

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson and Lee; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia and City Attorney Defoyd arrived after roll call and Council Member Gonzales absent due to a school program.

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 of the last meeting as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala reported that he has (3) applications for reserve officers and (2) positions open for full time officers. He stated that they had discussed Code Enforcement and were going to be more observant.

Chief Ayala reported that one of our officers was going down town to pick up a prisoner and something had come off a dump truck and broke A window on the police unit but the driver was ok.

Chief Mier stated that she did not have a report at this time.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that at the last meeting he had told the lady he would pick up the sign from the paving but he can't, the Paving company will pick them up after the stripping is complete.

Mayor Diaz thanked the County for providing the paving, that was something we didn't have to pay for.

~~Kyle stated that it was early to start spraying for mosquitos but they were out and the machine ready to go and would have it on the street.~~

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Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation director advised that they would be distributing food at Town Center tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that the center was continuing to grow, they had added six more people this week and had fed 58 people lunch today.

Elizabeth reminded everyone to call 211 about getting help with their electric bill and if you had money left over from the summer, they would apply it to your gas bill and also on January 31st to come by Town Center and sign up for a free table, the only requirement was that you be 50 years old or older and only one to a family.

Mayor Diaz stated that she had been telling people about this.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres discussed the traffic problem on Burman due to school construction.

He advised that we had a Wing Stop coming into the city where Murphy's Deli was in the strip center by the theatre and that O'Reilly Auto Parts was looking at property on Market Street here in the city.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated that she thought we accomplished a lot at the recent workshop and maybe we should do this every two months or so.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that she heard that our police officers couldn't shoot at the range at public works and wanted to know why we have to go somewhere else and pay to use a gun range when we have one.

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City Manager stated that when we use the gun range we have to notify people because with everything that is going on now days, people get scared when they hear a lot of gun fire.

Ms. Dailey ask if we were going to let the doggy people run this.

Chief Ayala stated that you have to schedule the officers for this around schedules, etc..

Ms. Dailey stated she had something else to discuss that at the last council meeting she stood up for our officers, but did she under stand that on New Years Night our officers were not on the street from 11:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Chief Ayala advised that was not right, that at Midnight his officer were not out of their vehicles for approximately 7 to 10 Minutes for safety reasons due to so much gunfire.

Mayor Diaz ask Chief Ayala if they get any calls for gun fire and he advise they do get several calls.

There was general discussion on how much fireworks were used in the city this year, and Chief Ayala advise it was difficult to catch someone setting off fire works but when they do they confiscate the fireworks and issue citations.

Council Member Garcia advised that she was on the street and called the police station about what she thought was gunfire but was fireworks.

Council Member Rivas ask her what was the response time and she advised that the first couple of call the response time was minutes and the third call was longer.

Chief Ayala advised that they were probably tied up on other calls.

Council Member Garcia ask about the status on the drone we discussed at budget time and was advised by the City Manager that we were still research, we wanted to get what would work best for the city.

Mr. Juan Flores, President of the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club, advised that when they came before the Mayor and Council to request the use of Wilkie Park to have a JC/GP Twin City Festival, they did not have a date but they but now have a tentative date of March 27 & 28, 2020. He went over a lot of the activities they hope to have and ask that if anyone had any idea for activities to please get with them.

Mayor Diaz stated that when they first brought idea to the Council everyone was excited about it and were looking forward to it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the use of Gov Deals.Com through Buy Board to liquidate unused city property. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council to appoint Tracy Middleton Associate Municipal Court Judge.**

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the appointment. Vote: 4 For 0 Against.

- 2. Resolution 2020-1R Ordering City Election for May 2, 2020 for three Council Positions, Position No. 1, Position No. 2 and Position No. 3.**

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Resolution 2020-1R Ordering City Election on May 2, 2020 for three council positions. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 3. Resolution 2020-2R Creating an Early Voting Ballot Board for May 2, 2020.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Resolution 2020-2R Creating an Early Voting Ballot Board consisting of Wayne Nichols as Presiding Judge, Matthey Shuptrine as Alternate Judge and Alice Reyna as a member. Vote: 4 For – 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he had seen some positive results from the workshop and ask the City Manager for an update on the police station.

Mr. Squyres stated they have gotten the framing in for the glass and hopefully tomorrow or the next day the glass would go in and they could finish the lobby.

There were question concerning the completion date and he stated they had told him by the end of January but hopefully it would at least be February.

~~Council Member Rivas ask about the landscaping and was advised that that the city would be responsible for the landscaping.~~

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Council Member Rivas ask if they could at least clean up the front, that he sees police units parking on the side and in the dirt and ask why they could not park in the front and was the flag pole lit up yet.

Mayor Diaz ask about the sign for the building and had it been ordered yet. She stated that it was good to hear about new businesses coming in but don't forget the one that are already here.

City Manager Squyres advised that it had already been ordered.

There was general discussion about the existing businesses and the good places to eat.

Council Member Rivas wished everyone a good weekend and God Bless.

Council Member Robinson advised everyone to be safe and enjoy the weekend.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out and he was going to welcome Judge Middleton but she had already left.

Council Member Garcia Thank everyone for coming out and ask the gentleman sitting in the row if he would like to introduce himself.

He stated that his name was James Quinn, he was fifty years old and had lived in Jacinto City all his life, had not been to a meeting in a long time and decided to come out and see what was going on.

Council Member Garcia invited him to come out and join us more often.

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

Respectfully submitted



Joyce Raines, City Secretary