

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

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: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala advised that we had lost four officers, that the pay scale at some of the other agencies was \$8.00 over what we pay.

The Chief discussed gun control and some possible changes that were coming and passed out gun locks to all in the meeting.

He stated the new police station was looking good and they were very proud of it.

He advised that there was a lot going on out there, to be very vigilant when out.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that the water line project was moving along and the contractor was cleaning up now. He stated the 14" water line that broke on Market Street was going to have to be fixed and that it could be done for about \$45,000 and that we wouldn't have to shut down the some of the businesses to do this and ask that we please get this line taken care of.

He reported that the contractor was using hydro mulching instead of grass to repair lawns instead of grass because the citizens wouldn't be happy with the condition of the grass they were able to get.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advise that baseball was going in the right path, the little league had bought an ice machine and we had been working on the concession stand, etc.. He stated that signups would be at the gym on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon and that opening day was March 23rd.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that all was going well at the center, they had taken seniors to the rodeo and some of them had never been before, they really enjoyed it and were very happy and they were taking them to see the dolphins tomorrow. Elizabeth stated that she had gotten an e-mail from Area Ageing and that we may be getting some money to finish out the year to pay for congregate meals.

Chief Mier stated the fire department had been busy, they had assisted Galena Park with ambulance calls, she also advised that the fire station was almost ready and invited all to come by and see it.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres reported that they had a good turn out for the Market on Saturday night and that he and Joyce would be attending a GLO conference in a couple of weeks in regard to grant projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Second and Final reading of Ordinance 2019-1 declaring unopposed candidates in the May 4, 2019 City Election, elected to office; cancelling the election; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2019-1. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council authorization to issue RFQ for engineering services related to CDBG Harvey recovery project.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve tabling the issuing of RFQ for engineering services related to CDBG Harvey recovery project. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The question was ask why the sign at Market and Holland was not Working and City Manager Squyres explained that in connection with the water line project we were working on, the contractor would be boring under the street in that area and we did not want to take a change on them cutting the electrical line while they were doing that.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thank the Police Department for the gun key and information, thanked Kyle and the public works guys for all that they do and thanked Ivan, Elizabeth and the Fire Department for all they do as well.

Council Member Rivas stated that with as many officers as we had leaving he thought we needed to discuss the salary.

Chief Ayala stated that it seems like if we give a raise, the other cities raise their salaries also, he thought the issue was the benefits.

Council Member Rivas discussed the misunderstanding on the size of fryers discussed at the workshop, the vent and ask Ivan about the water cooler.

Ivan stated that they had been able to get the existing one repaired and should have it reinstalled shortly.

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Mayor Diaz stated that like Lon and Jim said, we stay out of it.

Council Member Robinson advised everyone to enjoy the rest of Spring Break and be careful.

Council Member Lee wished everyone a good weekend and God bless.

Council Member Garcia discussed the number of calls received during the water line break and that it was good to get that fixed. She ask Chief Ayala if he thought he could present the gun safety information at National Night Out and possibly hand out the gun lock.

Council Member Gonzales ask if we were using the Pee Wee Field at Smith Park and was advised that we were and there was discussion on the fields at Smith Park.

Mayor Diaz wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's day.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**