

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 22, 2019 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 arrived after roll call and City Attorney DeFoyd out of the country.

The meeting was opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a member of the Scout Troop in the audience.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

The Police Department passed on their report.

The Fire Department passed on their report.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works, advised that they were staying busy and that Kyle Reed was back for a while today and he was doing good.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that the Food Bank would be passing out food at Town Center tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director reported they were keeping the seniors busy.

Mayor Diaz ask about game night and Elizabeth advised that it would be August 26th.

Jacinto City Library advised that they would be having the grand opening for the Family Center Library on September 26th from 11 A.m.

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and 12:00 noon and invited everyone to come by and join them and went over other things that would be happening at the library.

City Manager Squyres advised that the pool would be closing during the week now that school had started back but would be open on weekends through September and that the splash pad would be open.

He stated that the pool had a banner year, both with attendance and swimming lessons.

Mayor Diaz thank Ivan for the a good job with the movie at the pool, it was well attended and enjoyed.

She thanked Bernardo for their help at the school and thanked Chief Ayala for their presence at the corner for the new school year.

Mayor Diaz recognize the Scout Troop in the Audience, who stated they were there to observe the council meeting, and welcome them back anytime.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary to address Mayor and Council to ask permission to use Town Center and Challenger 7 Drive for a Jacinto City Festival.**

Mr. Flores, President of the Rotary stated they used to have it in Galena Park as the Country Fair but something had happened and they have not had it for two or three years and they would like to bring it back and they wanted to see if Jacinto City could host it. He stated that they had not set a date yet. He went over some of the ideas they had, stating that they would like to use Town Center, set up a small carnival on the swimming pool parking area, close off a portion of Challenger 7 Street, etc..

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Lon stated they had met with them but they didn't have a date yet.

Mayor Diaz stated she thought it was a good idea.

Council Member Rivas stated that he was glad to see it.

Council Member Robinson said he had no problem but would like to see what the plans were first.

Council Member Lee said it was a great idea but would need to see a date.

Mr. Flores stated maybe March.

Council Member Garcia thought it was good and was looking forward to it.

Council Member Gonzales stated he was all for it but was concerned about a carnival on the field and referred to a problem we had several year ago and was advise that the carnival would be on the swimming pool parking lot.

There was discussion about being sure that it didn't conflict with opening day for Little League and Soft Ball and Jacinto City Market at Night.

Mayor Diaz commented that maybe the Market and Rotary could be on the same date.

Mr. Flores stated they would discuss dates and plans and get back with them and they would also like to have a committee from Jacinto City involved in the event.

2. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation at 1730 Jennifer.

City Manager Squyres stated that Mr. Eric Aguirre, 1730 Jennifer Ln. had built a dog kennel approximately 3 ½' into the easement and did not have a permit. He advised that Mr. Aguirre stated that he came to City Hall and inquired if he had to have a permit to build a dog kennel and brought a sketch and was advised that he didn't, Mr. Squyres advised there was some confusion, the staff said that he called and ask if he had to have a permit for a dog house, he had applied for a variance, the Board had met on August 20th and had vote unanimously to allow the dog kennel to remain in the utility easement.

Council Member Garcia ask if Mr. Aguirre understood that he would have to move it if required and Mr. Squyres stated that he did.

Mayor Diaz polled the council for their vote to allow the dog kennel to remain as build with the understanding that if there was a problem in the utility easement he would have to move the structure.

Rivas – Yes, Robinson – Yes, Lee – Yes, Garcia – Yes, Gonzales – Yes.

3. Council authorization to issue RFQ for engineering services related to Harvey Recovery Project.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to table approval to issue RFQ. Vote: 5 For – 0 Against.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Hernandez, 10721 Lane, ask Mayor Diaz if she would be his ride buddy at the Rotary carnival and she advised him she would as long as he fed her.

There was general discussion about the street dances Jacinto City use to have.

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David Rangel, 1000 Keene St., stated that he was the President of the National Honor Society at GPHS and their group would like to volunteer to help with city events. He advised that we could contact him and gave us his phone number

Mayor Diaz thanked him and advised him that we had a lot of events year round and we could certainly use their help and would definitely get in touch with them.

Mr. Purcell ask Lon if he would explain what the pipeline company was going to do for us.

City Manager Squyres advised that they had met with the pipeline company and Center Point Energy about correcting damage they had made while installing pipelines and they had agreed to repair the street, restore drainage and redress the gravel sidewalk, they were replacing Mr. Purcell's broken window in his truck.

