

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call, Council Member Lee absent due to illness and City Attorney out of state.

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 approved the minutes as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala advised that they were very busy, there was a lot of activity going on and they sometimes get tied up on calls but they were here to do whatever they can for the community and there were some on going investigations that they could not discuss.

Mayor Diaz said that a lot of things do happen and we tell everyone to make phone calls and it will be on records. Mayor Diaz thanked Ms. Banda for helping to keep the police department aware of things that are going on in the city.

Chief Mier reminded everyone that a cold front was on it way and to be sure and check their heater before using it. She advised that Halloween was coming up to be sure and watch out for the trick or treaters.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that Harris County was working on the streets and doing a very good job, there were some traffic problems but they were working them out, that they had milled Sheryl Street and were doing the whole street and had give him three load of milled material to use in the city.

Mayor Diaz stated we know we can't make everyone happy but we try our best.

Page 2 – October 24, 2019

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that he hoped the weather would hold out for the Pumpkin Festival on October 26th and that tomorrow they would have the Food Bank at Town Center. He invited everyone to come out and enjoy the Pumpkin Festival, that we would have games, hayrides, pumpkin decorating contest and some vendors with the movie starting at dark.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised they were keeping the seniors busy. She announced that if anyone knew someone who would be alone on Thanksgiving that Harris County Area Agency would provide a meal for them, so please let her know.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that the garage sale was a great success and everyone was busy. He stated that the Police Department had made a big step forward, as of this week, they were now using electronic ticket writers. He stated that people were always saying that we needed more officers on the street and the ticket writers would be so much faster than hand writing tickets, they would scan the information from the drivers license and also take a picture of the individual.

Mayor Diaz ask if anyone had complained about the picture yet and was advised not so far.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bernard Valdez, 1530 Cheston, stated that he was told by council that we were going to demo the old concession stand and have it ready for this season and ask if we budgeted for a new one.

City Manager Squyres stated that we did not budget for one because Senate Bill 2 put a cap on the taxes and also what could amount to approximately 1.4 million reduction in our franchise tax revenue.

Page 3 – October 24, 2019

He also advised that we had two years left on our present bonds and by selling bonds, we could do the concessions right.

Mr. Valdez ask what would they do this year, the concession stands were not up to code, that parents were going to be upset, they will pay their fee, get uniforms, etc. and won't have a concession stand ; how are they going to pay for their expenses, and explained what all the concession stand pays for.

City Manager Squyres stated that we met life safety codes and the concession was used last year and if council would like he could look at pricing.

Chief Mier stated that as far as she knew they were up to code.

Mr. Valdez also discussed a flooding issue at the bleachers when it rains.

Mr. Valdez stated that he wanted to know why they can't fork up money to build a concession stand, that he is pretty sure the city has the money and who was in that position that he could talk to.

Council Member Rivas advised that he was.

Mr. Valdez discussed other improvements that had been made in the city and wanted to know why they couldn't get a concession stand.

City Manager Squyres explained that a lot of the repairs were made due to damages from Hurricane Harvey and from fire damage and were reimbursed by FEMA and our insurance company.

Council Member Garcia went over the items that were covered in the Parks and Recreation budget, stating that the budget had to cover everything, not just the ball park.

Page 4 – October 24, 2019

City Manager Squyres advised that Parks and Recreation had the second largest budget in the city next to the police department and he was sure the council would be receptive to look into what could be done.

City Manager Squyres ask Mr. Valdez what he thought it would cost to remodel the concession stand, that he thought he said earlier \$30,000.

Mr. Valdez said to remodel would cost approximately \$30,000 that he would have to get with the inspector to see what he would require.

City Manager Squyres stated that if council would like, he could look at pricing and ask Mr. Valdez to meet with him and the inspector.

Mayor Diaz ask him to do that.

Council Member Rivas stated that he would like to know exactly what was not up to code and would like to see what the \$30,000 would be spent on. He ask Mr. Rojas to be sure and attend the meeting.

Robert Hernandez, 10721 Lane St., stated that he noticed the discussion on the concession stand, but they have to be patient, the city was trying to do something nice but this takes time. He stated he Knows how important the concession stand is but the city is trying to make progress.

