

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, Council Members Rivas, Robinson and Lee; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz and City Attorney Defoyd absent and Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call.

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 3 for 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that they are on the street spraying for mosquitoes, that they are very bad and they will continue spraying as much as possible. He also stated that they are putting up Christmas lights on the poles and buildings, that it is a little early but they want to get as much done as they as they can.

Chief Mier advised that they had a house fire today at Munn & Flint and they were happy to report that all people and pets were safe.

Chief Ayala thanked all the Veterans for all they have done for this country and for us. Chief Ayala ask everyone to please keep Mr. Toribio Garcia's family in their Prayers, Mr. Garcia was a 91 year old veteran who lived in the city and passed away yesterday.

Chief Ayala stated that Chief Mier had mentioned the house fire at Munn and Flint and that the fire and police departments had done a great job Containing the fire and making sure people and animal were safe. He stated that they were dealing with a lot of accidents and cautioned everyone to be careful out there.

Page 2 – November 12, 2020

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director advised they were delivering meals to the seniors and checking on them.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that he was waiting for a response from the Food Bank about scheduling a food fair on next Friday.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales advised that the lights at the monuments looked great and thanked Kyle for his assistants.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres thanked Council Member Gonzales for his help with the lights, finding a vendor and helping co-ordinate it.

Mr. Squyres stated that Kyle mentioned how bad the mosquitoes were and that he had been in Louisiana about 2 weeks ago and with the two storms they had gone through the mosquitoes were so bad they were killing the cattle and that FEMA was coming and doing ariel spraying.

He advised that the MIT Grant had been turned in on time, there was a lot of competition and a lot of paper work. He advised that the largest grant was one billion and one request was for 6 billion and he felt confident that if we didn't get anything in the first round we would in the second one.

He advised that the online auction of our used equipment was working well for us, that the last four vehicles we had auctioned had brought in between \$1,200 and \$1,400 hundred each.

City Manager Squyres stated that he had a citizen text us about why we were not having the Christmas Parade and he read the following which was sent out to all residents in the city Newsletter "each year, citizens look forward to several holiday events including the Christmas Parade, Santa on the Fire Truck and Pumpkinfest. Due to the Corona Virus, there will no doubt be changes and possible cancelations to some of our usual

festivities. For example, we are looking for a safe way to have the historic Santa on the Fire Truck event. As we get closer to each holiday, we will announce the plans on the city's face book page and city website. Please use social distancing and masks at all large gatherings".

City Manager Squyres advised that as of today, there have been 589 cases of COVID in the city, 50 cases are active now and 15 deaths, that September looked pretty good then October went up and we have had 12 city employees had tested positive. One employee in our Fire Depart, Mike Oder, who had given him permission to use his name, is a first responder, fire inspector and para medic and know all the precautions to take and now his wife has tested positive too.

As you'll have seen in previous parades, people are wall to wall up and down Market Street. Some cities are having parades, one is Humble, they have all kind of regulations and will not allow them to throw candy, that nobody has a perfect solution and our main concern is the crowd size, there is no way to enforce social distancing and our employees have to expose themselves. He stated that the Mayor, Council Member Rivas and him self had met on this and all had agreed this was not a good time to have it.

Lon stated that the people who normally organize the Santa on the Fire Truck Event were working on alternative to Santa not being able to cover all the streets, again there was no way to social distance, we would not be able have all the volunteers to walk the street but want to provide an alternative for the kids to enjoy and ask them to present their idea.

Kathy stated that we would like to have a drive through Santa on The Fire truck using one of the bays at the Fire Station and decorate the bay.

Rebecca showed the council a picture of a life size Nutcracker they were making to decorate with and stated she was getting very excited about the event.

Page 4 – November 12, 2020

Joyce added they planned to have a Santa Mail Box for the kids to drop their letters to Santa in and this would be on December 12th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m..

