

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015, 6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz absent, Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call

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

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Chief Ayala advised that they were staying very busy with a lot of traffic stops and curfew violations, he advised anyone going out of town for the holidays to come by the station and fill out a form for vacation watch and to be safe.

Chief Meir advised that we would be doing Santa on the Fire Truck on Saturday and cautioned Everyone to be safe if using open heaters during the cold weather.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works Department reported that they were staying busy repair water leaks and yards.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that they were busy getting the fields ready for baseball, that the season would be starting soon.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated that all was well at the center, that they had added eight new people to the center and were working on the Christmas Pary.

Sue Ellen, Jacinto City Library, thanked Council Member Lee for reading The Night Before Christmas at the Library Christmas Party and Roland Garza for playing Santa. She advised that they were now showing movies at the library.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales thanked everyone for participating in the Christmas Parade, that it was a big parade and we had a great crowd for the activities at Town Center. He reminded everyone that Santa on the fire Truck was Saturday.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Squyres stated that we were extremely busy, we were trying to make some major changes to the website, that it was actually an overhaul to the city website, he was sorry that it was taking so long, he was talking to the gentleman every single day and we are having some questions about things that we have told them would be on it but hopefully by the first of the year everything would be on it.

He stated that we were also working very hard trying to get bids out to purchase the bathrooms and concession stand for Smith Park and we think we have resolved the concession stand issue and the restroom was coming up a little bit higher than we expected them to so we were still negotiating on it. He advised that we were now able to do on-line water payment so if they wanted the bills e-mailed to them they would do that before it was due and they would also e-mail you before the penalty was due and before your water was cut off.

Mr. Squyres ask the Library to please take a picture of anyone they had coming to do this on line.

There was no Unfinished Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council Action on Variance Board's recommendation at 10901 Market Street, 10141 Market Street and 10245 Chadwick.

City Manager Squyres stated that he would really like to thank the City Council, it was a really unusual night , we had an abundance of council people but we did not have a quorum of the Variance Board and explained the reason why there was not a quorum. He stated that the Council actually acted on variances, the board made recommendation to the city council so in the past city council had chosen to act without the Variance Board's recommendation and he would tell them the thoughts of the two member who were present and how they expressed themselves but four of them were there and were aware of it themselves.

He stated that the first 10901 Market was Sellers Bros. and they had seen the art work on it and explained that the sign was bigger than the ordinance allowed but would be very attractive and both members of the board that were present both agreed that it was something they would like to see happen and would be to the betterment of the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the variance at 10901 Market Street. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

City Manager Squyres stated that for those who might not recognize 10141 Market Street, it was the old Rice Welding Supply Company which had been vacant for some time and they were

selling the place to a company called Petroleum Express Incorporated and they were represented here tonight if they had any question for them, Mr. Squyres went on to explain what type of business the company operated, that they haul fuel, they had about 30 employees and 15 trucks and they would not be using it as a terminal so they would not see gasoline stored on site, it was basically offices, and those kind of things. Mr. Squyres stated that he had actually gone and looked at the place they would be moving from and got nothing but a five star rating on them.

There were questions asked by council members regarding the storage of fuel in the truck at this location and were advised that the trucks would not be loaded while at the facility.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the variance 10141 Market Street. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

City Manager Squyres stated that 10245 Chadwick was a private residence owned by Mr. Robert Hernandez and he had a problem with burglary at this residence, it was unoccupied and used for storage and people were crossing in the back yard and going into the home from time to time and so for added security he was asking to install a 7' fence along the back only.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to allow the variance at 10245 Chadwick. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

2. Mr. Luis Escobedo, 11005 Muscatine, address the Mayor and Council concerning the City's Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Escobedo stated that he had lived in Jacinto City for 25 years and he really wished for the city to grow and prosper and continue to be a good place to live for many years to come and one of the observations that he had and he had been very fortunate to travel in many places and he sees how our city compares to other cities. He stated the lot he purchased here sat on the corner of Muscatine and Holland and the first lot was zoned commercial and the second lot was residential and he understood that people had to protect certain standards of living in the city but at the same time the world was changing and it was changing very rapidly, that he had been a realtor for many years and could tell when a house was built when he walked into it. He stated that on the land he has he can't develop it because he has about 15,000 sq. ft. but only about 7,000 sq. ft. was commercial and the other was not and everyone he had contacted to try and sell the property told him that 7,000 sq. ft. was not enough parking so there was really nothing he could do. He stated that his impression was that if Jacinto city would change its zoning laws and allow two lots to be commercial on each side Holland and each side of Mercury between Market and the Freeway, more businesses would come to Jacinto city. He stated that a lot of people didn't like change but change made things happen, good things and he would ask the Mayor and Council if they would please consider changing the current zoning ordinances to allow for more progress in the city.

