

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres. Council Member Rivas arrived after roll call. City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines on vacation.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz ask Bernardo Perez to please thank public works for the good job they did putting up the Christmas lights, that she had already gotten complements on them. Mayor Diaz apologized for missing the last council meeting, that she was ill but she was sure everything went well.

Mayor Diaz advised that she saw on the website where signup for baseball were coming up Soon and she thanked Ivan for the good job they did on the Pumpkin Festival, that everyone seem to enjoy it even if we did get stuck in the gym.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala cautioned everyone to be safe over the upcoming holidays.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works Department reported that all was going good at public works, they had been busy putting up Christmas lights and taking care of required maintenance.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advise that everything was going good, They were Putting up Christmas decoration and getting ready for holiday activities.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, Advised that the senior's Thanksgiving Dinner went well, that Congress Women Shelia Jackson Lee had provided turkeys for the seniors and they were getting ready for the December activities.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that we were coming upon the holiday season and we were going to do something different this year. He stated that after last year's holiday season where we had a lot of problems on New Year's Eve with fireworks and gun fire we were

going to start spreading the word very early and try to get some media attention and post it everywhere that this year we were going to have an absolute 0 tolerance for fireworks or gun fire with the New Year's event. He discussed a fatality that occurred in South Houston last year from gun fire celebrating this event so we were going to do everything we could to prevent this.

Mr. Squyres advised that we had been courting businesses quite heavily over the last few weeks in conjunction with the Economic Alliance and we actually attracted a rather large business into the city, they were going to be purchasing the old Rice Welding building on Market and they were going to need a variance, actually a Special Use Permit, to adjust the use of that facility so they are very interested in the property and very likely will end up being in the city. He also call attention to 926 Mercury where a new insurance office was being built and the lot directly behind the annex is zoned commercial and they are selling it as commercial property.

He stated that Joyce had ask him to mention that she had been doing her homework on the sales tax election in regard to H.B. 157 and she would have the material ready for the Council to call the Special Election for this along with the regular election in May.

He stated that the Mayor had call for a workshop next Tuesday night, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. with two items on the agenda, (1) On the new police station and we had already selected the architect and he was going to have the design and a model to show them and they needed to talk about what form of construction they were going to do. (2) also Councilman Robinson had brought up the restrooms and concession stand at Smith Park and we would be discussing that and look at different alternatives and the sooner we get that going the greater chance of having it ready for opening of ball season.

Mr. Squyres advised that Fire Chief Meir was not present tonight due to illness.

Mayor Diaz ask the council to please do their homework on the items they would be discussing at the workshop so that we could make a final decision on the restrooms and concession stand.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to change December 24th Council Meeting to Tuesday, December 22nd due to Christmas Holidays. Vote: 5 For 0 Against*
2. *A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member*

Gonzales to appoint Mr. Ed Heathcott as Representative to HCAD Board of Directors. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. **A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to amend the Street Department Budget Code 19-6803 for emergency repairs to gradeall in the amount of \$25,137.80. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Miss Cortez, 1721 Kerby, stated that she just wanted to say thank you to all of them for supporting the band and wanted to let them know that they did get the truck for the Galena Park Band equipment.

Mayor Diaz congratulated them and advised that they were selling popcorn, \$2.00 a bag, if anyone was interested.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas wished each and every one a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Council Member Robinson wished every one a safe and happy Thanksgiving with the families.

Council Member Lee stated the same wish came from him and he wanted to thank all our workers for the great job they were doing.

Council Member Garcia wished every one a happy Thanksgiving and thanked them for joining us, that she was out the last meeting representing the city at HGAC Council and they passed out a printout of all the grants that different cities had taken advantage of and our city had taken advantage of a lot .

Council Member Gonzales wished a happy Thanksgiving to all and their families and if they were traveling to please be careful.

Mayor Diaz stated that as long as she had been holding council meeting she had never ask City Attorney DeFoyd if he would like to say anything and she was very sorry.

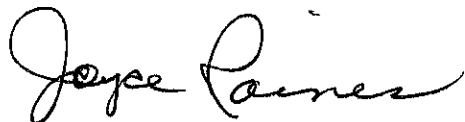
Mr. DeFoyd wished every one happy turkey day and hook up horns.

Mayor Diaz wished every one a Happy Thanksgiving and she thought all of them were staying in town so if they needed anything give them a call.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m..

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joyce Raines, City Secretary