

PUBLIC HEARING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015, 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met for a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2015/2016 at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2015 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Members Rivas and Garcia absent due to work.

Mayor Diaz turned the floor over to city Manager Squyres.

City Manager Squyres stated this was the second public hearing following several budget workshops on the proposed budget for FY 2014/2016 and all of this was with the view of transparency in budgeting.

He stated that we had talked about the financial position of the city and that we were earning more in sales tax this year than last year and he went over changes the Mayor and Council had made in the way warrants, fines, etc. were collected and we were on track to earn about \$85,000 more in police fines this year with the same number of tickets but we are collecting them better and smarter by the action of the city council. He advised that our property tax projections were about \$150,000 above last year, that we actually saw and elevation in the tax value of property and what was nice about this was that it wasn't in the residential market for the most part, it was in industrial and a slight increase in commercial so citizens were not going to see a rise in their taxes but the industry would. He stated that the rate we were recommending to fund the budget this year was .783554/\$100 and that was just over 1% lower than their tax rate last year, it was a little lower actually than we talked about at the last budget hearing, that since that time we had received the effective tax rate information from the county and we are under the roll back rate . He explained how the effective tax rate worked.

He stated that our insurance went up approximately 12%, we gave a raise to our employees so it was going to take more money to operate the city and we were doing other capital programs so more revenue was going to be needed but at the same time that more revenue is needed we were seeing that happened by growth in the city, better property values in the city and not an elevation in the tax rate and with that in mind, we could run down a few of the things we were talking about doing in this budget and a large

part of this was addressed to Capital Outlay and these were big things and they are largely funded by money that was in savings now, our cash reserves and these projects included city hall foundation repairs, building a new police station , renovation and rehab of the existing fire station , Town Center upgrade and we had also provided preliminary design for the sewer plant . He called attention to the \$125,000 designated for the Smith Park restrooms and concession stand.

He stated that our total budget expenditure was about \$9.5 million dollars, that it didn't include any North side waterlines or things like that but as we had discussed, there are plans for those and one of those was proposing a sales tax in the spring and they would be hearing more and more about that as well. He went over the vehicles that were included in capital outlay . He went over the salary increases for the employees, explaining that some would receive 3%, some 5% and some 6% and explained the reason for each. He went over capital outlay item such as street repairs etc. in some of the departments.

Mr. Squyres went over the summary pages for the budget, stating that General Fund projected was \$9,066,054 and the debt income (which was what pays the bond) was \$488,500 , total income \$9,554,554 leaving income less expenditures of \$16,652.

He advised that the projected income for the Water Fund was \$2,817,402 with expenditures of \$2,817,463 leaving income less expenditures at \$29.00. He stated that the Water Fund was tighter than it had ever been, that every year the City of Houston raises the amount that we pay them for water and every year we absorb that and it was getting to the point that we can't do that anymore, we were at the point where we were going to have to make an adjustment to our water bills but this budget was not based upon and adjustment in the water bill.

He advised that after this year's bond payment we had only six more payments and as we start tackling these other projects it was time to start looking to the future and looking at other projects for future needs in the city.

There were no comments from the public or council.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m..

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

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

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated they were getting ready for National Night Out on October 6th and if anyone would like to host a party to please contact them.

Chief Meir reported that all was going well in the Fire and EMS Departments.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that all was well in Parks and Recreation and announced that the Pumpkin Fest was scheduled for October 24, 2015

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, reported that all was good at Heritage Hall.

Sue Ellen Denton, J. C. Library reported that the library was recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month at the Library on September 17, 2015 .

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated that we did have a big day today, that we got to travel to Austin to support our wonderful officer Lt. Dennis Walker who was awarded the 2015 Texas Star Award and thanked Lt. Walker and his family for all he does for us, that she knew it was hard on the families.

She announced that the Pumpkin Fest was coming up on October 24th and any business or organization that would like to participate to get with Ivan and he would take care of it. It and the Community garage sale was coming up on October 17th.

