

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR FY 2021/2022

The Mayor and City Council met for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2021/2022 on September 23, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. with the Following members present Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Gonzales absent due to family illness and City Attorney arrived after roll call.

City Manager explained the purpose of the Public Hear is the Proposed Tax Rate, that two years ago when they passed SB 2 they made it very complicated and all taxing cities, etc. had to comply. For years it had been pretty simple , a city could not elevate the tax rate more than 8 cents, this was composed of Maintenance and Operation which was to take care of the daily expenses of the city Interest and Sinking to pay bond expenses and after this year we will have no bond debt. He stated that what use to be call the effective tax rate was now Property Tax Rate and last year was .774604/100 and this year was .773790/00 and the rate was actually going to be less than last year but on the notice they say we are raising the taxes, this is State mandated. The next item is No-New-Tax Rate which is what tax it will take for Jacinto City to bring in the same amount of revenue as last year. Some values went down some went up, mostly commercial values and they break this into to categories, Maintenance and Operation which funds the daily operations of the city and bond payments which amounts to approximately 9 cents and the bonds will be paid of this yeas which means that there will we a nine cent reduction on the tax rate next year. He stated that if you exceed the Voter Approved Tax Rate you have to have ab election and it would have to be in November when there is a large turn out of voters. He stated there was a provision to handle this for cities under 30,000 you could go with the De minimis rate but it was not worth it.

Council Member Rivas ask why do we have to do this every year, why is it important to us.

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City Manager Squyres stated that it was not that important to us, that we stay about the same every year and explained why they wanted to move the election to November. He advised that between the time we received the Certified Estimate Roll and the Certified Roll we had lost 20,000 Million dollars in revenue due to protests and there are so many deadlines you have to meet, it is very complicated now.

There were no questions from the audience.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the Public Hearing at 5.45 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 23, 2021 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Gonzales absent due to family illness.

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 of the previous meeting as presented. Vote 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Bernardo Perez, Public Works stated that they were staying busy cleaning up and spraying for mosquitoes and reminded them that we were still in hurricane season.

Chief Ayala had no report.

Ivan Rojas stated they were staying busy keeping the parks clean.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director advised that they were still closed due to COVID and that next Friday, October 1st they would be there to sign people 60 and over up for a free table from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m..

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that several month ago the Variance Board had turned down a request for a very large billboard because of the location at the Shell Station & Mercury and they had suggest a second location, the gentleman was disappointed but had now picked up a permit to install the billboard at the recommended location down by Holiday Inn.

Mr. Squyres stated that GPISD was pretty cutting edge, they were the first school in the State of Texas to put a clinic in one of their schools, Galena Park Middle School, and they would treat students and their parents and would also treat mental health issues which was very good.

And that also at that meeting he had gotten good news, that we had gotten another 2 Million grant through Congress Woman Sylvia Garcia just like the one we had received from Congress Woman Shelia Jackson Lee.

He advised that the North Side Water Line project that was supposed to start on September 20th had been delayed one week and would start on Monday and that where CC Pizza had closed during COVID, a large bakery was going in at that location.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

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Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen stated she was a member of the Variance Board and apologized for missing the last meeting, that she was on vacation, and she think the Variance Board is very important to the city, they have a good reputation for being fair on their decisions. She stated they pay their taxes, etc., keep their yards up and push to make the city look clean and we keep posting this meeting and she can't see why and she can't see why they let someone run a business without a business license.

Ms. Requena at 10345 Pillot stated that she had Come before the council in January to find out what could be done about a neighbor who keep a bob tail truck parked in the easement all the time and they took care of the problem but now he has parked a cargo van in the same location.

City Manager Squyres advised her that the gentleman had filed a complaint against the city and they were scheduled to be in court on Monday and he would let her know something.

Wayne Nichols, 11502 Lane, stated that he was a member of the Variance Board and they had voted to not allow the tire shop at this location because it was not zoned for that type of business. He stated that he wanted to let everyone know that Jack Giacoona , wo worked for Harris County Pct. 2 for a lot of years had passed away and they have started a scholarship fund in his name and that Brian Clements was in charge of the fund.

Eric, the gentleman helping the person apply for the variance on the tire shop stated that he had a person who wanted to put in the tire shop in a building that was unoccupied now and it was an old gas station that no body was going to move into except some type of auto shop and the building was owned by two individuals, they had stated that they wanted to have Mr. Alanis there and he was here tonight. He advised that they had made some progress on cleaning up, etc.

Mayor Diaz advised him that his three minutes were up but he was on the agenda so he would have another opportunity to speak.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Council action on recommendation of Variance Board at 10346 Palestine.

Eric stated that if the building was left vacant it would continue to be an eye sore, they were trying to help bring the building into compliance So it could be rented and the people could pay the taxes. etc.

Mayor Diaz stated that they had been discussing this for two months and ask the council if they were ready to vote on this and polled the council.

Council Member Rivas stated that he was against the tire shop being there and expressed a number of reasons, there was a traffic problem and there was always a code enforcement problem as well as back taxes owed to the city.

Council Member Robinson stated that he was against the variance, that we didn't need another tire shop.

Council Member Lee stated that he was ready to make the motion to agree with the Variance Board's recommendation.

Council Member Garcia stated that even if they agreed the building was in such bad shape and it would have to be brought up to code, she was not against anyone having a business but there was a lot to be considered.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to take the recommendation of the Variance Board and

**deny the variance for the tire shop at 10346 Palestine. Vote:
4 For 0 Against**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Diaz stated that we had several officer in the audience and we were going to move Item 4 to the top of the agenda so that we could get them back on the street.

- 4. Council to confirm Aron A Velez as full time Jacinto City Police Officer.**

Chief Ayala gave a short bio on Mr. Velez, recognized his family and recommended that we hire him as a Jacinto city police officer.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to confirm Mr. Velez as a Jacinto City Police Officer. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office and presented Officer Velez with his badge and welcomed him aboard.

- 1. Council action on adoption of Tax Rate Resolution 2021-5R.**

Mayor Diaz polled the Council with Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Garcia Voting for and Council Member Gonzales absent.

- 2. Resolution 2021-6R Submission of application for 2022 Step Grant for the police department.**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by

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Council Member Garcia to approve the submission of Resolution 2021-6R for 2022 Step Grant for the police department. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

3. Proclamation for Nation Night Out.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the Proclamation. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

5. Resolution 2021-7R of the City of Jacinto City, Texas, extending the Disaster Declaration issued by Mayor Diaz's proclamation on February 18, 2021 in response to Hurricane Nicholas.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Resolution 2021-7R. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz state they did not always agree with the boards and ask the members in the audience to please keep their comments to themselves because if we could hear them at the table the people their comments were about could hear them as well.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Diaz advised that we would be having a drive by Halloween this year, that we wanted to keep everyone safe and we would advise the date later. Council Member Lee stated that he thought we should do 500 hotdogs.

Council Member Rivas stated he thought the Variance Board went through all the issues, not just part, that you also have to look at the location. He wished everyone a good weekend.

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Council Member Robinson wished everyone a safe weekend and to enjoy this cool weather.

Council Member Lee - God Bless Everyone.

Council Member Garcia advise that the clinic that had opened at the school also offered counseling if needed.

Mayor Diaz welcomed Officer Velez.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**