

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY JULY 26, 2018, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 26, 2018 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. Council Member Garcia absent.**

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

**A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the minutes as presented. Vote 4 For 0 Against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Chief Ayala reminded everyone that National Night Out was coming up October 2<sup>nd</sup> and to call the police department if they were interested in hosting a party. He stated that we had a nudest colony moving in but they took care of it and they were having trouble with the homeless people at Mercury and the feeder street, mostly on the other side of the freeway. He advised that they were going heavy with code enforcement and there were 4 or 5 areas they were going to ask Public Works to take care of and they had notified Center Point and pipeline owners in that easement that they needed to mow. There was discussion on junk vehicles and Chief Ayala outline the process for handling junk vehicles.**

**Mayor Diaz asked how long they gave after they sent out the letter and was advised they gave them 10 days and they would go back out and check on it.**

**Chief Mier stated there was not a lot to report from the Fire Department, the construction on the station was progressing and they should be pouring the foundation on the addition on Saturday. She reminded everyone about the Market which would be Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and they would have entertainment.**

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**Mayor Diaz ask if the wing's food truck would be there and was advised not this time, that another vendor would be there, that with the number of people attending it would not be profitable for the vendors to have more than one food truck there.**

**Mayor Diaz said maybe we could have them come out for National Night Out.**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that their office should be ready to move in by next Tuesday and it was going to be really nice, they had been working in a mess down there. He invited them to come by and see the office once they move in and after the office was finished they would start on the service building. He stated that they were staying busy moving grass, that they have their hands full. Mayor Diaz stated we have to keep the city clean.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon the Food Bank would be passing out food and would have other vendors there such as Medicare, etc. and also announced that they would have movie night at the pool on August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mayor Diaz ask what movie they were showing and was advised that they had not picked one yet. She suggested that they show Jaws, that they like it the last time it was shown or maybe Grease.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that we haven't had any movies this summer and she knew that it had been really hot but school started back on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and we needed to have at least two movies before then, Maybe Jaws and then grease.**

**Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that all was going well at Heritage Hall and announced that Debbie was retiring after seven years at Heritage Hall and she and Maria would be taking care Of everything until they hired someone.**

**Mr. Israel Savela, Jacinto City Library, discussed the organization that brought the cow to the library for the children to demonstrate milking a cow and the PETA protesters that showed up and thanked the police department for having an officer there. He also discussed their summer reading program and other activities they had going on.**

**Mayor Diaz advised that on August 11<sup>th</sup> Constable Diaz would be hosting a Back to School Drive at the Gym, with free haircuts, vision check and school supplies, anyone wishing to come out and help or donate items was welcome, that they did this last year but did not have time to advertise it well and were starting earlier this year. She ask Ivan to please put it on the marque.**

**City Manager Squyres gave an update on the police station, advising that the elevator would be delivered tomorrow and would be installed next week and once that was done they would install the floors and we hoped to be moving thing in the building in about two weeks or so, and discussed all the things that had to be coordinated for the same time at the police station. He discussed the possibility of having open house for the police station on National Night Out. He advised that we would be installing fiber optical cable at the police station and all city buildings at a really good price.**

**He stated that as was mentioned earlier, they would be pouring concrete at the fire station next week and he had two brick samples that he would like the council to look at after the meeting.**

**There was no Unfinished Business.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Review Harris County Flood Control Proposal for upcoming Bond Election as they relate to Hunting Bayou and flooding in Jacinto City.**

