

COUNCIL MEETING. THURSDAY JULY 14, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 2022 With the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. City Attorney arrived after roll call.

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 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Mier advised that she had nothing to report.

Ivan Rojas, Parks & recreation, advised that the pool was open on July 4th and they had 180 people come through. He stated that they had Monkey Cones there with snow cones, drinks etc. and the did good and then moved over to the fire work location and had call and told him that they did great there and he wanted to sign up for next year. He stated that the splash pad had a crowd all day.

Council Member Rivas stated that maybe in the future we needed to add more to the splash pad.

Mayor Diaz ask Ivan about the movie night and there was general discussion and she advised that GPISD started back to school on August 11th.

City Manager Squyres advised that Elizabeth from Heritage Hall, was out due to illness.

Mayor Diaz stated that she, Council Member Robinson and Mary had take ice cream down to the seniors and they all seemed excited to be back at the center. She stated that on July 29th the center was doing Mexican bingo and They were going to make tacos for them and if any of the rest of the council would like to join them to let them know.

Chief Ayala stated that Public Works was fantastic, that he thought for a while

that we were not going to have fireworks for the 4th of July, that some one ran their car through the fire works and over the wiring, they had arrested the individual and charges were pending. He commended Public Works, the Fire Department and everyone who had worked so hard to restore the fireworks and the show was great. That they had been busy with a lot of shop lifting and they take off to Motel 6 across the freeway.

Chief Ayala announced that Sonny Flores had retired and was going to work for the Medical Center and that we may be losing Detective Walker, that he was planning to retire.

Mayor Diaz ask how Crystal Inn was doing, that we didn't want any problems with the type of people staying there and Chief Ayala advised they were doing great, they were family oriented and their family lived on the property and he didn't think we would have a problem with that.

Thomas Rogers, Assistant Public Works Director, advised that we had received the results back on the lead and copper tests on the water sample and all was good, there was no trace of lead and very little trace of copper and they would be passing out the second set for samples shortly. He advised that we had awarded the contract on the sewer plant and would be having the pre construction meeting next week. The Northside water project had been complete and we had gone out for bids for street repair. He commended Bernardo for the good job on getting the fireworks back together and Bernardo advise it was the crew that did the work and Mr. Rogers advised that he was the one who supervised the job and they did a great job.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that the Waste Water Treatment Plant contract had been signed and the preconstruction and the meeting was scheduled and before long we would see a major rehabilitation in the sewer plant.

He stated the reason we have no lead and very little copper is because of all the water lines we have replaced, that we had replace a large amount of our water lines.

Mr. Squyres discussed the damage that happened to the 4th of July fireworks and we were able to put them back together and shoot the majority of the fireworks and he couldn't say enough about how everyone came together and did a great job and that Galena Park and Jacinto City worked together, Rebecca was pyro tech and the fireworks lasted 29 minutes and Debbie Martinez from Heritage Hall helped with putting them back together and he couldn't thank them enough.

That on Lane Street a gentleman that worked for Backup Electric hosted a 4th of July party, that rolled out plastic on the hill so the kids could slide down them, had some one come out and cook tacos at his own expense and they had music and a street dance, the gentleman stated that he had done this as a kid and wanted his kids to have the experience.

Mayor Diaz stated we should have him come to a Council Meeting and recognize him and City Manager Squyres stated that tried to contact him and if any one would like to see the video he could send them the link.

City Manager Squyres advised that he had finally been able to contact the American Legion at the State level and they were going to bring it up at a State meeting and get back with him next week.

He stated that budget time was coming around and he would like their suggestion for budget workshops, that we had not receive the certified tax roll yet.

There were no comments from the public.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council Action on Variance Board's recommendation on Request at 10433 Palestine and 10601 Palestine**

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City Manager Squyres stated that the Variance Board has met on July 12th and that on the request of Rosa Marie Juarez at 10433 Palestine request to put a cover over deck which was to close to the attached garage they had advised here that she could not have a wooden cover due to the fire hazard but they would allow her to have a metal cover. Ms. Juarez agreed to this and the Board voted 4 For 0 Against the request.

