

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 25, 2021 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia and City Attorney arrived after roll Call.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 4 For 0 Against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that he had a lot of pride in how our city did during the storm, that we had a lot of problems, they were all fixed now but would probably have more as a result of the freeze. He advised that the boil water notice had been lifted today, that we hate to issue a boil water notice but that is controlled by the state and the hold up on our samples was due to all the labs being backed up and we will not take a chance on providing water to the residents until we know that it is safe.**

**Kyle stated that he wanted to brag on the police department, that with everything that had happened our guys were repairing a water valve and laid the saw down and three guys jumped out of their car, grabbed the saw and took off, he call Officer Walker with the description of the car that our guys gave him and Walker called him in about 20 minutes and advised him they got his saw back, he commended PD and the flock camera system, he was amazed and wanted to see how it worked.**

**Mayor Diaz thanked Kyle and his staff for all the good work they did during the freeze.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, passed on his report.**

**Chief Ayala stated they had been very busy but thanks to the technology they are able to take people off the street. He advised that on face book that there Was a shooting in Jacinto City in front of the police station and this was not true, our officers did not shoot anyone and explained what happened. He stated the weather had been hard on a lot of people in the city but like always the city and residents work well together.**

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**Mayor Diaz stated that she had gotten a lot of calls about the city buying the Chief a new car, that they had seen a tow truck picking up his car in front of Dairy Queen and him riding in the tow truck.**

**There was general discussion about the Chief needing a new car.**

**Chief Ayala said we would see what happened in the next budget.**

**Chief Ayala advised that a longtime resident Mr. David Canalas had passed away.**

**Council Member Lee advised that Ms. Virginia George had also passed away, that she was a member of his church and a longtime member of Heritage Hall.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that he had heard it said it was time for Chief Ayala to get a new vehicle and as a leader of the city he was going to take his COVID-19 vaccination tomorrow.**

**He stated the event was going to be massive, they were going to be administering 500 vaccinations and Methodist Hospital has staff of 85 to 90 people conducting the clinic and a large amount of our seniors were signed up. He advised they did a food and water give away at town center on Monday and had 613 cars come through and we really appreciated it.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that the technology they were talking about did great things, that one of the three men that stole the saw had a weapon and the man they had arrested was released by Harris County on a \$100.00 bond.**

**He stated that he had talked with some Judges that were at the food & water give away about the bond system and they said there was no room to put them.**

**There was general discussion about the need for more jail facilities.**

**There was no Unfinished Business.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. First Reading of Ordinance 2021-1 Declaring unopposed candidates in the May 1, 2021 General City Election, elected to office, cancelling the election; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve Ordinance 2021-1 on the first reading declaring Ana Diaz elected to the position of Mayor, Council Member Garcia to Council Position 4 and Council Member Gonzales to Position 5. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

- 2. Resolution 2021-4R Council to consider extending Emergency Declaration.**

**Council Robinson ask long was this going on.**

**City Manager Squyres said no set time, we would come to them and ask to close it when time comes.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

- 3. City Council to consider waiving plumbing permit fees for the Valentine Freeze**

**There was general discussing about the different names the storm was being referred to as.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to waive plumbing permit fees for damages during the valentine freeze. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

- 4. Council to consider an appointment to fill vacancy on Variance Board.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to appoint Jody Seydler to serve on the Variance Board. Vote 5 For 0 Against**

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**Mayor Diaz introduced and welcomed Sandra Zamarripa, Community Liaison for Adrian Garcia, Commissioner Pct. 2, office.**

**Ms. Zamarripa stated that she sees how we work together to better the city and they had a couple of things they would like to work with us on.**

**Council Member Rivas welcomed Mr. Seydler aboard and thanked him for being willing to volunteer his time to serve on the board and ask if anyone talked about what had worked or didn't work during the freeze.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that the senior staff had met on Monday morning and discussed what had been done, what worked and what we might be able to improve on. He stated that we pick up pallets of MRE and water that had been donated today and storing for future need.**

**There was discussion regarding shelters and Mr. Squyres advised that the city had no viable shelters.**

**Mayor Diaz advised that we offered the police station as a short term to stay warm, etc. and a very small number took us up on the offer.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Rivas stated that he appreciated everyone out there doing what they could and he was surprised the weather took the turn that it did and we would catch up and celebrate.**

**Council Member Robinson thanked all the employees involved, it was a mess out there, he welcomed Jody aboard and congratulated the Mayor and Council Members.**

**Council Member Lee thanked everyone who worked during the storm that the city workers did a great job and the city and community worked together. He congratulated the Mayor and Council Members. He stated that his first grandbaby was born 2 days ago and she was a beautiful little girl.**

**Council Member Garcia thanked the city workers, that everyone was in the same situation and ask if the fire department had any major emergencies.**

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**City Manager Squyres stated they had some fires due to space heaters or generators but no major emergencies.**

**Council Member Garcia ask what they did about the wire for generators being run across the street to another house,**

**City Manager Squyres said they tried to mitigate it.**

**Council Member Garcia ask about the progress on the North Side waterline.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that they be going out for bids on the project in a few weeks and we were 90% on the design for the sewer plant.**

**Council Member Rivas ask how deep do they bury them when we put in water lines and was advised that between 5 ft. and 8 ft..**

**Council Member Garcia thanked Javier Duran for spreading cheer while reading meters and told of an incident at her Aunt Flo's house. She welcomed Mr. Seydler and ask Zamarripa from Pct.2 what were the two thing she said they were working on.**

**Ms. Zamarripa advised it was free testing and vaccinations.**

**Council Member Gonzales stated that anytime we are hit with a disaster, the Department Heads come together, Kyle's staff and PD are out on the streets. We can be proud of our city, we work together.**

**Donna Dailey stated that she has been giving out 25 packs of food each week Here in the city through Joseph House and the boxes are heavy and she has been looking for volunteers to help. She will be gone for the next 7 weeks and Has found two, Mr. Johnny Duran and Ms. Susan Candalera and if they know of anyone who really needs food to let Ana know, they want to help people who need help, not want it.**

**Mayor Diaz thanked Donna for all she does, and she uses her own car and gas.**

**Council Member Rivas stated that JJ Watts has left us so he is the only JJ left now.**

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**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the phrase "Respectfully Submitted,".

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**