Lusia Perez, 1530 Cheston, stated this had been discussed and discussed, they can't store anything in there, rodents go in under the door and when they mow grass and debris goes in, it is hot and they loose concessions, their President is getting tired and wants to do things them self, they can't do fund raisers because they have no place to store stuff; she wants a new concession stand, people break into the concession stand and storage building, they can't make any money on concessions and kids are going someplace else to play, we have to do something.

Page 5 – October 24, 2019

Council Member Rivas ask who was the gentleman who said the park hadn't change in ten years and was advised that it was the President of the league.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he was a part of the league in younger days and they volunteer to do things, they built the press box which still works but we have to prioritize.

Ms. Perez stated that they keep coming up here and nothing gets done, people are tired of it but they don't want to talk because nothing get done, the parks have been improved but not the concession stand. This is the city's building not theirs, the city should take care of the program, she was fed up to try not to give them the run around.

City Manager Squyres stated the Board has changed so much over the years, we have made the changes they requested.

There was discussion about the city facilitating something with the storage.

City Manager Squyres again ask that Mr. Valdez meet with him, the inspector, Mr. Rojas and Mr. Reed to discuss what could be done to remodel the concession stand.

Mayor Diaz stated that she knew that we needed it, that her kids had played here for years, that we can't do it all at one time, it takes all the Council to vote and they all wanted it, to get us a list of what is needed.

Council Member Rivas said the parks mean a lot to him.

Mr. Valdez stated that parents are very upset, what is he going to tell them, how are we going to deal with this, he was told something was going to get done and it wasn't and he had to answer to people, would Mr. Rivas want to go with him to talk to the people.

Council Member Rivas stated absolutely to set up a meeting with the people.

6. There was no Unfinished Business

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Change November 28th Council Meeting to Tuesday, November 26th due to Thanksgiving Holidays.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to change November 28th Council Meeting to Tuesday, November 26th Due to Thanksgiving Holidays. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 2. Council to consider actions regarding Speaker of the House Bonnen's hostile actions related to local control.**

Council Member Robinson stated that he, City Manager Squyres and Council Member Garcia were at a Harris County Mayors' and Councils' Association Meeting where the members were encouraging all cities and Counties to take action regarding comment made by House Speaker Bonnen's actions related to local control.

City Manager Squyres explained his sponsoring bills to limit cities and counties having control governing their own cities and counties and read a comment made by House Speaker Bonnen concerning local control. He advised that House Speaker Bonnen had already stated that he would not run for reelection but he could still do a lot of damage in the year he had left on his term and ask if the council authorize him to write a letter asking that he resign immediately or be impeached and bring them to the council for their approval.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to authorize the City Manager to write the letter. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 3. Council to consider Resolution 2019-7R adjusting Longevity Pay for Employees.**

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to Approve Resolution 2019-7R Amending longevity pay for employees. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 4. Council to consider budget amendments for FY 2018/2019.**

City Manager Squyres went over the budget amendments and explained how some of them were offset by grants, insurance reimbursements and FEMA for Hurricane Harvey expenditures. He explained that some of the individual budget codes were over, but that overall both the General Fund and Water Fund closed in the black.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the budget amendments for FY 2018/2019. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked everyone for coming and thanked everyone for their comments and wished the City Secretary a Happy Belated Birthday.

Council Member Robinson commended everyone on National Night Out and appreciated their comments.

Council Member Garcia thanked everyone for coming out, she was glad to see Detective Silva and Lt. Walker and just a suggestion as a fund raiser maybe a BBQ, She stated that she didn't believe that

Page 8, October 24, 2019

it was just the concession stand that was not bringing in the kids, they have to go out and round up parents and kids, there has to be leg work. She is not saying that they haven't done it but we are living in a fast pass world. Focus on the positive.

Chief Ayala commented on the ticket writers, stating there was a lot of activity going on out there, people walking the streets, break ins, etc.. He had told Ms. Perez that they can remain anonymous. With the new facility they will be able to provide better services.

Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone for coming out and we do hear them and will do what we can. Be Safe.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**