

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021,6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 11, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz. Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney Defoyd and Joyce Raines, City Secretary. 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 Lee to approved the minutes as presented. Vote: 3 For 1 Against – Rivas

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that BakerRipley Housing and Energy Management was now taking applications from seniors to provide help assistance with electricity and gas bills and if approved they would receive up to \$1,000 on your electric bill and if you did not use all of it they would roll it over to your gas bill and seniors could also apply for the weatherization program, that it was a real good program. She pointed out that there were applications on the table in the council room and on the Heritage Hall website.

She stated there was also information on the table advising how adults 65 or older with persisting chronic illness could call and make an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccines.

She also advised that there were applications there for the free tablets for seniors 50 and over and they may be back to pick up applications in February.

She stated that senior boxes would be available for pickup at Denver Harbor Community Center because we were closed and we did not have the staff to handle the big boxes.

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Chief Ayala pass on his report.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director wished everyone a Happy New Year and advised that during the Christmas Holidays they had a major incident at the sewer plant, a main breaker had gone out and thanked Lon for getting ahold of Center Point Energy and his guys for coming out and working. He stated that we had more than 7 ½ “ of rain and were still cleaning up and assured Council Member Rivas that they would take care of the problem near his house as soon as it dried up some.

Kyle advised that North Shore Mustangs had lost the State game to West Lake which was the school Drew Breeze went to and he was a fan of him.

Council Member Rivas ask him what he thought Tampa Bay would do to the Saints on Sunday, Kyle said they were playing his team, the Saints and they wouldn't beat them.

Chief Mier passed on her report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that in regard to the incident that Kyle mentioned at the sewer plant, the breaker alone cost \$4,500.00 that Center Point was supposed to be there at 6:00 a.m. and it took several hours for them to show up but it was taken care of.

He stated the next thing he was going to report on was going to make Council Member Garcia happy, that we had replaced water lines on the south side and were about to start on the north side and hopefully should be going out for bids on that contract in about 2 months.

He stated that the flock camera system had been working well In helping solve crimes in the city and at the next council meeting we would be recognizing some of our police officers.

There were no comments from the public.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council authorization to sell, via auction. two HVAC Compressors salvaged from the police station.**

City Manager Squyres advised that the compressors had been installed Shortly before we built the new station and were in good condition and We would like to auction them through GOVEDEALS, INC., the company we have been using for our used equipment, that we have gotten good results with them and when PD gets ready to get rid of unclaimed property we could use them for that as well.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to authorize selling the HVAC compressors by auction through GOVDEALS, INC.. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

- 2. Council Action on Variance Board's recommendation on request At 10302 Munn and 1106 Dacus.**

Mayor Diaz stated that we would start with 10302 Munn and ask Ms, Rosita Hernandez if she would like to come to the podium and tell them what she would like to do.

Ms. Hernandez stated that she had lived in the house on Munn for 17 years and had just bought it but she had lived in Jacinto City all her life and was active in the community and that she wanted to build a structure on the back of the lot that faced Mercury for a salon, that it

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would be by appointment only and only she and her daughter would be working there.

Mayor Diaz stated that the Variance Board had voted yes as long as all set backs were done within the law.

Council Member Gonzales ask if there was a problem with the setback lines.

City Manager Squyres stated that the property had to have 5000 sq. ft. to build on it and her lot was 10,000 sq. ft. and was dual zoned because of the location and the detached building had to meet all the setback lines and be on the Mercury side.

Council Member Robinson ask where was she going to park, that he didn't want people to start using the city's right-a-way.

There was discussion about the parking, Ms, Hernandez discussed changing the size of the building which would give her more space and also about the long drive way at her house which the customers could park and walk through the back.

Donna Dailey, a member of the Variance Board, stated that the parking was one thing they were concerned about.

Council Member Rivas stated that he felt they needed to know more about what they wanted, not the applicant but the city that at the meeting he did not think the city knew enough about what they were asking for and that was not fair to the applicant.

City Manager Squyres stated that the applicant did not have all the information, that she just wanted to see if she would be able to do this before she went any further, that all they were voting tonight was could she have the additional building on the property.

The question was ask if Ms. Hernandez would have to come back for another variance hearing.

