

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

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 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 and City Secretary Raines. City Attorney DeFoyd out Of State.

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

Mayor Diaz introduced and welcomed Mr. Jerry Mouton, Mayor of Deer Park to the meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, reported that the contractor would be through with the repairs on Burman Street tomorrow and would work on Saturday if they needed to, that they had really done a good job and had put forth a lot of effort to complete the project.

Mayor Diaz said that everyone is happy and she has received a lot of calls.

Mr. Reed advised that they were not going to put the speed bumps back on that section of Burman and were going to paint the speed bumps around the school and if they needed any yellow street crossing painted like they had before they needed to let them know.

Mayor Diaz stated she thought the drop off would be in front of the school and the pickup on Burman.

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Mr. Reed advise that they would start trimming trees tomorrow and would go through the entire city to prepare for a possible hurricane and they were mowing and he was happy to see our city look like it usually does. He advised that he would have crews working Saturday if they did not finished today and they were spraying for mosquitoes six nights a week from 9:00 p.m until 1:00 a.m..

Mayor Diaz stated the city was looking good.

Chief Ayala passed on his report.

Chief Mier passed on her report.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that the Houston Health Department and Volunteers Attorney would prepare wills free of charge for residents of Harris County who are 60 years of age or older, they needed to call and register by Thursday August 5th and the number to call was 832-393-4301 and they would need to attend both days, August 12th and September 9th at The Church At Bethel's Family and information was on Heritage Hall's web page.

She also advised that The State's local office Harris County Area Agency on Aging (HCAAA) was offering free ensure supplements/meal replacement supplies, up to 45 days with a written prescription from the doctor and also offering incontinence supplies, contact HCAAA at 832-393-4301 for more information and this information was also on Heritage Hall's web page.

She announced that the senior center would reopen partially on Monday, August 2 for approximately 20 to 25 seniors and they were excited about the exercise program which they had increased from three days to five days.

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Mayor Diaz ask if the seniors were going to do senior swim at the pool and Elizabeth advised that she had made them aware of it.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director stated that the senior swim time would be at 4:00 p.m. because of swimming lessons. He stated they were busy getting the parks ready, that they were looking better, that they were having a lot of swimmers at the pool and splash pad, they love the pool.

Mayor Diaz stated that they really like the lazy river to.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Jerry Mouton from Deer Park stated that he appreciated the fact that both of our cities had pride in our cities and quality of life in our cities, he discussed some of the problem that cities have to work through most people who enjoy what cities provide have no idea what it takes to provide them, that it is always a challenge to fund what our cities need and we learn from each other.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council to consider amending budget code 25-6948 in the amount of \$4,600.00 for purchase of scissor lift.**

City Manager Squyres stated that we had been in need of one for a long time and Mr. Reed was able to locate a refurbished one and they went out and looked at it and we could resale it tomorrow for more than we would be paying for it.

Mayor Diaz stated that it was something the city needed.

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Council Member Rivas ask Kyle what jobs this would assist him with.

Mr. Reed stated that they could change light in Town Center, the gym, public works, city hall, etc. that it cost a lot to rent one and for what it cost to rent One for a week it would be worth it.

City Manager Squyres stated that if lights go out in the Fire Department Etc. and what it cost to rent one it was not worth it to change one or two bulbs so we wait and with the scissor lift we could change them as they go out.

Council Member Robinson ask if it would fit in the gym and City Manager Squyres advised that it would fit in all city buildings.

Council Member Lee ask how we would transport it.

City Manager Squyres advised that we plan to include a new trailer in the new budget for it but could make do with what we have until then.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to amend Budget Code 25-6948 in the amount of \$4,600.00 for purchase of scissor lift. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Council to appoint members to Variance Board

Council Member Lee nominated Elle Oballe.

Council Member Robinson nominated Rob Essex.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve Elle Oballe and Rob Essex to serve on the Variance Board. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

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3. Resolution 2021-4R Amending Personnel Ordinance to add Peace Officer Mental Health Leave Policy and Employee paid quarantine leave policy as mandated by SB-1359 and HB-2073

City Manager read the above Resolution stating that we virtually are already doing this.

Council Member Rivas ask what is our policy now on Peace Officer Mental Health Leave.

City Manager Squyres stated this was basically what we do now but the law mandates that we have to amend our Personnel Policy to include SB- 1359 and HB-2073. He stated that if they recalled when we had two officers shot a few years ago we offered counseling to all of the officers.

Council Member Rivas ask what about fire fighters.

City Manager Squyres advised that the fire fighters were not covered under the Mental Health Leave Policy, SB-1359 but were included in the HB-2073, Employee Paid Quarantine Leave Policy and our fire fighters were part time but we were looking into possibly having a paid fire department in the future.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Resolution 2021-4R. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked Mayor Mouton for being here. Wished everyone a good weekend and God bless.

Council Member Robinson thanked Mayor Mouton for joining us and cautioned everyone to be careful and enjoy the weekend.

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Council Member Lee thanked Mayor Mouton for joining us and God Bless all.

Council Member Garcia ask if we might paint lines on Market Street, that it was in bad shape and was advised that Market Street was a County Road and was maintained by the County and she ask if we could ask the County.

City Manager Squyres advised that we do that frequently with not a lot of results and the materials they use don't last long.

Council Member Garcia ask Elizabeth if the seniors had to call or what about the programs she discussed.

Elizabeth stated that they did and they had until August 5th to call and the program started on August 12th.

Council Member Garcia ask Mayor Mouton about the odor that had been in the air.

Mayor Mouton advised that it was shut down today and that EPA was pleased that Dow was handling it so quickly and they were watching it closely.

Council Member Gonzales thanked Mayor Mouton for coming out, welcomed him to our city and wished everyone a nice weekend.

Mayor Diaz advised that former Council Member Lisa Shuptrine's son had passed away suddenly and ask that everyone please keep the family in their Prayers.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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