

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 9, 2020 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:

Lt. Longrigg stated there was no report from the police department at this time.

Chief Mier stated that all was quite at the with Fire and EMS at this time and cautioned everyone about the predicted bad weather coming through with high winds and to prepare for this.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, also cautioned everyone about the pending bad weather and advised that they were prepared and would be keeping the storm drain clear, that the biggest problem was with garbage cans, etc.. He also advised that they had received the new vactor truck.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, wished everyone a Happy New Year and advised that baseball was upon us and they were busy getting everything ready.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated that the utility assistance project was open again and that people 60 and over could apply by calling 211, explain what they were calling about and would be routed to the right place, they could get credit on the electric service and if they did not use all of it, it might be applied to their gas

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bill after that. She also advised on Monday, January 13th there would be a vision screening at the center and on January 31st Health and Humane Service would be taking application at Heritage Hall for a free tablet for ages 50 and over and there could only be 1 per family.

She advised that the center continued to grow, they had seven new members join this week.

Mayor Diaz ask if the application was simple and was advised that there would be people there to help them.

Jacinto City Library advised that they had some programs coming up and you could call the Library for information on them.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz introduced Mr. Torres, the welding instructor from Galena Park High School.

Mr. Torres advised the Mayor and Council that the welding class at GPHS has made the bench from donated materials and wanted to donate it to Jacinto City, he explained how the material had been donated and how the class had built it.

Mayor Diaz and the City Council thanked Mr. Torres and the welding class for their donation to the city and advised that it would be put to good use.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that the glass was now in at the front of the new police stations and all should be complete by the end of the month.

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He advised that our Municipal Court Judges would use skype for arraignments of prisoners on weekends and at night and would not have to come out to the station.

Mr. Squyres discussed the new ID badge and pictures that were going to be issued to the Mayor, Council and city employees and ask the Mayor and Council to look at them and let him know if they would like any changes and advised that the new AFIS System had been installed at the police station. He stated that the 17 new computers that we had to purchase because windows 7 was not compatible with Micro Soft were now installed.

He stated that in the new budget we had included a part time code enforcement officer and would be meeting with one applicant on Monday and was trying to schedule another interview.

Mayor Diaz stated that as soon as the new code enforcement officer was processed we would start enforcing the codes.

Mr. Don Nichols, Director of the Community Assistance Program stated that they did Christmas for needy families and children here in Jacinto City at Calvary Baptist Church and he wanted to thank everyone who helped, that they got toys from city hall and peanut butter from Council Member Robinson and all the children received gifts.

He ask that everyone please keep the Gebhardt family in their Prayers, that Mr. Joe Gebhardt passed away the day after Christmas, and would be missed. He stated that he and Mr. Gebhardt's son Joe was in the fire department together.

Lt. Longrigg stated that he would like to thank Mr. Nichols, that he had made sure that (2) families living across the freeway had food and toys for Christmas.

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Mr. Mike Stiles, 10706 Oswego, stated that when Schmidt Brothers build the building next door to them they planted hedges and now they had grown high enough to block the view coming out of his drive way and his wife had almost hit a school bus and ask if he could get some help to take care of this.

City Manager Squyres advised Mr. Stiles that his wife had come by and talked with them about this and they had already talked with Mike Schmidt about it and it would be taken care of.

Mr. Brian Rawlings advised that he had been born and raised in Jacinto City and had an issue to discuss, that they were having a Valentine party at the Senior Center and was told that only members could come, did that mean they could not bring their wife or sweetheart if they were not a member and he wanted to know if that was right.

City Manager Squyres explained that the seniors paid for some of their parties with the money they did fund raising events for and the Site Council made the decision on how they used their money and on the parties the city provided that decision would be made by the council. Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director advised this was something she had discussed with the council before the Christmas Party and it was providing door prizes for both members and guest of just members, that she had a limited budget to work with.

There was general discussion on the subject.

Mr. Rawlings stated that they were adding new members all the time but the budget stayed the same, how much money did they spend on parks, pools and baseball, couldn't they put a little more in the senior's budget, that they used the same decorations for all their events that they have had for years, that he would start a pot and put in \$100.00 if each of them would put in a \$100.00.

Council Member Garcia explained how the department heads had an

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Opportunity to request items in their budget during budget workshops.

Mayor Diaz stated that she was sure the Council would take care of getting decorations for them if they come and tell them they are needed.

Mr. Rawlings stated he thought the Mayor and Council was doing a fabulous job of running the city but they needed to take care of the seniors.

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that we had to remember that we have the Seniors and the little league and other organizations and there are things we can get donated and the have to do some things for themselves, that she was not putting the seniors down, she was one of them and ask if the people go to the events for gifts or for the fellowship, that no one owes us anything and they only want certain gifts, they don't appreciate all that is donated, there is a difference between greedy and needy and she thinks the city and center is doing a good job.

Mr. Jerry Garcia introduced himself stating that he had 21 ½ years as a police officer and he was running for Constable Pct. 2. He discussed some of the issues he was hearing all over Pct. 2 such as not enough patrols in neighborhood, etc. and he was asking for their consideration in the upcoming election. He thanked them for allowing him speak and stated that if they considered him, that there were two Jerry Garcia's on the ballot and he was the first one on the ballot and he was listed as Lt. Jerry Garcia.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

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- 1. Council to approve the use of Gov Deals.Com (A liquidity service market place) through Buy Board to liquidate unused city vehicles, equipment and materials and unclaimed items confiscated by the Jacinto City Police Department.**

Council Member Robinson stated that before we vote on this he would like to see a list of what was being disposed of.

City Manager Squyres stated that we did not have a list as of now, this was an online auction through Buy Board for future use.

Council Member Robinson stated that he was not against Buy Board, that he uses it at his work but we were bound to have a list of what we wanted to sell.

City Manager Squyres stated that the Chief had an extensive list since they have moved into the new property room.

Council Member Garcia stated that she saw this at the conference and she was pleased with it and ask about putting it on our website.

Council Member Lee stated that he would have like to have gotten some more information on this and was not going to vote for it just because it was on the agenda.

Council Member Rivas ask why was this allowed to fester to the point that we had to do something to get rid of this right away and was the chief the only one that could do this.

City Manager Squyers explained the process and the Chief had a lot going on and explained the process that the city had to go through in Order to dispose of city owned items.

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City Attorney DeFoyd said the Council could do this but the Chief has to make a list and contact the D.A. to get permission to get rid of some items.

City Manager Squyres advise that the Chief did have a partial list and they could table this item until we get them a list.

Council Member Rivas ask why we let this go so long before we took action.

City Manager Squyres explained some of the reason and that we had to make sure all of this was done legally.

Council Member Lee stated that he was not going to vote on this.

Council Member Garcia made a motion to approve the use of Gov Deals.Com through Buy Board.

The Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to table approval of the use of Gov Deals.Com through Buy Board, Vote: 5 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked Mr. Torres and the Galena Park High School Welding Class for the bench, he thought the meeting had gone well and hoped to see everyone back at the next meeting.

Council Member Robinson cautioned everyone to be aware of the bad weather and announced that Teresa Nichols bother had passed away and to please keep her family and the Gebhardt family in their Prayers.

Council Member Lee stated that he had run into Mr. Gebhardt in the

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store one day and he had told him to quit being so lazy and come up to Heritage Hall and visit them, that he would be missed.

Council Member Garcia thank Mr. Torres and the Galena Park Welding Class for the bench and ask everyone to please come back again.

Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone for coming out and wish all a Happy New Year.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**