

PUBLIC HEARING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015, 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met for the first Public Hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2015/2016 with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, Council Members Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz and Council Member Rivas arrived after roll call.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales stated that we were here to discuss the proposed Budget for FY 2015/2016 and turned the floor over to City Manager Squyres.

City Manager Squyres advised that he would give them a brief run down on budget and the taxation that it was based upon and he would be happy to take any questions from anybody.

He advised that the tax proposal for this year was going to reflect the exact same property tax that the citizens paid last year, it was .799907/\$100 evaluations so we were not changing the tax rate of the city whatsoever and with that said, that same amount of evaluation was going to bring very slight amount of elevated funds into the city this year and the reason for that was that our property values have risen slightly throughout the city, the residential pretty much stayed flat but the industrial went up. He stated that was good for the city, that with the same tax rate we would make a little bit more money to provide services to the city.

Council Member Robinson ask Mr. Squyres what the county's recommendation was. Mr. Squyres stated that we would not see an effective tax rate for a little while still.

Council Member Robinson stated that we hadn't set the tax rate yet.

Mr. Squyres stated that we haven't , he was saying this was the budget was proposed to them based on the assumption that the tax remains at .799907, which was the same as last year. He stated that we received the certified roll today and it came in a little bit higher so our budget had a little bit of padding in it which was nice, that what he was referring to was the Effective Tax Rate and the County would be supplying that to us within the next two weeks and he explained what the effective rate was. He stated that as soon as we got the rest of the numbers from the county we would post them and it would be part of the cover page of the budget.

He stated that taking that same amount of tax applied to this budget year, it was going to generate a little bit more money but the other big increase you were going to see other than just the additional tax into the budget was the fact that we were going to go into our cash reserve in this proposed budget and do some major capital items and he outline the capital item being funded by cash reserve: \$40,000 for foundation repairs at city hall, \$2,500,000 for police station design and construction, \$500,000 for rehab of the fire station, \$350,000 for Town Center upgrades, \$80,000 for preliminary design of sewer plant rehab and \$125,000 for Smith Park Restroom and concession which brings the total capital in reserve fund money to \$3,595,000 that we pulled from reserve funds to use for capital projects throughout the city. He stated that our financial advisor reminds us that we don't ever want to use reserve funds for ongoing expenses, you use it to build capital projects and that was exactly what we were doing.

He stated the other thing we had talked about and there had been a couple of change and he would go through those but the budget, to the best of our ability, reflects what each department actually spends even down to the insurance and went over each department explaining the increase or decrease and the reason for it. He stated that we also shifted some money out of salaries because it was contract labor and it was now down in operations and this affected primarily Parks and Streets. He stated that the only change since our last meeting was that he was approached by one of the council members, that they might recall that we had 6 part time employees, that by State law were mandated, because of the number of hours they were working, to be in our retirement system which means that the city will pay into that system for each of those 9% of their salary each year and they were going to pay 5% and part time employees this year were proposed a 3% raise so they would actually lose money so we had initially said 5% to offset it and one of the council members pointed out that they were still going to not going to be getting anything and suggested at least 6% and it seemed to be a consensus from the rest of the council that those 6 people would receive a 6% pay hike that would go into effect in the new budget.

He stated he thought that was the only thing that hadn't been discussed yet, there was one vehicle removed at the urging of city council members, it was a truck for public works, that instead of purchasing one three quarter tons and three half ton we would be purchasing one three quarter ton and two half tons trucks but that was the only two changes we had made since council had seen the budget and they were reflected in the copy they had.

Mayor Diaz ask Council if they had any questions. There were no questions from council.

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Mayor Diaz ask if there were any comments or questions from the public; there were no questions from the public.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:45 p.m..

#### COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

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 of the previous meeting as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala passed on his report.

Chief Meir stated that it had been quite in the fire department, they had helped Galena Park out with a couple of calls and advised everyone that October would be Fire Prevention Month and encourage everyone to prepare for hurricane season.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that school was back in session and the way they were handling the traffic control was working and commended whoever came up with the plan. Mr. Reed advised that they were spraying for mosquitoes and they had a contractor in town taking down dead trees and grinding up stumps and his guys were working hard to keep the city looking good.