Mr. Squyres advised that Elizabeth and her Staff from Heritage Hall had Stuffed the bags with candy for Santa and we really appreciated that and ask that she let her staff know.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Casperson, stated that she was here at the last council meeting and ask what we could do about signs in the city, was there any answers or were we just going to forget them.

City Manager Squyres said that by law we had to leave political signs up for 10 day after the election and as soon as that was over they would be taken down.

Ms. Dailey said she was talking about all signs.

City Manager Squyres advised that we have an Ordinance on signs now But they still do this and if we say no signs, that means no signs – non specific and the courts are not usually friendly to cities.

Rebecca Mier reminded everyone about Market by Night on Saturday, to be sure and come out and also call attention to their sign about the market on the fence behind the City Hall Annex.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Administer Oaths of Office to unopposed candidates by Ordinance 2020—1 declaring them elected on July 9, 2020.**

The Oaths of Office were administered to Council Members JJ Rivas, Gregg Robinson and Allen Lee by Judge George Risner.

2. First reading of Ordinance 2020-5 setting salary for Mayor and City Council

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2020-5 setting the Salary for the Mayor at \$400.00 per month with a car allowance of \$300.00 per month and Council Members a salary of \$350.00 per month and a car allowance of \$225.00 per month. Vote: 4 For 1 Against – Rivas

3. Council action to amend over budget items in budget ending ion September 30, 2020

City Manager Squyres advised that these were from the last year, that 3 council Members had signed off on them. He advised that the largest over budget item was in Department 12 due to the corona virus and we would be reimbursed for that through the Cares Program.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the over expenditures from budget ending 9/30/2020. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. Council to consider amending over budget item for Gateway Lighting Project Code 19-6936 in the amount of \$11,500.00, over Budget item Traffic Camera System Code 16-6926 in the amount of \$6,000.00 and over budget item sewer plant permit fee code 33-6856 in the amount of \$5,340.84.

City Manager Squyres advised that the Gateway Project was approved last year but we had not been able to get the work done and we have to do this for the auditors.

Mr. Squyres advised that we had budgeted for the Traffic Cameras but in order to get the coverage that we need, we had to purchase extra cameras and explained how this would work to benefit the city and we would also be able to co-ordinate with other cities.

He stated that the sewer Plant Fee were set by EPA and TCEQ and we didn't always have the figure at budget time.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to amend budget code 19-6936 for the Gateway Lighting Project in the amount of \$11,500.00, budget code 16-6926 in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the Traffic Camera System and amend budget code 33-6856 in the amount of \$5,340.84 for the Sewer Plant Permit Fees. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

5. Council to confirm Ronnie E. Barker II as a Jacinto City Police Officer

Chief Ayala recommended that we hire Ronnie E. Barker II, gave a short bio stating that he had been a Military police Officer, a gunner and worked in security and had passed everything required of him.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Rivas to confirm Ronnie E. Barker II as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales administered the Oath of Office and presented Officer Barker with his badge.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas welcomed Office Barker aboard, stating that he had proven himself in the military. Mr. Rivas thanked everyone who was supporting him, that he had an opponent but she has moved out of the city. He stated that at some point and time he would turn his seat over to them when they showed him that they could do what he does.

Page 7. – November 12, 2020

Council Member Robinson thanked all the veterans for what they have done for the country and welcomed Officer Barker and thanked Elizabeth and her staff for doing the bags and wished everyone a nice weekend.

Council Member Lee Thanked all the Department head and staff for all they do, was glad to see the Christmas lights going up and welcomed Officer Barker.

Council Member Garcia thanked Rebecca for the use of the fire station for Santa, welcomed Office Barker to our city and for his service in the military and ask Chief Ayala if he was the only former military officer we had and the Chief advised that he thought we had two.

Council Member Gonzales welcomed Officer Barker and advised him that any of them would help him any way they could. He thanked the department heads and staff and looked forward to continuing working with the council.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**