

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021. 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

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: 5 For 0 Against

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised she had received an e-mail with a tentative date of June 1st to reopen the center, that we have to send a plan in as to how we will operate and she would get with Lon next week on the report.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, passed on his report.

Mr. Squyres stated that he thinks we can put a plan together and accommodate all who want to come to the center.

Mayor Diaz stated that we need to have some kind of welcome back party for them.

Chief Mier, Chief Ayala and Ivan Rojas all passed on their reports.

City Manager Squyres stated that the Council has authorized the staff to go ahead with the 75th Anniversary Celebration and most of the invitations went out yesterday and we would also be having fireworks on a much smaller scale. He advised that COVID vaccinations would be given at Town Center tomorrow and if anyone would like to sign up to get in touch with him.

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Mr. Squyres advised that he would be working on a last minute grant application which was due Saturday so he would be working all weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS;

Donna Dailey. 1701 Chazen, stated that she needed some help, that she passes out food on Wednesdays and her volunteers were under the weather. She stated she could drive but she can't lift the boxes and if they knew anyone who was able to volunteer to please let her know, that we are blessed to get this food, that the church doesn't give it to just anyone, you have to need the food. She stated they had made her an ambassador.

Rafael from Galena Park stated that he had a project he wanted to bring to Jacinto City, that he wanted to open an automated car wash and showed the Mayor and Council what it would look like and that there was an open lot on the corner of Holland and Market and he had left a message for the owner but had not heard back from him yet and it was a big lot that would hold the car wash and possibly a small shopping center as well. He stated that he wanted to bring this before the council to see if this was something they would approve.

Luisa Perez stated they had gotten ball season started and had their first game was tonight and they had a new secretary Shelly Rivas and that Ivan and JJ had got things running for them and everyone was excited to be back. She advised that her house had been torn down and they were starting on the new one.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Chad Burke, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region to present Annual Report.**

Mr. Burke stated it was good to be back in Jacinto City and to see ball leagues started back. He introduced a new member of their staff Karen Gregory and advised that she would be working with all the cities.

Mr. Burke stated that they were a non-profit organization, created in 1985 and their mission was to grow and market a vibrant regional economy that they cover 25 miles of the Houston Ship channel, which houses the world's largest petrochemical complex and is the Nations busiest port in terms of foreign tonnage and it's membership is made up of 12 cities, Harris County and the Port of Houston and 250 plus private sector members.

He advised that in 2018 in Texas the port region generated \$339 billion in economic value, sustained 1.3 million jobs and generated 5.6 billion in state and local tax revenue. He stated that COVID -19 impacted the port and refineries, that everything shut down and it took weeks to get them back up and had an impact on vessel movement, he discussed the Impact on job losses and the fact that many sectors had a long way to go to full recovery, he discussed critical issues associated with movement of freight, the feasibility study TxDot was working on for Hwy 225 from 610 to 146 and increasing the width of the ship channel to accommodate the bigger ships. Mr. Burke discussed the San Jacinto Texas Historic District awards grant to entity's during a pandemic year and encouraged the city to apply for one of the grants.

Mr. Burke thanked the Mayor and Council for their time.

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2. Council approval of Economic Alliance Houston Port Region Service Agreement.

City Attorned DeFody advised that he had review the service agreement and recommended that the council approve it.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the service agreement. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation of request at 10921 Invierno and 1013A Mercury.

City Manager Squyres advise that the Variance Board had met on April 20th regarding the request at 10921 Invierno by Asuncion Perez/Yeri Perez request to have an apartment on the back part of their lot and they voted 3 opposed to the apartment and 0 for the apartment.

Mr. Perez's daughter advised that they had remodeled part of the existing apartment and added to it and did not get a permit.

Mayor Diaz advised that you always had to get a permit

City Manager Squyres stated that he visited the site today and advised that this was zoned for single family residential only, and the apartment had not been occupied since 2004 and even if it was grandfathered in at that time it would have lost the clause once the property changed ownership. He advised that they had torn down approximately 240 ft, of the old structure and added the 540 sq. ft. and the side setback was only 3 ft. instead of 5 ft, that the setback was ok in the back and the sq. ft. of the apartment was now 1060 sq. ft., that there was no electricity, no drawings and no inspections and they didn't know if the slab would hold the second story.