Mayor Diaz thanked Ms. Juarez for going through the process.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the Variance Board's recommendation at 10433 Palestine. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Council Member Rivas stated he thought a porch was a very nice thing to sit on.

Council Member Garcia stated that the Variance Board did a wonderful job Working with Ms. Juarez.

City Manager Squyres stated the Variance Board had also heard the request for two office buildings at the back of the lot at 10601 Palestine by Mr. Jesus De La Torre and that an illegal structure had been built there as a church and had set vacant and they had finally built a home in front of it and on their request they did not make it very clear what they wanted. He stated that one of the neighbors had come to the hearing and was against the request and that Mr. Jesus De L Torre had not been present at the hearing and the Variance Board has voted 0 For and 4 Against grant the request and no one was present at the meeting tonight.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to accept the recommendation of the Variance Board and deny the request. Vote 0 For 5 Against

- 2. Resolution 2022-4R Approving the submission of an application for the State of Texas Governor's Office Justice Assistance 2022 Dispatch Equipment Upgrade for the Jacinto City Police Department**

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A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Resolution 2022-4R. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

- 3. Resolution 2022-5R Approving the submission of an application for the Texas Department of Transportation 2023 Texas Traffic Safety E Grant Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant for the Jacinto City Police Department**

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Resolution 2022-5R. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

- 4. Resolution 2022-6R Approving the Lease of City Structure located at 1026 Mercury Drive to a nonprofit charity organization, Joseph House Community Outreach Center for food distribution and other services.**

Mayor Diaz thanked Mr. Starns for what he was doing for our City and we would be willing to help anyway we could.

Council Member Rivas stated that he was so thankful there was someone out there willing to do this.

Mr. Starns, stated that Joseph House is a FEMA Center and the Red Cross and Provides food, furniture, appliances, etc. to take of the elderly, the disabled and veterans and they are one of the largest distributors in the State of Texas, that they had one center alone that distributed to over 11,000 people and that Ms. Donna was the person that introduced them to this area, that the sign here would say Joseph House in Jacinto City and the Red Cross was very excited and committed to helping them out.

Mayor Diaz stated we have a lot of veterans and elderly in our city and we try to do what we can but some times it is hard to get outside sources to help.

Mr. Starns stated that when a disaster happens they are ready to go at any time.

Council Member Rivas stated that when a disaster happens all of our departments are out there and thank him for saying they were ready to go as well.

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A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Resolution 2022-6R. Vote 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz welcomed Mr. Starns and Joseph House to Jacinto City.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he was ill on the 4th of July but he heard the Fireworks from his house and he was thanking about the block party and maybe we could join them, he thinks the people would enjoy it. He wished everyone a good weekend and God Bless

Council Member Robinson thanked the fire department, public works and everyone involved in making the fireworks happen. He stated that he met both of the brothers at Crystal Inn, they are very family orientated, live on the premises and want to keep it clean, have a safe weekend.

Council Member Lee advised that it was hot out there to drink plenty of water, Stay safe and God Bless.

Council Member Garcia stated she appreciated this city coming together, that is what makes it what it is. She ask Chief Ayala about the identity theft that was going around and if we had any in our city. Chief Ayala advised not in Jacinto City. She ask Ms. Hairston from Jacinto City Library if she was aware of the Librarian Award for 2023, that she wanted to get some information from her, that we needed to recommend her they had a chance to win \$5,000 for the library, and to enjoy the rest of the weekend and we would see them at the next meeting.

Council Member Gonzales thank Bernardo for helping put it all back together and he had receive a call from Galena Park also thanking them.

Mayor Diaz stated out next event would be National Night Out and we would be having the usual event at City Hall.

Mayor Diaz thanked Bernardo for all his help.

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Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**