

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council Met in regular session on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia and City Attorney DeFoyd arrived after roll call.

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 to approve the minutes as presented. Vote 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Lt. Longrigg advised that Chief Ayala was on vacation and they were staying busy.

Chief Mier reported that Fire and EMS were pretty quite right now and reminded everyone that Saturday, March 10th was the first Jacinto City Market Days from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Town Center Plaza and that they have had a good response from vendors to date. She briefly went over the type of products that would be at the Market and advised that they could go on line at marketdays@jacintocity-tx.org for more information

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that with all the rain, they were doing the best they could to keep the mowing up as well as all the other things in the city. He advised that the mosquito truck was ready to go and we were supposed to be getting more rain but they were trying to get caught up.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that the Little League opening day was Saturday, March 17th with the parade starting at 9:00 a.m.. He advised that the concession stands were being redone and looking nice and would be ready for opening day. He

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reminded everyone that the Food Bank would giving out food every 4th Friday of each month and March 24th would be the next date.

Mayor Diaz thanked Ivan for setting up the food distribution for our citizens.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that we were all familiar with the area down by the theatre and we were going to see a change in that property in the near future, that we had been working with the owner for some time now and floating the idea of a second hotel on the pad behind the Holiday Inn Express and they were in fact going to build another hotel and it was going to be a hotel that was intended for people that come into the region to work shut downs at plants and things like that, extended stay kind of thing with kitchenettes and those kind of rooms so we were really looking forward to having a second hotel, it would pull people into the city, eating in the restaurants and perhaps more restaurants coming into the city so it should be a win win thing for us. He stated that his hotel flooded so obviously he was going to build up a little bit.

He stated that he was going to put on his old EMS hat for a moment and brag on the fire department. He stated that they all had this very Complex looking thing in front of them, that he took off all the identifiers and he couldn't talk to them about when this happened or anything but every time they run a Stemi Alert they get one of these back, he stated he got copies on this the other day and he was so proud, he thinks we broke the record for Bayshore Hospital for this. He stated this was a young man that started having chest pains and was nearing death actually if this would have progressed, that the artery was 100% blocked, explained the procedure they used and that they saved this man's heart and the nice thing about it was that Bayshore was a good ways from here but that was still the hospital they use for those kinds of problem, they were the fastest hospital to get too that does this kind of work and explained that they allow our

medics to look at the EKG's and they diagnosed this in the field as a stemi and they alert the hospital they are on the way, our guys don't even stop in emergency, they go straight to the cath lab and he explained the time frame on this as shown on the picture, stating that we were able to accomplish this in half the target time and saved this young man's life. He stated that the hospital emailed him and Rebecca stating that they think this is the fastest medical contact they have to balloon yet so we own this, it was them voting for the equipment they purchased for the fire department, for the staff that we train, for the relationships that we build with the hospitals and it was nice to see that a system came together.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. First Reading of Ordinance 2018-1 cancelling May 5 2018 General City Election and declaring unopposed candidates elected.**

City Attorney Defoyd read Ordinances 2018-1 cancelling the May 5, 2018 General City Election and declaring the following candidates elected:

**Jimmy (JJ) Rivas – Council Member Position No. 1
Gregg Robinson – Council Member Position No. 2
Allan Lee – Council Member Position No. 3**

**A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to accept Ordinance 2018-1 on the first reading.
Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

- 2. Lt. Longrigg presented the 2017 Racial Profiling Report for the Jacinto City Police Department**
- 3. Allan Jamail, keep Jacinto city Clean Founder, to discuss 14 month old zika mosquito breeding pond.**

Mr. Jamail stated that he wanted to recognize all of those who won reelection, especially to do so unopposed, that he congratulated members here a year ago for being unopposed and he would say it again, being unopposed usually means, but not always, that the city officials are doing a good job and he was not going to say the other side of why they might not be opposed, it might not sound proper. He extended his sympathy to Council Member Gonzales on the loss of his mother.

Mr. Jamail stated that he was here tonight to discuss what was on the agenda but before he did he wanted to complement Officer Longrigg for that report and he hoped that he would extend to the police officer down there a citizen's appreciation for the Racial Profiling Report to show no complaints, that was good.

