

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

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 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 City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia absent.

The meeting was opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala passed on his report.

Ivan Rojas, Parks & Recreation Director advised that they were getting the fields ready for ball season and would be meeting with the leagues.

Council Member Rivas ask Ivan to be sure and invite him to the meeting.

Mayor Diaz ask him to include the whole council.

Chief Mier passed on her report.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that we had a mess after the winter storm but we were catching up. He stated that we had 8 major valves in critical locations that we had to replace as well as problems at the pool, town center and the sludge press at public works

Mayor Diaz introduced Mr. Cory Hays, a representative for Congress Woman Sylvia Garcia, who announced that the city would be receiving 2.3 million dollars to help fund the city.

Mayor Diaz thanked him for presenting us with this great news and ask that he give Sylvia our thanks for all she does for us.

City Manager Squyres explained how mitigation grants work and that after a disaster these grants are available to apply for and that this year we had applied for two grants one for 2016 CDBG-Mitigation Drainage Improvement

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Project and had just this morning been advised that after reviewing all 35 applicants GLO had awarded the City of Jacinto City a total of \$5,319,717.00 For the cities drainage project. He advised this was to put in storm drains, etc. and went over some of the areas they would go and stated that Harris County was supposed to restructure drainage on Hunting Bayou and we should not have drainage problems.

He advised that the second project we applied for was 2017 Harvey Mitigation Project in the same amount for the sewer plant and it had not been awarded yet and thanked the Mayor and Council for meeting on such short notice with us but this was a fast pace program and we have worked with GLO before.

Mayor Diaz thanked Lon for all he does.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dee Maner, 1316 Mercury Dr. stated that she had been at the meeting where Lon had brought up the idea for the restructon and apparent no one else had even thought of this and he did a great job, she was very impressed and proud to be from Jacinto City.

Dee stated that when she was with the city and had the gymnastic program, she had a student, Amy Hughes and when she opened Omega Gym she taught for her and now she had built a gym in Texacana and it was one of the top gyms in the country., it was great to see some one of our own from here do so well.

Ms. Maner stated that everyone knew she stood for education and conservation and she had passed out flyers on the Trash Bash 2021 Virtual Event from Backyard to Bay and they have re-imagine it into a virtual event for 2021 to protect the health of the volunteers and their families or a small group the event is for March 25th – 28th and they are asking for volunteers and their family to help with this event.

Luisa Perez advised that they were shooting for April 10th to open Little League and they wanted to put in a waiver with the city not liable if someone gets sick.

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Mayor Diaz advised her to get with the Little League Organization to see what they were doing.

City Manager Squyres stated that we had ask for a safety plan from them so that we are sure it is safe which is our main concern.

There was general discussion about having to wear mask.

Ms. Perez stated that the GLO is a good program that she is getting her house rebuilt and she is glad the city is getting money. She ask what about the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mayor Dias advised that we were going to have something, possibly have the Easter Bunny pass out bags, we were not sure of the date or location yet.

Wayne Nichols, 10502 Lane St. thanked Lon and his Staff for all they do and thanked the Police Department for all that they do, advised of a theft at their church how quick they had been caught and what was taken was returned.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2021-1 declaring unopposed candidates in the May 1,2021 City Election, elected to office, cancelling the election, providing severability clause and providing an effective date**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Ordinance 2021-1 declaring the unopposed candidates elected and cancelling the May 1, 2021 city election. Vote: 4 For – 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Jacinto City Police Department to present 2020 Racial Profiling Report.**

Lt. Longrigg presented the 2020 Racial Profiling Report, stating a copy was on file at City Hall for viewing.

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2. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation of request at 10336 Palestine and 11900 Market Street.

City Manager Squyres stated that Brian Alvarez and Steve Razo had applied for a variance at 10336 Palestine St. to open a liquor store.

Mayor Diaz stated that she did not drink but she was looking forward to it.

Council Member Rivas ask Mr. Razo how long had he been looking at Jacinto and did he have other stores.

Mr. Razo stated that this would be the first but he did have a business in Jacinto City, that he and his partner rented space from Parker's Auto Repair and did vehicle inspections.

City Manager Squyres advised that they had applied before but at that time there was a Church within 300 ft, and we could not consider the request.

Mayor Diaz polled the council: Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales 4 For 0 Against

City Manager Squyres stated that Mr. Daniel Vazquez had requested a variance to put a warehouse on this property and they had stated that everything would be inside of the building. The business was rebuilding transmissions.

Council Member Lee ask if there would be no parts or repairs outside, that he was concerned about how their present building looked now.

Council Member Robinson ask where would they clean them, would it be inside the building.

Mr. Vazquez's representative stated that they were sure that they could come up with a plan that would be agreeable to the city, that every thing would be done according to regulations.

Mayor Diaz stated that we would take their word for it but if it did not, the police department would be down there.

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Council Member Gonzales ask if they were going to operate two businesses and they replied no, it would all be moved to the new location.

Council Member Robinson ask if when they moved would they use the old building for storage, and they replied that maybe for a short time while they moved.

There was discussion about the possibility of environmental contamination from the materials washed out of the transmissions.

City Manager Squyres stated that we could have an environmental testing to be Sure there was no environmental contamination, etc. and before we put the seal on the new property we need to make sure there is not anything that gets mediated.

There was general discussion about what this would involve.

Mayor Diaz polled the council.

Council Member Rivas stated he thought they were giving them a hard time, this was the second time he had applied and he could take them to several places that had been approved with issues and he was for the approval of the variance.

Council Member Robinson stated that he was for it but the season he was back Was because his plans were wrong the first time.

Council Member Lee stated he was for it.

Council Member Gonzales stated he was for it but that was why he had to come back.

Vote: 4 For 0 Against

3. Juan Flores to address Mayor and Council concerning a Farmer's Market.

Mr. Flores stated that he worked with a non-profit organization to bring in healthy home grown food to families and they would do this possibly 4 time a

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year and would like to use Smith Park and the time would 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and they would be giving out \$10.00 coupons that they could use to purchase the items with.

Mayor Diaz stated that she thought it was a good idea.

Rebecca Mier ask Mr. Flores what kind things they would be selling and he replied they trying to get vendor lined up, that it would be fresh produce, eggs, a glass vendor and crafts.

There was discussion about working with Jacinto City's Market by Night and Mayor Diaz ask him to get with Rebecca and discuss it.

Mayor Diaz polled the Council: Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales Vote: 4 For 0 Against

4. Council to confirm Ernesto Villatoro as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer.

Chief Ayala congratulated Mr. Vazquez, stated that he had know him a long time and he would be a good asset to the city.

The Chief ask Ms. Perez to see him after the meeting that the police department would like to sponsor a team in the league.

Chief Ayala gave a short bio on Mr. Ernesto Villatoro, stating that he would be a big asset to the city and recommended that the council confirm him.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to confirm Ernesto Villatoro as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Villatoro and welcomed him to the city, stating that we were all family here.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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Council Member Rivas welcomed Officer Villatoro aboard and stated like Mayor Diaz said, they don't always agree, but he stands his ground. God bless all

Council Member Robinson welcomed Officer Villatoro to the City, thanked everyone for coming out.

Council Member Lee welcome Office Villatoro, reminded everyone to be sure and reset their clocks and God Blessed all.

Council Member Gonzales welcome Officer Villatoro aboard and advised him he would be working with a great department.

Mayor Diaz wished everyone a great weekend.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**