, Lee – For, Gonzales – For
4 For – 0 Against**

- 2. Second and final Reading of Ordinance 2017-4 Amending Chapter 2, Sec. 3 “Dogs” Subsection B Annual Fee for up to two dogs per owner or household upon proof such dogs have been neutered or spayed.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve Ordinance 2017-4 on the second and final reading. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 3. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2017-5 approving a design manual for installation of network nodes and node support poles; and approving a pole attachment agreement regulating the installation of network nodes on city service poles, etc.**

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Ordinance 2017-5 on the second and final reading. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 4. Second and Final reading of Ordinance 2017-6 Regulating the physical use, occupancy and maintenance of city right-of-way by wireless network providers, etc.**

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Ordinance 2017-6 on the second and final reading. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Ratify Budget for FY 2017/2018**

The Council was polled as follows:

**Rivas – For, Robinson – For, Lee – For, Gonzales – For
4 For 0 Against**

- 2. Resolution 2017-10R Approving a Submission of an Application for State of Texas Governor's Office Rifle Resistant Body Armor for the police department.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the submission of Resolution 2017-10R. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 3. Council consideration of contract with Rostan Solutions, LLC for debris monitoring operation due to Hurricane Harvey.**

City Manager Squyres stated that by law when you start moving debris now if you want to be reimbursed by FEMA, which was a 90% reimbursement when you handle debris, they have very strict rules you don't just go in and haul trash to the dump any more, not only do you have to have FEMA approved contractors you have to have a monitoring company where they actually take pictures of the person loading the truck and pictures of the trucks dumping the debris at the land field. He stated the cost just for the monitoring for us was projected to be between \$30,000 and \$50,000 so we have the next two points that Identify those companies and sign contracts with those Companies to get the work done. He stated that the city had already picked up the vast majority of the debris and the mass sheetrock and household items, etc. was in Mount Trash more over at public works, we, today, got that site permitted with TCEQ, they came out today and gave us a very close exam over the phone and in person, there was concern about the drying bed and we were able to take care of that problem so we are now a temporary land fill site for the debris. He stated that right before we came here tonight he got a call from one of these two companies saying that the State was disallowing HGAC contracts and these are preapproved contracts that HGAC goes out and bids for when these things happen, it prevents us from having to go out and issue RFP, put it in the newspaper, etc. and he explained how HGAC worked. He stated that we were hearing that they are turning down request for reimbursement from people who use these contracts so he would ask Council to pass both of these contracts with the stipulation that we seek written approval from the State or FEMA before we allow this work to continue, we do not want to continue to do any additional work and not be able to receive reimbursement from FEMA. He stated that he had called both FEMA and the State and neither had gotten back with him yet.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and

**Seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the contract with Rostan Solutions, LLC for debris monitoring.
Vote: 4 For 0 Against**

- 4. Council consideration of contract with Ashbritt, Inc. for removal & Disposal of storm and other disaster related debris.**

Mayor Diaz stated that City Manager Squyres had already discussed this and ask for a motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve contract with Ashbritt Inc. for removal and disposal of storm debris. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 5. Council to consider waiving building permit fees for Hurricane Harvey related damages through December 31, 2017.**

Council Member Lee ask if they would still have to go through the process of getting the permit but would not have to pay the fee and was advised that was correct.

**A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to waive building permit fees for Hurricane Harvey related repairs through December 31, 2017.
Vote: 4 For 0 Against**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A representative from MD Anderson stated that they were presenting a program called WE CAN to be held at the Jacinto City Recreation Center on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. She stated it was a fun nutrition and physical activity for Jacinto City Residents, parents and children ages 7-14 years old, that they would have free and fun sporting equipment for children, that breakfast and lunch was included and the first 50 families would receive a gift card

and they were looking forward to sharing the activities with the families, that they had presented the program last year and it was well received.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas ask Kyle if he was right that the Air Force would be spraying for mosquitoes. He was advised that was correct, they were going to spray over all bodies of standing water whether it was flood water, the levy or anywhere they see standing water from the air and they can hit it.

Mr. Rivas stated that he had a question on the swimming pool, that the last time he visited it was full of water and had we done anything to get that out.

He was advised by Kyle that the water had already been pumped out and the safety issue he was concerned about had been corrected by the contractor and that he and Ivan were to meet with the contractor tomorrow.

Mr. Rivas stated that looking at Hurricane Harvey and what it brought, that just tonight to saw the part that we hear so many time, One Nation Under God, because so many people came from so many places to help out, that he was on his way home and he got to see New York Firefighters heading down 59, in a convoy, headed this direction and it was really awesome, God Bless everyone.

Council Member Robinson stated that like he said earlier, he would like to thank the citizens and our employees, it had been a trying time for everybody and a coming together time for everybody and we still have a lot going on out there, everyone be careful and look out for your neighbors.

Council Member Lee stated that he was just proud of everybody and all of our departments , departments heads and city hall, that everybody

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pulled together, he thought that everything ran well and was very organized and he just thanked all of them, he felt like we were blessed that the water receded as quickly as it did and there were some people who would never get to go back to their homes so we all need to realize our blessings too.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he just wanted to say thank you to all of the departments that did their job, they did it as well as they could and they did a great job, he stated that several people stayed at city hall and answered phone call around the clock and that was great, just seeing everyone do whatever they could to help and we were in the spotlight, we were on National News.

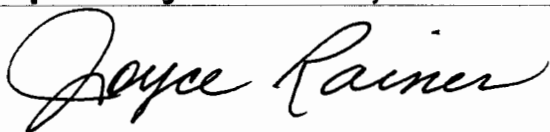
Mayor Diaz stated that she saw that as well, that it was one of the first one put up, it was here at our bayou and she was sure it was our citizens and they did that human chain to pull that guy out of the bayou. She stated she received calls asking her if she saw Jacinto City on television, that it was the first picture they put out in that video.

There were comments from Chief Mier that was not picked up by the sound system.

Mayor Diaz thanked Kyle and his guys and everyone for the wonderful job, we all pulled together and did what we had to do. She stated that she saw Mayor Turner say on the news yesterday that the debris clean up in Houston would take months to be picked up and she felt good saying Jacinto City was clean.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

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

Joyce Raines, City Secretary