He stated that the Mayor also knew that he wears another hat than Keep Jacinto City Clean, he writes for the newspaper and the other hat was that he was a citizen here and he was here to address the issue that was on the agenda about the location of Kirby and Palestine that he had texted every one of them a photo of that location and he was proud of this city, he didn't want to write a negative story on a city that he loved, he wanted the city to always get write up that were positive and called attention to the current paper where he had written positive articles about Galena Park and Jacinto City and that was what he wanted to continue to do. He stated that he had always made it a policy that if he say that something needed to be written about even though it was negative, he was going to do it. He stated that the situation down there on Kirby and Palestine had gone on for to long, he didn't want to hear the excuse anymore, it would be disrespectful to him and he would take it personal if they tell him the railroad was stopping them from doing that, he knew that in 14 months that could have been taken care of and the excuse of the railroad was nothing but just an alibi so don't tell him that, he knew the Mayor told him today that was what she was told so he wasn't blaming her, she was the Mayor, the elected officials receive words and that was what

they have to base their opinions on but he knew better. He stated that if it took him having a load of sand dumped there and some citizens to shovel that sand in there to fix that, that was what they were going to do and that was going to bring a lot of negative publicity on this city when that happened but he didn't want that, he shouldn't be able to be arrested by the police because the Mayor was saying it was not their jurisdiction of Jacinto City so that means the railroad would have to come out and arrest him and he would welcome that, let them come. He stated they were going to get that fixed one way or the other, either the city is going to get with the people who has their hands tied, the railroad and fix it or either the citizens are going to fix it but this city has responded remarkably well when we had a disaster like the hurricane, that the Mayor opened up the center and took people in and each one of them took food to people, JJ and his wife brought people into their home, we can respond to things that are a hazard and emergency and this was a hazard and emergency, Zika could kill people and that was a breeding pond for those mosquitoes, He stated that he had in his car a jar of that nasty smelling, slimy water that a citizen gave him that they are having to smell that live across the street and it has mosquito larva in it and told the Mayor that if she lived about 30 ft from that he doubted very seriously if that would have lasted 14 months, he bet them anything that someone in this city with authority would have taken care of that for her without her even complaining about it but yet we have this going on down there in front of those citizens homes and anyone of them would not allow that 30 ft. in front of their homes, they would either find the sand themselves and fix it or they would call the city and they were asking and begging them to take care of that; now they would take the steps to fix it themselves if the city continues to not do what he thinks they should do and the hole was dug by this city and he and Councilman Rivas discussed this once before last year when the railroad excuse was used but the city didn't have a problem digging that hole, they were the ones that created this hole, they weren't worried about the railroad, they didn't call the railroad and say we are going to dig a hole, they just did it and thought they water would run uphill. He stated that he was begging them to do something that he really had a

lot of faith in every one of them and we couldn't just continue to let this situation continue and he was asking them to take care of it.

Mayor Diaz ask Mr. Jamail if he would please stand at the podium, that she wanted to speak to him and this was going to come from her as the Mayor. She stated that when he first started Keep Jacinto City Clean she was all for it and was still all for it and he knew that, she told him that anything he had, pictures, etc., that she would send it to Lon and Kyle and we would take care of and we had taken care of everything he had send her.

Mr. Jamail stated that yes mam they had.

Mayor Diaz stated that when he sent her this picture, the first thing she did was send it to Lon and he said he would take care of it, we are going to take care of it but he had to understand there were procedures that we have to go through in order to take care of it and like she said, anything he had sent them had been taken care of it, it might not have been right a way but we do take care of it and like she said we appreciate what he had done for us by sending us pictures and articles and thanked him for always talking positive about Jacinto City, we like to keep Jacinto City clean as much as we possibly can and on what he was talking about, she sent it to Lon and Lon was going to care of it with Kyle, and of course if she had that in front of her house she wouldn't want it there and she was sure none of the council members would want it either, she didn't know what the smell was, she had never been around it, she does drive by there and she is sure everyone else does and she apologizes for not going and checking on the foul order but we would discuss the issue and take care of it.