Council Member Gonzales stated that they had also agreed to repair or replace fences they had damaged in that area.

Mayor Diaz advised that the sign on Holland was now working, it had taken a long time but all they had to do now was get it programed.

Mr. Gilbert Ibarra stated that he did not live in Jacinto City but that he did volunteer in Little League and he passed out drawings of what they would like to see done in the city parks.

He discussed Wilkie Park, Smith Park, Akron Park and Lane Street Park. He stated that they had quotes for painting, etc. and they knew that not everything could get done at once but we needed to get together to see what could be done, that baby steps would help and they hoped they would consider some.

He stated that he had not been here in 10 years and nothing had changed in the parks in 10 years.

Council Member Rivas stated that he disagreed, we had made a lot of changes and there was still things we would like to do.

Mr. Ibarra went over some things the committee would like to see done at Wilke Parks such as: additional sidewalks through out the park, better lighting through out the park and in the picnic area and additional plugs, new location for volleyball and use that area for water feature with ducks, etc. additional practice area with proper surface, a practice warm up area and a new restroom with a possible wash station for runners and a request to use the building next to the gym for a real office for the little league and there were similar request for Smith Park as well as Akron Park and Lane Street Park.

Council Member Rivas stated that some of their request would be taking up green space in the park and they had to consider that some people like green space.

Council Member Robinson stated that we had probably spent over \$3,000,000 in the park, a new swimming pool and splash pad, we had to replace the swimming pool, we did not have a choice. He stated that with the water feature they were suggesting, with ducks, would have people up here complaining about the ducks chasing the children and would be a liability.

Mr. Ibarra stated that people ask where the restrooms are and when they tell them they don't want to sent their children or go themselves because it is dark over there.

Council Member Rivas stated that a lot of people walk around the park and maybe something we could work on would be lighting around the park.

Council Member Garcia ask if the building they talked about as an office wasn't discussed for a history center.

Council Member Rivas advised that the building had been designated for a Jacinto City History Center, that there was a lot of Jacinto City history that need to be displayed for future generation.

City Manager Squyres stated that in two years Jacinto City would be celebrating our 75 anniversary and our goal was to have the history center open for this.

Council Member Gonzales stated that before he became a council member he was on the Little Board and they ask for a lot of things, but after becoming a council member he realized there were a lot of decisions that had to be made and you had to prioritize, Infrastructure, public safety, etc..

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that she was involved with little league for years and they volunteered to work the fields, the city provided the dirt and they took care of putting it on the fields and the original lights were donated, she thought that Dee Bellott had gotten them donated from Coca-cola. She stated that parents need to get off their butts and make this for the league, don't use it for a baby sitter. They need to appreciate what the city has done for the parks, there is always something going on for the kids, she hopes we do as much as we can but she is thankful to the city for what they have done, there is a lot going on for the children in Jacinto City.

Mayor Diaz stated that she appreciated Myra Sosa and Lucia Perez, that they are always there to help.

Lucia Perez, 1606 Cheston, thanked Chief Ayala and his officer for what they did the first day of school, they were at all the street, walking kids across the streets, making sure they were all safe, that she couldn't believe

her eyes and hoped that PD continued to do this, that there were a lot of good comments regarding this. She discussed comments that she had put on face book advising people to come to council meetings and see what was going on instead of bad mouthing the Mayor and Council, advising that most of the comments were about sidewalk and more street lighting. She stated that people like to complain but don't like to come to council meetings.

Ms. Perez stated that she posted some pictures of PD at the school.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked everyone for coming out, to have a nice weekend and we would look at the plans they presented and we might be able to do some of them.

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for coming out, advised that school was back in session and to be sure and watch out for the kids. He advised that Harris County would start paving streets here in our city in September and thanked the Department Heads and staff for all they do.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out, there was a lot going on in the city, we all had things we would like to do and hopefully we can but it takes time. God Bless

Council Member Garcia thanked the Department Heads and staff for taking care of the city and citizens and ask everyone to please come back for the next meeting.

Council Member Gonzales wished everyone a safe Labor Day and thanked them for coming out.

Mayor Diaz welcomed back students and ask them to come back, that we support our students and their fund raisers.

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Mayor Diaz stated that she had gotten a lot of good comments about the Police department being at the schools

Rebecca Mier announced that In October, the Market would have two new vendors, one with coffee and a local brewery.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**