City Manager Squyres stated that she would have to hire an architect and he would get with our building official and if the plans met code she would not have to come back for a variance but if it did not meet code she would.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to accept the Variance Board's recommendation as long as she met all codes. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz stated the item was a request for a variance by Mr. Jose Tamez for 1106 Dacus and he wanted to have a buisness on the Mercury side and a residence on Dacus side and the Board had voted 3 for 1 against for the second proposal and 4 Against on the first proposal.

Mr. Tamez stated that he had purchased the abandon property from 1106 Dacus through 1109 Dacus and he wanted to have a business on the Mercury Side and a residence on the Dacus side and that he also owned the engraving business that used to be the old flower shop. He stated that the first proposal was with the 10 ft. at the front which would be parking on the city right-a-way and the second proposal was the one with 20 ft. at the front and allow parking on the property and was the one the Variance Board preferred. He stated that he also planned to put a driveway at the engraving Shop. He stated that he was aware that the type of business that go in there would be limited because of the parking and that the city would control that.

Council Member Garcia ask what the problem was with individual that voted no.

Donna Dailey, a member of the Board, stated the limited parking, they didn't want them parking on the city right-a-way.

There was general discussion regarding the parking issue.

Council Member Rivas stated that if they didn't have an overflow of parking they might be able to park across the street but that might be an issue during baseball season or other city events.

City Manager Squyres advised that the type of business that could go in there was limited as to the number of parking spaces

There was general discussion on how much parking would be needed for employees.

Mr. Tamez stated that he would not want employees having to cross Mercury Drive to get to the buildings, that Vil Pack only worked one day A week and he was going to talk with them about possibly leasing parking space.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the Variance Board's recommendation for proposal No. 2. Vote: 5 For 0 against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas wished everyone a Happy New Year and as we move forward this year remember what we lost and move on. Everyone wear their mask and as we move forward this is all temporary hopefully. He hoped that every one had a wonderful and happy Martin L. King Day, that he was a very Special Man and he admired him. God bless everyone.

Council Member Robinson stated he hoped that everyone had a good year and a good weekend.

Council Member Lee wished everyone a Happy New Year and he was

Praying for a better New Year and God Bless everyone.

Council Member Garcia encourage everyone to enjoy the Holiday, be safe, wear your mask and social distance.

She stated that she was glad to see the new business come into the city and she was excited about the North Side waterline project , she had been waiting several years for this. She encouraged everyone to come to the council meetings and find out what was going on in the city.

Council Member Gonzales thanked Public Works for all the work they had done during the holidays and for the Christmas decorations, that he had heard a lot of good comments on them.

Mr. Gonzales ask about a couple of sink holes we had here in the city, that he and Council Member Lee had driven out and checked them and the small they had filled up with dirt but would this wash out and the one on Lane and Cheston what would they do for a permanent repair.

City Manager Squyres advised that he and Kyle were getting prices for a point repair and it was going to be around \$20,000.

Council Member Robinson stated that we needed to put a plate over these until they are repaired to be sure they are safe.

Council Member Lee stated that he had talked with the property owner and he stated there was a pipe crushed there and ask if we would need to replace the pipe.

Council Member Robinson ask if we would have a number on this by next council meeting.

City Manager Squyres advised that we would do this as an emergency repair and wouldn't have to go out for bids and do it in the confines of

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the budget and if we could not, we would come to the council for a budget amendment and he would keep them advised.

Council Member Rivas stated that last year we had a workshop about what was going on in the city and ask if we could do that again, that he would like to have their support on this.

Mayor Diaz stated she thought it was a good idea to have them once a month.

Council Member Garcia suggested maybe on Tuesday before a council meeting.

Council Member Rivas ask if we needed to address specific items.

City Attorney DeFoyd advised that anytime you had an open meeting, it had to be posted and you had to be specific about what was going to be discussed, that you could put more than one item on the agenda but you had to specify each item.

There was general discussion on when to have the meetings.

Mayor Diaz wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked them for wearing mask, that the pandemic is still here and she had noticed that some of the businesses like the Zuma Group was not wearing mask and Could we do anything about that.

City Manager Squyres stated that at the gym he thought that you could take off the mask while you were working on the machines but he would Check on the exercise clubs, etc.

Mayor Diaz stated that a lot of our businesses were wearing mask and thanked public works and city Hall, that all city services were open for business, you could pay your water bills, get permits and all city service.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce Raines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**