City Manager Squyres stated that we had ask the Flood Control or Harris County Pct. 2 but they were so busy with all they were doing to promote the bond election so we put a few slides together and Council had one colored copy. He stated that after Harvey they came up with the idea of having (this was Harris County Flood control under the oversight of County Judge Ed Emmett and various Commissioners including Commissioner Morman and the Harris County Taxing Authority so they came up with the idea having a bond sale and it was coming up within the next month. Initially when we looked at some of the proposals on the bond sale we were quite disappointed, we live on Hunting Bayou and that is the Bayou that floods and causes damages to our businesses and to our homes and everything, for the most part that was being proposed on Hunting Bayou was being proposed upstream of us, that means that if they get water into the bayou easier upstream guess where that water is coming, to us. He stated that the law says and they were quick to point that if they make more water come down stream they have to offset that so they proposed a basin or retention pond to offset that coming at us and that was a valid point but those calculations were only based on a 100 year and we've had about a dozen of those in the last 20 years, we have had 3 500 year starting with Tropical Storm Allison and we think we need to do some things further South, further downstream and they had absolutely nothing proposed from I-10 downward from Hunting Bayou and they would see as we go through this that it needs some work because it really slows down the progress of the water as you get below I-10. He stated that there were a few small projects in our city that he would like to give them credit for. He advised that if they would look on the colored map in front of them, starting at the corner of Fidelity and Turkey Run Gulley they would see 8 little green spots and typically what those is where our streets drains, it goes into a 24" what is called tin horn pipe that penetrates those concrete liners in Turkey Run Gulley and if they look at those, most of them have corroded to the point where water exits the pipe before it goes into the gulley so it washes out the back side of those pieces of concrete in fact a couple of years ago they might remember we had some of

those slide off into the gulley and cause even more problems so they did list all of those that we expressed concern about back then but it still didn't address Hunting Bayou. Mr. Squyres did a power point presentation, stating that we had two water ways affecting our city, the first was Hunting Bayou and point out how it runs through our city and the second waterway was Turkey Run Gulley running along Lane street and showing where it ran into the Bayou. He explained what they did wrong to us when they put the levy in around the spoil area which caused the water to come to Jacinto City, he said that he and Kyle beg them, when they put the levies in the last time to put a valve on the pipe emptying into Turkey Run Gully where when they knew a heavy rains or a storm was coming in, they could open the valves and and drain it and right before the hurricane you close that valve and while we are draining our streets they are holding back the levy water but they don't think He and Kyle know or for whatever the reason they didn't do it and now they don't have good control of that all they have are board behind it and when that waster is behind the boards you can't control that so that was why we were seeing more flood from average rain fall than we have in the past. He stated that we have a project that we came up with and suggested it to the Harris County Floor Control and believe it or not, they liked it and they have added it to the Bond Program. He showed picture of how Hunting Bayou twisted and turned in so many directions and it was not a concrete drain it was woods and when it floods, all types of material are washed in the Bayou and gets hung up in there. He stated he didn't know how often this was cleaned out but he had walked it a couple of times and it was horrible, not a good situation at all, it slows down the water dramatically so what they had suggested as modification to that water way (showing it on the Power Point) was come here as he indicated on the picture was put in a diversion canal and the would really like to go further but there mere multiple pipe lines and doing the canal where it shows on the picture would only involve one pipeline. He explained how the diversion canal would work that none of the agencies had been able to put a map to it yet and tell us what it would do but it stands to reason that it will be a lot better than it is now, we were going to move our water out faster so if they include

**this project into the bond program we may do away with our flooding issues and FEMA thinks it may change our flood plain elevation. When we approached them about this Harris County Flood Engineers said they had never thought about that and they have accepted this as part of the bond program so if you vote yes for the bond you will be helping to do that .**

**He stated that doesn't obligate them to do that project, that was going to be up to the folks up here and the folks out there to hold the Commissioners feet to the fire and say look we voted on this because you said so and told us you would do that project and the first step is getting it passed but of all the things being proposed, that is one of the easiest of the bond proposal and the land being used is owned by the Port of Houston and as he said before, they had created part of this problem and now we could ask them to help us and from what we were hearing, there was no opposition and no reason why this could not be done, and if anyone had any questions, he would be happy to answer them.**

**Robert Hernandez ask if this canal was going to be natural or lined with concrete.**

**Mr. Squyres stated that he would love for it to be lined with concrete but they had not committed to that,**

**Mr. Hernandez ask if they pumped more sludge into this, would they have to come back and cut another channel or how was that going to work.**

**Mr. Squyres stated that the last time they the raised the levy they told him that would be the last time that there was about a 25 year life expectancy and since them we are being told that is not true with all the super tankers come through the port with the improved Panama canal It will be necessary to make the channel wider and deeper and what we are hearing is that will be within the next seven years or so.**