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The daughter stated that the original apartment had a water meter and electric meter so they didn't know it was illegal.

Mayor Diaz advised her that she wished they had come to them first.

The daughter stated there were so many apartments behind houses in Jacinto City, that this was not fair, they were willing to do whatever they had to.

City Manager Squyres explained how the grandfather clause worked again and that if we allowed this and we get inspected by ISO and the city would have to pay higher insurance rates.

Council Member Lee ask how long had the water meter been there and Mr. Squyres advised since some time in the early 1990's and was disconnected for 17 years.

The daughter stated that she had lost her job and her father told her they could repair the apartment and she and her children could live there.

Council Member Lee ask if they could bring it up to code.

City Manager Squyres stated that they could not, that it was too close to the setback line and they would have to have a core inspection on the slab and if an engineer tells them the concrete is not right, they would have to tear it down

Council Member Robinson ask if the lot was 5000 sq. ft. which was required for a single family dwelling, that it certainly wasn't 10,000 sq. ft.

Council Member Gonzales ask how this was let go by us for so long.

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City Manager Squyres advised that we had received a complaint and had to check it out.

Mr. Perez spoke in Spanish and could not translate.

Mayor Diaz stated that Council had to vote on it and they hate to do this.

There was general discussion by Mayor and Council

City Manager Squyres stated this was the last thing we wanted to do but you had to have permits.

Mayor Diaz polled the Council:

Council Member Rivas stated that he wanted to follow the Board's recommendation and voted no to the variance.

Council Member Robinson agreed with the Variance Board and voted No to Variance.

Council Member Lee voted no to the variance.

Council Member Garcia voted no to the variance.

Council Member Gonzales voted no to the variance.

Vote: 0 For 5 Against

Mayor Diaz advised them to talk with City Manager Squyres to see if there was any way he could help them.

City Manager Squyres advised that Mr. Christopher Lynch - CPL Technical Service LLC had applied for a variance at 1013 A Mercury Drive to have a storage unit at the rear of the street front building.

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He stated the Variance Board had voted 3 For allowing the variance and 0 Against and Mr. Lynch was advised that he could not store vehicles inside the building.

Mr. Lynch advised that he current had space on Market Street and when the property became available on Mercury he discussed with Mr. Richard as to what he would need to do and what it would be used for.

He thanked the Variance Board for allowing the variance.

Mayor Diaz polled the Council:

Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales votes yes to allow the variance. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. Mr. Purcell to address Mayor and Council regarding street light.

Mr. Purcell stated that he had been waiting for the street light for 5 years and they put one right around the corner and Lon came by and showed him paper work that said they were putting it across the street and he didn't know why, there was already a pole there and he was doing this for the people and he talked about how bad sidewalks were need there.

City Manager Squyres advised that he talked with the power company and discussed the wrong address and we finally got the address right and we were working on getting his light, that they have a meeting scheduled with Center Point next week. Mr. Squyres stated they come by and evaluate and we have no control over them.

Mr. Purcell ask about putting something down for sidewalks and Mr. Squyres advised that he would discuss this at budget time.

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He advised that they were having trouble with GPISD getting the road repaired by the new school.

Mayor Diaz stated she hoped that they could accomplish something at their meeting on Monday.

Mr. Squyres stated they had been trying and would continue to work to get this.

Mr. Purcell stated the house next door to him was building an apartment behind it and did not have a permit and Mr. Squyres advised that he would check it out.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas advised everyone to always seek a permit first. He stated the weather was supposed to get bad and the mosquito problem would get bad.

Council Member Robinson advised everyone to be careful and have a good weekend.

Council Member Lee cautioned everyone to be good and God Bless.

Council Member Garcia ask about lifeguards for the pool and was advised that we had 8 applications at this time and she ask Rebecca about the Market. Ms. Mier advised that we had crawfish, new vendors and fireworks for the event.

City Manager Squyres advised it was a small scale fireworks.


Council Member Gonzales wished everyone a good weekend.

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**Mr. Wayne Nichols advised that funeral service for Oscar Salinas was
On May 1, 2021 at 17404 West Lake Houston Pkwy.**

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**