Mayor Diaz stated that we also help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Capital Bank today

And they had a very good turnout even with the rain.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that we were going to be doing a free garage sale throughout the city, so this was at your home, you could have it for free on the 17th of October and tomorrow morning you would be able to go on the city's website under upcoming events and you would see the one page application and the limit was like 3 signs for the garage sale, this lets us know where you are having a sale and we keep a mater list of sales and we will post It on the website.

He advised that on October 24th, at the Fire Department, we would have a Household Hazard Waste site and they could get rid of their paints, chemicals, electronics and tires. And this was fully funded by two organizations, the County and the North Channel LEPC.

Mayor Diaz stated that we would have one more meeting before National Night Out and Chief Ayala would have a list of addresses for the parties and that the big party was at City Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-6 Adopting a budgt for FY 2015-2016. Vote: 5 For 0 Against
2. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Rivas to select the Gant Architect Firm to design the new police station.
Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Diaz stated that we were a little out of order today and ask Lon if he would like to

the next guest.

Mr. Squyres stated that some time ago we actually approached and talked about a trail plan for the city and this was a plan that looked at having trails in the City of Jacinto City that don't actually go around town but actually connect with other cities and other areas so this was a master plan that was being shown to them today, that we saw a little glance of it a few weeks ago and we had two people here he would like to come up and we told them they had to be a little brief tonight due to so many things on the Agenda.

Jill Buillion stated that she was the Executive Director of the Greens Bayou Coalition and they were a 501 3C nonprofit corporation and they do a lot of different projects in the Greens Bayou water shed which was 212 sq. miles in Harris County from Cypress down to this area and one of the things they focus on was parks and trail development and they identified some area near Greens Bayou that they thought was really good for trails and one of those areas was on Hunting Bayou right here through Jacinto city . She stated that they have a committee that meet in this area on a monthly basis and they decided to do some work to see if there were some ways they could connect the Jacinto City/Galena Park area up to Green's Bayou using Herman Brown Park. She discussed the bond City of Houston has passed a couple of years to develop trails on major bayous within the city of Houston and Greens Bayou would in that area. She stated that she had with her Charlie Patue with LJA Engineering , who was a landscape architect and a member of their committee and he had graciously donated his time to come up with this trail plain to show them, they displayed the plan and explained what was outlined.

Mayor Diaz thanked them for being here and she thought that would be an awesome thing for our city to have, that we had a lot of walkers and runners.

The also discussed paddle trails along the bayou.

Ms. Buillion stated this was the city's project and if they decided this was something they wanted to do, they were here to facilitate.

City Manager Squyres stated that what they would like to do was start a 30 day comment period where the members could look at the plan and ask questions about the plan and give them feedback about it and then and then on a future agenda they were going to ask council to accept this as a master plan with any minor revisions that feedback might

Provide and then we would be sending it toward Galena Park and the Port of Houston because it involved them as well as stake holders because we would like that ring around the dredge area to be a part of the trail plan as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to table Council approval of the City's Investment Policy. Vote: 5 For 0 Against
2. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the Proclamation Designating September 11, 2015 as First Responders Day in Jacinto City. Vote: 5 For 0 Against
3. A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the Proclamation recognizing Lt. Dennis Walker as a recipient of The Texas Star Award. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz stated that it was so awesome, that she was proud of him and proud proud to be a part of this.

Mayor Diaz presented the Proclamation to Lt. Walker, expressing thanks from herself, the council and citizens for all he does for the city.

Chief Ayala thanked LT. Walker for putting his life on the line, that he did it all the time as all of the officers did. He stated that we were fortunate to have him here and that we also had another officer that was injured, Sgt. Jennifer Simpson and we were also working on that. He thanked Lt. Walker for all that he does, he was very proud of Lt. Walker and all of his officers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Merallia Cortez, 1321 Kirby, stated that she would like to thank Lt. Walker for all that he does and she had an announcement for the Galena Park Band of Gold, they would be having a car wash on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and they were accepting donations, they were trying to get a big truck for the Band of Gold equipment because they were using North Shore's right now and it was not working (the audience said we couldn't do that Galena Park had to have their own truck) Ms. Cortez received a number

Of donations from the Mayor, Council and audience. She advised the car wash would be held at Sonic on Federal Rd. and ask that everyone please come out and support them.