City Manager Squyres said let him start off by saying the railroad was no longer a major impediment to this, that he was looking at an email from the railroad that gave us permission to spread that dirt sometime ago and the email was dated June 19th that we sent to him asking

permission, it took an act of congress to find the right people at the railroad but after about 6 months of going through that we now do have a contact that we can go to the railroad and say we want to do X and they review it and let us know if we have permission and on that occasion, if he was correct, it turned into a swamp the next day or so and we were rained out of that job, could we have done it since then, absolutely, have we missed some opportunities to do it, absolutely and he was assuming that public works had more priorities at the time that they felt exceeded that at the time, it was inexcusable and we would get on it one way or another. He went over a couple of attempts to solve it that didn't work and discussed some other things they would try but he didn't think just the dirt was going to solve it, we were still going to have a lake, he thinks it will probably resolve faster than it is now and at the minimum, we should be pumping it out every time it fill up and we were also buying larva side to try to keep the larva down but this was not 100% effective, have we dropped the ball, yes we have not done as well as we should have on this and he would be the first to admit it and we would do whatever it takes to try to take care of it. He stated that he had emailed the gentleman from the railroad this week and advised him we were going through this again.

Mr. Squyres stated that we discussed this in the Charter review meeting the other day that he would like to hold the railroad accountable, that every inch of that was in the railroad right-of-way and in his view he thought that to some degree they should be held accountable for their drainage on that and other problems that they have abandoned in the city.

Mr. Jamail ask if he could respond and was advised that he could. He stated that people know him to be two things, one a bull dog, he didn't let go of something if he sees something that is wrong, he stays on it until it was fixed, that he had always found that was the way to get things accomplished and the other thing he was is a records person,

he keeps records and he has records of when he stood up here last year and passed out copies of that so it was not like the first time this has been brought up, it does smell bad and he knows that we have had some rain, he keeps up with everything in this city on a project that he has reported and he did appreciate her saying what she did about the committee, he discussed the number of people they had on the committee and this week they reported eight places and Lon would tell them that five of them got red tagged and three of them didn't. One of them was a fence that was going up that would have blocked the vision, the city didn't catch that, their committee did and reported it and Lon got people out there and stopped them. He stated that they reported a carport but he was not going to give the address, he knew them all by heart, Lon went by and looked at it and took care of it so they were reporting things to the city and they are taking care of everything they report, the drainage problem was the only thing he could say that had really fell through the hole so he appreciate everything the city was doing and they would continue to work with them to get things done.

Council Member Lee stated that he would like to say one thing, they didn't make up that about the railroad, we had a meeting with them and they let us know in no uncertain terms that was their land and they won't maintain it and they won't let us maintain it, that has changed since them but they did tell us that and several of them were at that meeting and they will arrest people for trespassing, they threatened to arrest our public works director.

Mr. Jamail stated that he didn't refer to that to insinuate that was a made up excuse, he said it was alibi, it was an alibi they were using because that was what they were told but he guarantee them that if he goes down there and starts shoveling sand they were not going to arrest him, not when they see what he is doing, that when he gets through talking to them they are going to say please fill that in Mr. Jamail. He stated that the railroad was telling them that because they came in with a lot of loads of fill dirt all the way down Palestine, that

was a major job and that is not what we are asking so they are looking at the whole scope of the work that they present to them and Keep Jacinto City Clean and those citizens are only concerned with a spot as long as that door, six feet wide, it was a hole but the city decided you were going to come in and do a big project and so sure the railroad was going to say something.

Council Member Lee stated that he thought it was because they were the railroad.

Mr. Jamail stated yes the railroad was hard headed.

Public Works Director Reed stated that he would like to put in his two cents, there was nothing he wanted more than to get this fixed, that we have worked on it that it had been wet down there ever since Harvey and he wants to fix the whole section (there was discussion about how it should be fixed that was not picked up by the sound system) Kyle stated that he keeps his records too and he appreciates Allan keeping his and he was told we didn't want to spend money and he wanted to be on record in the minutes that he want to get this fixed as bad as Allan did and he need a commitment, he needed a dozer and some top soil and we would fix that little spot but it was going to move the water because the water moved from Kirby to Holland and then we would have more problems, that he was wanting to fix the entire thing and he believed a contract should this (he explained the reasons which were not picked up by the sound system) he stated that he has 17 people in his department and they do a pretty good job of taking care of everything. He stated that he would fix that spot that Allan was talking about, he stated that he didn't live in Jacinto city but he gave it his heart and soul.

