

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

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas absent due to work and City Council Member Gonzales absent due to family illness.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala passed on his report.

Chief Mier reported that all was well on the Fire and EMS side, that they did respond to one fire, but was not a major fire, and advised everyone that we had some more cold weather coming and cautioned them about using their stove as a heater. She advised that we had good reviews about the Parade and Santa on the fire truck and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that he was proud of all the Christmas activities, the parade and Santa on the Fire Truck and had heard nothing but good comments and like the Fire Chief said, we have some more cold weather coming, to be prepared. He cautioned everyone about the bridge construction on Market street and that the contractor would be working through Wednesday.

Mayor Diaz stated that one of the problems was that it was so dark there and ask if he would talk with the contractor about maybe putting out some flashing lights and Kyle advised that he would.

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Ivan Rojas, Park and Recreation Director advised that they were staying busy. He announced that they would have a food distribution at the Town Center on December 29th from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that all was going well at the center and they had eight new members. She advised that Ms. Fay Chora, a longtime member of Heritage Hall was in the hospital. She stated that they were getting ready for their Christmas Party which was December 15th at 6:30 and looked forward to seeing everyone there.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that we were still very busy with the storm recovery, that the city was clean and all those things but behind the scene everyone is very busy. He stated that he did want to mention that Crystal has been handling our Christmas decorations for a few years now and it was on the website now and explained how you could vote for your favorite Christmas decoration, either home you wanted to vote for or business you wanted to vote for and this year we also ask them what they thought about the City's decorations this year and we also ask them for their e-mail address so that we could e-mail them things about events.

Mayor Diaz ask if we were going to do the most beautiful house, etc. and was advised that we were.

City Manager Squyres advised that it would only let you vote one time.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. First reading of Ordinance 2017-8 Granting Targa Downstream LLC a permit to install one (1) twenty inch low ethane propane (LPG) pipeline**

City Attorney DeFoyd read the ordinance by captions.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Ordinance 2017-8 granting a permit to Targa Downstream, LLC for a 20 inch pipeline on the first reading.

Vote: 3 For 0 Against

2. Former Mayor Allen Jamail to address Mayor and Council concerning issues in the city.

Mr. Jamail stated that he wanted to thank each and everyone of them that was here tonight for giving the citizens a good year of service and that included all the department heads sitting at the table. He stated that this city was blessed to have a group of people like we do working in our behalf and he thinks that when he gets up here he needs to point that out because a lot of times citizens don't realize and take things for granted. He stated that we had a good group of elected officials and appointed officials and he was proud to live in Jacinto City. He stated that he just wanted to bring a few things to them, that Lon, Joyce and he were talking about some things back in the ancient days when he was on the city council and it brought a few things to his mind that he might mention tonight, that they talked about Dottie's Meat Market and the Contreras Grocery Store, which some of them setting up here know nothing about at 10503 Chadwick, on the corner was the grocery store and right next to it was the meat market, it was very unusual to have that in a residential area but that was the way it was back then and also what come to his mind when he see the Christmas lights here on Market Street, that in 1985 he flew to Tennessee, at his own expense, and he went into the Long Christmas Light Manufacturing plant to look at their light and he sees Joyce shaking her head, she remembers that and he came back with pictures and brochures that Joyce and some of the others at city hall went through and picked out the ones and we still have some of those here, they were the ones with the three candles and some of them with the wreaths but that is how

that got started, saw that it was positive, it created a good spirit in the city and possibly increased sales tax because people sees Christmas Lights and get into the spirit and start buying things but that is how that came about. He stated that as all of them knew, he was writing for the North Channel Star and he did his best to try to keep positive news of this city in the paper as much as possible and he does the same for Galena Park. He stated it was sometime hard to keep news positive because there was so much going on that doesn't allow him to do that but for the most part, he was happy to say that Jacinto City had been in the news quite a bit and he thought it had all been positive. He stated that he wanted to be sure that he mentioned, if he didn't at the last meeting, that the ASTROS did win the World Series and he would like to be sure that Joyce sees that this gets in the minutes because if someone looked back a hundred years from now, because they might not win another one for a hundred years, they will say so they did win one. He stated that before he closed he wanted to say that Keep Jacinto City Clean which he started back in the early 70's was a little group that tries to do things to help the Mayor, City Council and City Administration stay on top of things, that last year they reported 327 different items, high grass, dog violations, some of the deplorable home that were falling down and a lot of them were people building or doing things without a permit. He stated that tonight they had their Vice President Irasema Salinas and his wife Linda, the Secretary here and as a matter of fact it was Irasema, this week, who turned in 10533 Chadwick which two years ago was an abandoned house which they brought to the city's attention and they had made them almost make a new building out of it and now they were putting in a driveway without a permit and she caught that and they were just trying to work with the city to make sure things are done right which helps protect the citizens. He stated that Lon was doing a good job and he was very happy that he had the website fixed so their members had a way of checking when they see something, they can go to the website and actually see if they have a permit and what it is for.

Mayor Diaz thanked Mr. Jamail for addressing them.

5. Brenda Kocian was not present to address the Mayor and Council.

There were no comments from the Public.

Council Comments:

Council Member Robinson stated that like everyone said, we did have a good Christmas Parade and Santa on the Fire Truck but also on Wednesday we distributed our Food Baskets and Toys for Tots, that there was a lot of people involved in it, he wanted to thank Joyce, the Fire Chief Rebecca and all of her family who came up and helped stuff the boxes, also Ivan and the Public Works guys and he would like to thank Chris and Ana for the donations they made, that it was a very good year with good baskets and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe and prosperous new year.

Council Member Lee wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and God bless them, that we thanked them for everything they do and as our Fire Chief said, be safe.

Council Member Garcia wished everybody Happy Holidays, be safe, enjoy themselves and put family first above all.

Mayor Diaz stated that like Joyce, Lon and everybody else here she wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and that Santa on the Fire Truck was a success, she thanked all the GPHS and Furr JROTC kids that helped pass out the stocking and thanked Constable Diaz for donating to feed the kids, they had hamburgers and hotdogs that day and Joyce and Kathy, like always did an outstanding job, She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and if they needed anything to please call and let them know.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Paines