

SPECIAL SESSION WORKSHOP, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council Met in Special Session for a Workshop on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. City Attorney DeFoyd out of state.

Mayor Diaz stated this workshop was called to discuss conditions in the city.

Council Member Robinson stated that concerning council approval to get rid of unused city vehicles, etc. through Buy Board with an online auction using Gov.Deals.Com he did not have a problem with this all he was asking for was a list of what we would be getting rid of, he was all for getting rid of all this stuff.

Council Member Rivas stated that he agreed with Council Member Robinson.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he agreed, that he just hadn't been sure what the process was.

City Manager Squyres stated it was his understand that the Council Members were not sure about the service previously but now agree. He explained how the system worked and advised that if they would like, he could have one or more of the vendors come out and do a presentation for the Council.

Council Member Lee stated that he had gotten the information of what was going on and he was ok with it now.

~~Chief Ayala stated that he wanted to make it clear that anything that came out of the property room the council would be advise and would be ask to approve it and gave them a copy of procedures from the D.A.'s Office on how it could be disposed of and there was a record of all items in the property room and showed them pictures of the property room.~~

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City Manager Squyres advised that we would put the item back on the next agenda.

Council Member Rivas stated that he thought that what was to be sold should be stored at public works so it would all be together.

Council Member Rivas stated that while going around the city with Santa on the fire he saw a lot of construction and didn't know if they had permits or not.

City Manager Squyres advised that each Friday we posted on the website permits that have been pulled and if they hadn't been pulled we stopped work on the project and they had to pay a double permit fee and it was supposed to be posted in the window where it could be seen.

There was general discussion about where all it was posted that they must have a building permits, in the news letters, on the website and on the water bills that were sent out.

Mayor Diaz stated that some them think they can do this without getting caught.

Council Member Rivas stated that you couldn't read the permit from the street and suggested that maybe have the city deliver the permit and put it in a box in the yard where it would be visible.

City Manager Squyres stated that he like the idea but would need to talk with the City Attorney to see if we could legally do that.

Dee Maner stated that they were painting rents houses and you didn't have to have a permit to just paint but they got stopped by the city twice and Kim had to come up and see Lon.

City Manager Squyres advised that when city workers see building materials, etc., in the trash and no permit, they stop and check it out.

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Ms. Maner said that she wanted to compliment Kyle's men, they were like a hawk.

Mr. Reed advised that they do their best to enforce city codes.

Luisa Banda ask if they have to get a permit for a fence and was advised they did if it was a new fence but not just to repair and this was to remind them to call 811 before digging to prevent hitting electrical or gas lines.

Mayor Diaz stated that she was glad to be getting the code enforcement officer.

Council Member Rivas had questions about inspections on new buildings and thinks we need to reevaluate this person, he has talked with him and he says we need to look at our permit fees.

City Manager Squyres advised that we were trying to come up with standards and can't go by a flat percentage and are trying to do a square foot rate, this was a very big conflict and we are working with small cities our size.

Council Member Rivas ask if we could set up a meeting with the building inspector that he has some questions for him.

Donna Daily, 1701 Chazen stated that they need to keep fees where common people can afford them and thinks this needs to be considered.

Mayor Diaz said she agreed, that she like to see people remodel their homes.

~~**Council Member Gonzales stated they certainly don't want to discourage them.**~~

Council Member Rivas stated with the code enforcement and getting rid of vehicles, how long had it been that we had looked at ordinances.

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There was general discussion about ordinances that had been changed and ordinances that needed to be addressed. There was discussion on driveways and cars being parked in yards and on the street and Mr. Squyres advised that a lot of our streets were different widths and the setback was from the middle of the street and it would be hard to address this in an ordinance.

Council Member Rivas discussed type of fencing as far as safety was concerned.

City Manager Squyres stated that he had spent a couple of hours with the code enforcement officer about how they do this in Humble and thinks this can help us and also help us get rid of junk signs, etc..

Council Member Rivas stated that the city south of us had a problem with trucks parking where they should not be and he didn't want that to happen here.

City Manager Squyres discussed the problem with truck parking at Tinsel Town and we could not control this as it was private property, we advise the owners and they can call the trucking company and tell them their trucks are parked in a no parking zone, etc., that the owners do have up no parking signs.