Mayor Diaz stated that we appreciate it.

Mr. Jamail stated how he thought they would be able to fix it and Kyle advised him that he would call him when they were ready to work on it.

Mayor Diaz ask how many time has we already filled this.

City Manager Squyres stated that actually we dug that one area out but to let him tell them one other thing that they might not be aware of, that next year we have a large water line project going on in that area between Holland and Kerby, all the way from Lane back up to Palestine and part of that project is going to be two bores under the railroad and he and Kyle were talking today and since we are going to be boring under the railroad anyway, it might present us an opportunity to talk to our engineers and see if there is a way to move the water over and if we could move it to the north side of the track where we have better drainage that might be a better option so he would suggest we do what Mr. Jamail was suggesting now and care for the small area immediately and then long term lets start planning a better solution for the whole distance because that was going to be a major project if we try to do ever thing between Kerby and Holland and ask Mr. Reed what how much money we were talking about.

There was discussion about what would be done and Mr. Reed stated that he really didn't know what the cost would be.

Mayor Diaz ask if she was understanding this right, if we do this work it was still on railroad property right and it would have to be approved by the railroad.

Mr. Squyres advised that the permitting from the railroad alone would be from \$5,000 to \$7,000, and we could do a study on it and make it a budget item but could we for now fix the problem they are referring to.

Kyle stated that he was sorry that it should have already been done but he has 17 people in his department and they were covered up with work, they were going to get this done but he wanted to go on record that it was going to move it on down and it was not going to go away until we spend some money on it.

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Mayor Diaz said Mr. Jamail said to put in a truck load of sand and the next rain we have it was going to do it again so it was just constant and it was not going to work, we have rain coming tomorrow and we would have it again.

Mr. Reed stated that as long as it was dry and we didn't have 90% predicted he was going to pump that out and put larva side there, we were going to do whatever we can and we have worked on it.

Mr. Jamail stated that if we overkill when we come in and work on it, It will do what he said, it will push the water down, the intelligent thing to do is get a backhoe or frontend load with a load of sand and never get on railroad property, come straight up Kerby, face Holland with the frontend loader and dump it right there but you don't dump no more than it takes to fill up that 6 Inch low spot because that is what the problem is, it is so low the water doesn't evaporate.

Mayor Diaz ask if we hadn't done that before.

There was a comment from the audience that sand would not work.

Mayor Diaz ask what had they put in there before, dirt or sand.

Mr. Reed stated that we had put sand there once and it filled back up but like he said that is not fixing the problem.

Mayor Diaz ask Mr. Jamail to understand that we were going to do what he said we should do but if we get another rain fall it was going to happen again.

Mr. Jamail stated that it would evaporate in a couple of days.

Mayor Diaz stated well we would see, we were going to do what he said but it would flood again and ask Kyle to do what Mr. Jamail said.

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Mr. Reed stated that he was going to text Mr. Jamail to come down there when he started the repairs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Christopher Diaz stated that he was selling candy for the Galena Park Senior Prom after the meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he wanted to wish his wife a happy birthday and he wanted to get her something grand and wonderful but he didn't fit in an envelope, He wished everyone a safe and good weekend and God Bless.

Council Member Robinson advised that on March 24th we would have our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Wilki Park ball fields for ages 0 – 12 years, everyone come on out and help hide Easter eggs.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for all that they do and for their comments and God Bless all.

Council Member Garcia congratulated the Council members back on board and thanked Mr. Jamail and his team, that we need another set of eyes, we couldn't do it alone and we appreciated them working with the city.

Council Member Gonzales thanked Mr. Jamail for his dedication to the city and for his kind words of sympathy and congratulated Mr. Rivas, Robinson and Lee on their return to office.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m..

**Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Raines, City Secretary**

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