3. Council to amend budget code 18-6800 in the amount of \$10,917 for repairs on signal lights at Market and Mercury.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to amend budget code 18-6800 in the amount of \$10,917 for repairs on signal lights at Market and Mercury. Vote 4 For 0 Against

4. Council to approve Design-Build contract with Gant Architects for new police station.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the Design-Build contract with Gant Architects for the new police station. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales announced the following winner in the Christmas Parade:

Most Beautiful – Jacinto Elementary  
Most Original - North Channel Martial Arts  
Best Marching Group – Lori’s Dance Studio  
Mayor’s Choice – Galena Park High School Jacketeers  
Honorable Mention – First Baptist Church of Jacinto City

He stated that Congress Woman Shelia Jackson Lee provided us with a Certificate of Recognition of our Christmas Parade.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Allen Jamail stated that he appreciate the Mayor and Council and all they do for the city. He commended them on the new police station and was so happy to see that move along, that it would make a world of difference in moral. He stated that he was here tonight for two things, that he passed this out on the prevention of our teenagers getting involved in drugs and alcohol and he would just like to see our city fathers , council women and the public put more attention, if we could, on the things that are available that would help our youngsters . He stated that today our young teenagers are exposed to so many things that we were not exposed to. He stated this was a government website, nothing political about it and no money to be made so if they could promote that in their e-mails and contacts at church, etc. it would be very helpful to the parents, a lot of times the parents don’t know where they can get help from.

Mr. Jamail stated that he was involved with brining a group of young children up here from the Fifth Ward Church of Christ and that was very beneficial to them , they gained so much knowledge about city government and some of them are now actually thinking about being a

city leader and tonight one of the Directors of the Discovery Youth Foundation was here and he was also a Deacon at the Fifth Ward Church of Christ and his name was Tim Jones and he would like to come up and say a brief word and thank the Council and Mayor.

Mr. Tim Jones, 3119 Remrod Dr., Missouri City, Texas, stated that he was one of the Board Members of the Discovery Youth Foundation, the foundation was a non-profit foundation and it was basically geared toward kids ages 12 to 18 and basically what it did was exposed kids to career paths they can choose, that they tried to find places to go Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday to expose the kids to things they could pursue in the future and they definitely wanted to thank the Mayor, Council and Police station for doing such an outstanding job when they came over, that Mr. Jamail said the kids were so excited that when they got back on the bus that was all they talked about and a few of them have said they are involved in the government at school now so they really made an impression on them. Mr. Jones thanked Mr. and Mrs. Jamail for their efforts in helping them co-ordinate the trip and getting them over here and wanted to take this time to tell them how much they appreciated it and hoped that they would let them come back in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales stated that we hoped that every thing went well in their program and we would love to have them back again.

Mr. Don Nichols stated that he appreciates everything they do to keep the city look and operating great. He advised that he was the Director of the Galena Park Assistance Program and they distributed food once a month at Calvary Baptist Church on Fairfax and a number of them had been out to help them. He advised that on December 19<sup>th</sup> they were going to have a huge food distribution and they needed some extra hands if they could come out and help them. He stated they had an on going program where they delivered boxes of food to senior citizens both in Galena Park and Jacinto City and they have tried to put some extra special boxes together for them because it is the holidays. He stated he wanted to say this because he knew that Mr. Squyres would appreciate it, that those same ladies that baked cookies for them in the sixties at Jacinto City Elementary were thinking about them and not saving for their future so a lot of those ladies were living on social security because they put their investment in them. He stated that he called on our Representative Ana Hernandez and she donated some canned hams and they were going to distribute them as well.

Mr. Nichols stated that he wanted to thank the city for going to electronic billing, he thought that was great.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council Member Rivas welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised Mr. Escobedo that if he could he would like to meet with him after the meeting, that he had put a lot of interesting

things out there that he would like to discuss with him. He advised Mr. Jamail that it was always a pleasure to have him here and they appreciate all that he does.

Council Member Robinson announced that the Toys for Tots and Food Basket Committee would be distributing toys and food on Wednesday and thanked everyone for coming out. He stated that he would like to thank Capital Bank for donating the trophies for our Christmas Parade and helping with the judges and Chili's for furnishing the hot chocolate and cookies.

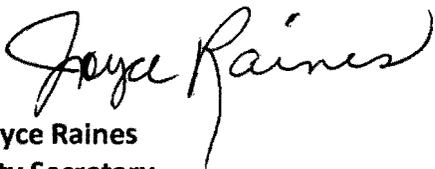
Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out that it was a great time of year and we had a lot of fun at the library and the parade was great and that Congress Woman Lee said to them that we had this parade no matter what and we appreciate having them there . He stated they did need help at Calvary Baptist for the food drive , they always needed help but the one coming up was going to be especially big. , they would appreciate any help, that it was a very rewarding experience and he wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Council Member Garcia advised Mr. Escobedo that he was right about changes, that things were not like they used to be and as far she knew the council was on board with that and had talked about it in the past and there were a lot of things that needed changes and we appreciated his comments, concerns and ideas. She thanked everyone for being there and expressing interest in our city. She thanked Mr. Matheny for a great job and always being a part of our Christmas Parade and all he does for the city, and we were looking forward to next Saturday, Santa on the Fire Truck.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales reminded everyone that the home Christmas Decorations would go through December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Joyce Raines  
City Secretary