

## City Council Minutes

April 9, 2020

6:00 PM

**Prayer – Allen Lee**

**Pledge of Allegiance - All**

**Mayor Diaz called the meeting to order**, pointing out that it is physically closed to the public but open via Zoom Conferencing.

**Roll Call by Kathy Greiner:** Mayor Diaz and Council Members JJ Rivas, Gregg Robinson, Allen Lee, Mario Gonzales are present along with City Manager Lon Squyres and City Attorney Jim DeFoyd.

**Mayor Diaz called for a motion related to the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.**

Motion - Robinson

Second – Rivas

Vote 5/0

### **Reports of Officers, Employees and Committees**

Joe Ayala – Police Chief – Donation of water from Lowes. A few local businesses asking questions about being open or closed.

Rebecca Mier – Fire Chief - Updated on Staff safety procedures and a slightly higher EMS call volume. Screening EMS calls in order for crews to arrive in PPE.

Ivan Rojas – Recreation Department Director – Parks closed for Easter. No planned time for next food drive.

Mayor Diaz – Spoke about the importance of filling out the census. Parks Closed Saturday & Sunday. Urged all to stay home over Easter weekend.

Lon Squyres – City Manager – Reported on testing site. Urged all persons to treat all people outside of their household as if they had the Corona Virus. This will prevent the spread of this disease. Gave stat of 1/3 of our residents completing Census as of this date.

Kyle Reed – Public Works Director – All is well at PW.

Elizabeth Flores – Heritage Hall Director – Reported on HH activities including meal deliveries for congregate and homebound.

### **Public Comments –**

Luisa Perez – Thanked Police & Public Works. Complained about negative comments on Facebook. Suggested driving Easter Bunny around city.

Constable Chris Diaz – His officers will be out this Easter Weekend and working with the Food Bank.

Mayor Diaz asked that all participants please not make “gestures” during meetings.

Luisa Perez – asked about rumors of Covid 19 in Jacinto City. Lon Squyres addressed the topic explaining that the details of patient identity are confidential by federal law.

Constable Chris Diaz – Jonny Tamayo passed away.

#### **Unfinished Business -**

1. Council to select engineering firm to design improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. (to be funded entirely by GLO – CDBG Hurricane Harvey Recovery Grant. Squyres reported that the selection committee of 5 people (3 JC & 2 County) recommends LJA Engineering.

Motion – Gonzales To negotiate a contract with LJA Engineering.

Second – Rivas

Vote 5/0

#### **New Business -**

Due to direction from the Secretary of State’s Office there is a need to delay the city’s general election. Squyres read a portion of that direction. He noted that the TML and others are petitioning the Governor to allow an alternate date rather than waiting until the November general election. City Attorney mentioned that the Council can simply vote to postpone the election at this time.

Motion to postpone city election – Rivas

Second – Robinson

Vote 5/0

#### **Comments by Council Members**

Gonzales – Be safe, limit gatherings. Pray for health care professionals.

Rivas – Excited to be seeking election again. It weighs on him as to the safety of the citizens. Reminded ones to follow guidelines.

Robinson – Thanked city workers for doing their jobs despite difficult circumstances.

Lee – Need to hang there.

Garcia – Suggested Census outreach.

Mayor Diaz spoke about need to stay home and be safe.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM