

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY JULY 28, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 28, 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 DeFoyd absent.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Ivan Rojas, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that he had no report.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated they were keeping the seniors busy.

Mayor Diaz ask if they were read for the tacos tomorrow and Elizabeth stated they were ready.

Chief Ayala advised that Mr. Gaddy. A long time resident of the city and 95 years old had passed away today, he had been very involved with the city and community, was a block captain for years and always wanted what was best for the city and that he would be missed.

He advised that we had a lot of shop lifting going on and had captured one with a felony warrant and he was transferred to the county jail and that his officers were doing a good job out there.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that our water leaks have slowed down but if you see or suspect a water leak to call them, that they fix leaks 24/7. He stated that a lot of areas are in stage 1 of water conservation plan, that we are in a drought, but so far we haven't had a problem and no mosquito problems at the present time.

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He advised that they had a pre-construction meeting on the wastewater Treatment plant and it looked like we were going to get started on our sewer plant.

Mayor Diaz thanked Public Works for all that they do.

City Manager Squyres advised that the wastewater treatment plant project that Kyle was talking about was 4.7 million dollar grant funded from Hurricane Harvey to handle the whole front of the sewer plant and would start on August 15 and run for 480 days, that it was a big project, they would have to keep the plant working while they are working on it and he appreciated Kyle, Thomas and Bernard, they were going to be busy for a while.

He advised that we were working on the city's e-mail to migrate to Microsoft 365 instead of a private server, that a lot of cities has been hit by cyber crime and this was all about being safe, that 40 cities in one day had been hit by ransom ware and that we were going to sign up with Texas Municipal League and if you have a city e-mail address they will tell you what to watch for.

Mayor Diaz ask Ivan when the pool movie was scheduled for that school started back on August 11th, maybe we could do one next week before they go back to school. She ask about pool rentals that someone had ask her and she told them to call him, and she also ask him about the kids program.

Ivan advised that they had a lot of pool rentals, and the kidsa program was good and he thought it would be better next year.

Mayor Diaz introduced Ms. Lozano, the next Justice of the Peace for Pct. 2.

Ms. Lozano advised that she would take office in January 2023 and that she would was looking forward to working with every one and if they had any questions for her she would be available after the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, thanked the City for helping them with the food

pantry and thanked Kyle and his staff for all they do. She stated that Red Cross and Joseph House wanted to be here for the citizens and as a citizen of Jacinto City she is looking forward to this, they will have some help.

Mayor Diaz stated we were happy they were coming.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. COUNCIL TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER BIDS ON ASPHALT PROJECT TO OVERLAY EXISTING RESIDENTIAL STREETS WITHIN THE CITY

City Manager Squyres advised that we had four companies show up for the mandatory preconstruction bid but had only received two bids:

Trinity Paving LLC (1) \$142,404. (2) \$25,250. (3) \$37,300. (T) \$204,954.)

RJ&M Construction (1) \$169,343. (2) \$33,449. (3) \$45,285. (T) \$248,077)

City Manager Squyres stated that Trinity Paving was the low bidder but that we had budgeted \$200,000 in the budget code for streets, sidewalks and storm drain repair and we had spent some of it on storm drain repair and there was only \$160,000 left in the budget which would not pay for either bid, that we would have to amend the budget, that they could approve the bid and amend the budget at the next council meeting if they chose to do so.

The question was ask if we had worked with either of the contractors before and City Manager Squyres advised that Trinity Paving had done a number of projects for us.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to award the project to the low bidder Trinity Paving pending amending the budget to cover the whole project. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council to confirm Damon C Grant, Jr. and Felipe V. Molina, Jr. as Jacinto City Police Officers.

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Mayor Diaz stated that we would be confirming Damon Grant, Jr. at this time and postponing Felipe Molina.

Chief Ayala gave a short bio on Mr. Grant, stating he had passed all the qualifications and he recommended that they confirm him as a Jacinto City Police Officer.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to confirm Mr. Grant as a Jacinto City Police Officer. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz administered the Oath Of Office and welcomed him to the city.

- 2. Council to consider changing the term of Jacinto City's lease agreement with Joseph House from the original one year**

Council Member Garcia ask how long the contract was far.

City Manager Squyres stated that City Attorney DeFoyd only makes all the city contracts for one year because it was State Law but we could extend it year to year. He stated that we had originally plan to go with an MOU which didn't limit the number of years but Mr. DeFoyd felt we should go with a lease agreement and there was a clause where either party could cancel with a 30 day written notice,

Council Member Lee stated that he didn't want to commit for more than a year, that we didn't know how it was going to work out.

Council Member Robinson stated that he thought we needed to talk with the City Attorney first.

Council Member Rivas stated that here is someone willing to help and they say no and ask Mr. Strans how many years had he been doing this and he stated since 2003.

Mr. Strans stated that the organizations that are coming in want to be able see how long the contract is.

Mr. Strans advised that with this program, emergency disaster program they want to see a lease that will allow them to cover the disaster all the way through from start to finish so instead of having to deal with cost at time of the disaster they want to have the supplies on hand and have a building to store shingles, siding, etc. on hand and ready to go and they have made him a disaster center and the Red Cross also wanted a office so they could be on site also.

Council Member Robinson ask where would he be storing this.

Mr. strans stated that he had warehouses to store it in, one off of I-10, that was not a problem.

There was discussion about the possible traffic problem this would create.

Mr. Strans stated that he breaks up his days for seniors, disabilities and veterans on different days so it takes care of the traffic.

Mr. Strans stated that he had contact with various law enforcements and he had talked with them, they were willing to help with traffic, if there was a problem, that he knew our department was small and he didn't want to take them off the street.

Mr. Strans discussed all the programs they had, not just food but also appliances, etc. and well as equipment for a small business, paying people to mow lawns for people who were not able, providing college students with what they need such as bedding, computers etc. and much more.

Mr. Strans stated that if the council wasn't happy with the terms, he could scale back to just food.

He stated that the Red Cross CEO and FEMA came down and met with them and made them a disaster center because of their ability to work.

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Council Member Rivas stated that he had been out and see his operation and if someone wants to come in and do good for the city, let them.

Council Member Rivas ask Lon how long the building had been vacant.

City Manager advised since 2007 .

Council Member Robinson stated that if our City Attorney says one year he thinks we have to abide by it.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he didn't see a problem with the one year, like Mr. Lee said we need to think about the traffic.

City Manager Squyres ask if we could go to an MOU, if not with him maybe the Red Cross for more than a years.

There was general discussion about an MOU.

Mr. Strans stated that he would go back to all three and see if the will agree to one year, that he has been doing this for years but he has to answer to his Board.

Mayor Diaz stated that she would love to have them here, they would be doing a lot for our community, that we don't have a food pantry and to please get with Lon and see what we can do.

Mayor Diaz ask if this was just for our city?

Mr. Starns said just for our community, no outsiders will be coming in, that they have to preregister.

Ms. Daily ask how we could do that, when people outside the city come to Heritage Hall.

Mayor Diaz stated that would be up to Joseph House.

City Manager ask for clarification, was he to amend the clause about

Renewal of the contract after discussion with the City Attorney.

Me. Starns discussed all the type of programs they have, stating that the city has to trust him and he has to trust them.

Mayor Diaz ask him to meet with City Manager Squyres to discuss this.

- 3. Mr. Purcell to address the Mayor and Council regarding gun shooting at the house next to his house.**

Mr. Purcell was not present and had ask to be removed from the agenda.

- 4. Council to consider advertising for bids for pipe bursting 650 ft. of sewer line in the 10300 block of Burman.**

City Manager Squyres stated that Kyle had ask to make a change to this after the agenda had been posted, that we have enough in the budget to do one block and they wanted to do the 10500 block of Palestine because it was in bad shape.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve advertising for bids to pipe burst the 10500 block of Palestine. Vote 5 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that it was help that we need around here and he wants it to go through, we need to work on this and see what we can do and welcomed Officer Mr. Grant to Jacinto City. He wished everyone a good weekend.

Mayor Diaz stated that she thinks this it is a good organization and they do a lot of good work and she is for this.

Council Member Robinson Welcomed Officer Grant, cautioned everyone to be careful and enjoy the rain if we get any.

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Council Member Lee welcomed Officer Grant and advised that he had been involved with food pantries for a lot of years and wants them to come and is very much in favor of it but there will be problems.

Council Member Garcia Congratulated Kyle on the sewer plant, it had taken a lot of years. She stated that she had taken a 3rd or 4th grade student down to Heritage Hall to sing for them and maybe we could get here to perform at the JC Market and welcomed Officer Grant to the city.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he wanted to clarify that no way was he trying to discourage the program, now was the time that people needed help with prices going up on everything, he just wanted to make sure it worked properly. He welcomed Officer Grant, stating that he would become one of Jacinto City's finest.

Mayor Diaz welcomed Officer Grant and Congratulated Ms. Lozano.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**