Council Member Rivas ask Chief Ayala about the two dump trucks that were parked by P.D., that they were making deep ruts that were holding water.

Luisa Banda stated there were a lot of cars parked in back of the pawn shop and had been there for a long time.

~~**Mayor Diaz stated that she loved that they were build the new JGE school but the residents were having trouble driving through there because of all the equipment and mud, could we look into it and see what could be done.**~~

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Council Member Rivas discussed the possibility of issuing resident tags for residents so they can get through.

Council Member Rivas talked about Market Street and the ruts that were made on the shoulders and ask Kyle could we repair these with the new vactor truck and Mr. Reed advised him that we could take care of it,

Mayor Diaz asked if we could get the school to help clean up the street and Mr. Squyres advised that we were talking with them and also about helping repairs the street when the project is finished.

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, ask if we could pass an Ordinance to get people to not park in yards, that it really looks trashy.

Council Member Gonzales stated that there were so many cars parked on the streets that ambulances and fire trucks can't get through.

Mayor Diaz said and make sure that every house has a visible address.

Council Member Rivas discussed all the tire business on Market Street with the tires sitting outside holding water and causing mosquitoes.

Dee Maner ask if there was anything we could do about the apartments on the 200 block of Wiggins, that it was disgusting.

City Manager Squyres advised that it was extremely hard to do, that we had discussed coming up with something we can do about slum landlords.

Mayor Diaz ask if we could have the inspector go through there at least once a month.

Council Member Lee stated that he had talked to the City Attorney about this and he said if it was unsafe, unhealthy we could. He stated that some people get caught and just pay the fine, we need something we can do.

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City Manager Squyres advised there is one active case that we are working on with Judge Kisluk and the possibility of filing the case in the county.

Lusia Banda stated there were a lot of abandon house in the city could they be torn down.

City Manager Squyres stated there were a lot of things that had to be done before you could condemn a home, and went over all the steps that had to be taken.

Dee Maner stated that Lon had a brilliant solution on flood control and was one of the projects that had been approved and did he know when it would be done.

Mr. Squyres advised that because it was a last minute addition that it would done in 2022, that Jeremy Phillips, who had worked on the project was not with Pct. 2 anymore, that he was working with the flood control and that Pct. 2 had just named his replacement.

Council Member Rivas stated he thinks if we can do something with the things we have discussed maybe we can work on the History Center.

City Manager Squyres advised that the contractor had the frame up for the glass at PD but the weather had been bad but says they will be done by the end of the month.

Council Member Garcia advised that she constantly hears complaints about not enough patrol on the streets.

~~Council Member Rivas ask about the schedule of officers on the streets during New Years night.~~

Mayor Diaz stated they were not patrolling the streets and complained about them parked in parking lots and not on the streets.

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Chief Ayala advised that they were all busy that they had constant calls and the officers had to back up each other and explained why they had to back up each other.

City Manager Squyres advised that the officers were now using ticket writer and could scan the information from the driver's license which takes less time so they are back in service quicker.

Donna Dailey stated that she live here in the city because of the quick response time of our officers.

Mayor Diaz stated they need to be more visible in the neighborhoods.

Council Member Garcia stated that she drove around the city on New Years and first few calls the response time was minutes and the next response time was 15 minutes.

Chief Ayala advised that he did not allow his officer to go out at midnight because of the gunfire and danger of being hit.

Council Member Rivas ask Fire Chief Mier if they did this as well and Chief Mier stated that it depended on the call.

City Manager Squyres stated that we appreciate our officers and they are there if we need them.

Chief Mier stated that our departments work well together.

Council Member Garcia ask if we could use reserve officers.

Chief Ayala advised that we had used them in the past but you could not depend on them, they didn't show up when you needed them.

Mayor Diaz stated that PD usually shows up in about 3 minutes.

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Council Member Rivas discussed code enforcement for residents and businesses.

City Manager advise the Code Enforcement Officer would be here the first weekend in February.

Mayor Diaz stated there were a lot of loose dogs in the city.

Council Member Garcia ask about putting stop signs on Switzer and was advised by Mr. Reed that you have to have a traffic study, that you can't just put up stop signs.

Luisa Banda ask about the sign in her yard that the paving contractor put up, when were they going to pick it up.

Mr. Reed advised that they would pick up the sign tomorrow.

Council Member Rivas thank everyone for coming out.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**