**Mr. Hernandez ask another question that was not picked up by the sound system.**

**The question was ask how deep and how wide and Mr. Squyres advised that the engineering had not been done, this was only added last week so there has not been a study or engineering on it yet but it was in the bond arrangement.**

**Council Member Lee ask Lon if he said the water coming into Turkey Run Gulley was actually control by boards and was advised that was correct.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that he thought if they were going to rebuild those levies he thought we were all going to scream and holler very loudly and hopefully we could have valves installed to control the water coming into our city, that we did not talk them into doing it our way but we did talk them into a Hike and Bike Trail which should start in about 4 months. He stated that it was going to start in the ball field at Galena Park, along the levy and the Holland Avenue side and you would also be able to get off at Mercury but it was not an official place to get off, but all of it Would be located in Galena Park and they would be responsible for maintaining it but we would be able to use it, that Galena Park would able to park at the ball field and he was going to speak to GPISD about our residents being able to park at the agricultural building facility.**

**Mayor Diaz advised that she could talk to Mr. Moore about it, it was her understanding they only had about 2 classes there and had done away with their agricultural program.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Robert Hernandez, 10721 Lane St., commented on having one truck at the Market if there was not that many people out there.**

**Mr. Hernandez's additional comments were not picked up by the sound system, he discussed PETA showing up at the Library.**

**There was general discussion concerning this incident.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that for PETA to come to Jacinto City to protest was really up there.**

**Dina Gonzales, 10502 Oswego, stated that she was here on behalf of her employer, Jacinto City Elementary, she was hearing about National Night Out and she just wanted to let the city and the citizens know that this year they had a Gents and Ladies Club and the students would like to volunteer and were looking for things to do and to please contact them at the school if they could help with anything for National Night Out or other events. She stated that she also had good news for Jacinto City Elementary, they were going to have a new school within the next two years. They had already had their first two meetings with the architect firm, they were really excited about that and were looking at 2020. She stated that they had a lot of school supplies donated to the school and would be handing them out at the School and were having registration for new students from August 7<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup> and if they had flyers they would be happy to pass them out during registration.**

**Constable Diaz stated they were spear heading the Back to School Program on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the gym, they would be having haircuts, Vision checks, etc, and if they knew anyone who would like to donate or volunteers, they would appreciate their coming out. They had the program last year but didn't advertise it very much and did not have a lot of participation and if Jacinto City Elementary and the City would like to come out and join them, that would be great and they would be advertising it on the marquee.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Rivas ask about the homeless on the north side of I-10 and had we made contact with HPD.**



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**Chief Ayala advised they were aware of it and the residents were being told to contact their Council Members.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that it was getting bad, that she used to go to Valero to get gas but while you were pumping gas, they would come up and ask you for money.**

**Mr. Purcell stated that they were sleeping at the Burger King and he had told the manager and she had ask him to leave, he put on his shoes, went outside and sat against the building.**

**Mayor Diaz stated she knew they were sleeping under the bridge but were we finding them in the park.**

**Chief Ayala advised that we were not having problems in the park and the bridge was City of Houston and we didn't deal with that.**

**Constable Diaz advised that Houston was putting pressure on them so they were moving this way and they had increased patrol.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that we all need to work together to address this issue.**

**Council Member Rivas thanked them for all they do to enforce this and also the code enforcements.**

**Constable Diaz stated that they could contact them on any environmental issues and they were going to be part of the Drug Task Force.**

**Council Member Rivas stated that when the pour the concrete at the fire station, a lot of times they have a little left over and we needed to have another place where it could be used. He ask to be safe and God Bless.**

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**There was discussion from Mr. Pursell about orange papers they throw out, what were they, they were in Spanish and he couldn't read them, could we get them to stop throwing them.**

**Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for coming out and cautioned them to be safe in this heat.**

**Council Member Lee cautioned everyone to stay safe.**

**Council Member Gonzales ask that everyone please remember to check on the elderly in this heat.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m..**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**