Lt Walker stated that first he would like to thank God for saving his life that day and he wanted to thank them for everything, he had been here a lot of years, he loved this job and he loved the city. He stated that he worked with a group of guys and the Chief and they all worked together, that he loved working under Chief Ayala and with his partner Detective Silva, he stated that he got the award today but he didn't do anything that any of these guys would not have done themselves, that every last one of them would have run in that house at anytime and even today he would run into that house if he knew the outcome was going to be the same if it was one of the citizens, that they love doing this job and thank the citizens that helped them so much that they couldn't do what they do without them, he thanked everyon and he appreciated them so much.

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that she had live here since 1973 and she was very proud of our men in blue and was lucky to know most of them by name, if we need them they are there in 3 minutes time and we need to include them in our Prayers.

Ms. Dailey stated that she served on the Variance Board and was a Christian and one of the hardest things for her was to look at somebody and tell them no you can't have a church here, that she hadn't been on the Variance Board very long but they have had about 4 or 5 people come up and want to have a church in Jacinto City in a Commercial Building and they had been told over and over how we need the taxes in Jacinto city and she wanted them to know that it was very difficult for any one on the board to tell them no and if we can't do something for one person, it is hard to do it for someone else and she thinks that we have opened up a can of worms by saying yes to this one church and she will never say no to a church again, that she was very disappointed by the people who did vote for that because they were always told we need taxes and commercial buildings bring in taxes and we have so many churches in Jacinto city already that a lot of people don't even want to attend .so we are opening up all these doors for churches, taking our revenue away from our businesses and it makes her feel like she was used when someone turns around and say oh yea let's do it.and she has a problem with that, she knows that all they do is give them their recommendation and the final word was up to them, .but now that they let this church go in a area that wasn't designed for churches she would never say no to another one and she didn't think anybody on the committee liked to be put in that position. She stated that she was very disappointed that they didn't back them..

Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, stated that behind the badge is an officer, one of our brothers, they don't know if while working out in the field whether they are going to make it home or not and we have to Pray for them because we don't know if they will make it home or now, there is evil everywhere and when they get a call, you don't know what is going to happen, if they can do for us we can do for them. He told Officer Walker and all the other Officers they had done a good job and when they are out there we feel safe, this city is a family and we have to take care of each other.

Allan Jamail thanked the Mayor and Council for serving the city like they do, that it was a hard job and sometime everybody just can't agree on the same thing, he was here that night and it was a hard vote for the council too, it was a split vote so it wasn't an easy vote and having sat in these seats before he could say that it was very seldom that the city council go against the Variance Board..

Mr. Jamail stated that he was happy to be able to go to the Capital today on behalf of the North Channel Star .and behalf of a citizen of Jacinto city and cover that event and it was a happy occasion to know that we had the Mayor and Council and as many that could take off their jobs and go and he knew that all of them would have like to have been there. He stated that he didn't want to make light of Lt. Walker because what he did was very brave and heroic and that was not the only time he had done so and he recalled another incident when he saved a life, so he had a history of stepping up to the plate.

Mr. Jamail thanked the City Manager, stating he was the one that made this happen, he was the one that took this information and submitted it. and he fought to have it done, it wasn't easy.

Mr. Jamail stated that in 1976 he ask the city council to do something about the police station and this council took a step to build a new police station.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated the budget was passed with the best intentions for the city and Lt. Walker received the 2015 Texas Star Award but we were awarded by having him here.

Council Member Robinson stated that like the Mayor said, it was very nice being there and he commended all of our responders, fire, police and everybody, it was hard getting an award the way he did but he would go back in again if he needed to, he appreciates everyone.

Council Member Lee stated that he agreed with those guys, thank them and God bless.

Council Member Garcia thanked Walker and the other officers for everything they do, that they go above and beyond and something that stands out about Walker was that he was visible to the community and she appreciates that and it goes for the fire department, public works and all. She reminded everyone that September 15th was Grand Parents Day

Council Member Gonzales stated that he was very proud to be a citizen and council member in this town.

Mayor Diaz ask everyone to joint us for cake and punch honoring Lt. Walker after the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Joyce Raines
City Secretary