Mayor Diaz stated that the sidewalks on Holland were looking really good.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that they were staying busy and they would be partnering with the YMCA again this year on the soccer program and that this year the YMCA would charge \$10.00 for the cost of the jerseys.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, stated that all was going great, the September calendar was out and on September 4<sup>th</sup> they would be having a Balloon Burst at 10:30 and invited them to come out and enjoy the fun.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz advised that we were getting ready for National Night Out on October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Pumping Fest and the community garage sale. She discussed the power outage we have had in the city, stating that Munn St.'s power was out nine or ten hours and it was a Center Point issue and the council was also getting ready for the TML Conference.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised the community garage sale was scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> and the reason it was slated for the 17<sup>th</sup> was that we wanted everyone to clean out their garages and sheds sell everything on the 17<sup>th</sup> and if you find any old paint, oil, gasoline, etc., that you want to get rid of the next Saturday, at the fire station, there will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day absolutely free. You can bring electronics, chemicals, etc. they could bring it to the fire station on October 24<sup>th</sup> and they would get rid of it for them.

He advised that he and the Mayor made the TML Region 14 conference and the guest speaker was the President of TML and he covered the HB 157, which was the extra percent of taxes that cities can use and the one piece of guidance that we got from him was that he thinks it is a great thing but somehow or other he was scared that the next session it would probably be reversed, his guidance was do it fast, do it first and it was forever unless your citizens vote it down and he was urging all cities to do it the next election.

Mr. Squyres stated that Kyle mentioned the trees and this was the first time we had done this in years and years. He discussed the reason for the city taking down the trees. He stated it was mention about the line up for the schools and they had receive multiple complaints in the past about Kerby being shut down by school traffic so by making changes to the line up allows us to use both of the two churches which had agreed to loan us their parking and it seems to be working well. He advised that we had been told that our water bill on line system would probably be about another month or so.

He advised that we had two people graduate from Pool Operations School and it was Ivan, our Parks and Recreation Director and he was now certified to operate the pool, chemicals and safety features of the pool and we sent Rebecca as well since she is our Code Enforcement Officer and we would be doing inspection, on not just the city pool, but all public pools within the city.

Mayor Diaz reminded everyone of heavy trash day on Saturday and encourage them to use this service.

There was no unfinished business.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve Ordinance 2015-6 Adopting the first reading of a Budget for FY 2015-6. Vote: 5 For 0 Against
2. City Manager Squyres advise that the Variance Board had met on August 24<sup>th</sup> to Consider the request of Mr. Santiago Angulano for a Special Use Permit to allow a church at 10527 Market Street, that three member of the Board had been present and had voted to not allow the special use permit for the church.

There was discussion on the basis for their recommendation and Mr. Angulano addressed the Mayor and Council.

A Motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to uphold the Board's recommendation and not allow the special use permit. Vote: 2 For 3 Against (Against: Lee, Garcia & Gonzales)

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the Special Use Permit for the Church at 10527 Market St. Vote: 3 For 2 Against (Against: Rivas & Robinson)

3. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to authorize advertising for bid for new force main & lift station modifications – Mercury Dr. at Lane St. from Mercury Dr. to Kilroy funded by TGLO Grant. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. Mr. Allan Jamail addressed the Mayor and Council stating that first of all he wanted to say thank you to each one of them that came up here tonight to serve the citizens, that he appreciates it and he knew the city was fortunate to have a group of people looking out for their best interest. He stated that he was on the agenda more this year than he had been in the last 15 years but it appeared that him getting on the agenda might be helping the city recognize some of the unhealthy conditions because they can only see so many things at one time and Lon had already told him that it helped to have extra eyes.

He stated that he wanted to thank the police department, public work department and Lon for taking care of the problems that he had brought the last two months, referring to the pictures he had handed out. He stated that this week KJCC had turned in 6 abandoned vehicles and the chief already had most of them removed and two week before that they had about 9 and he had taken care of that and public works was always out there trying to take care of things to keep Jacinto City clean.

Mr. Jamail passed out some maps of the sidewalk system of the city, stating that he did not mark every street that had a sidewalk, he stated that he had been fortunate back in the 80's to work with a committee that agreed to put in all these oak trees out front and to also create and improve our sidewalk system and that improvement included all the sidewalks you see on Kerby, Lane, Switzer area and that was quite an improvement and the reason why he wanted to call that to their attention, he knew they were in the middle of having their budget hearings but he knew that tonight was just the first reading of the budget so he wanted them to consider, if they didn't already have funds in there to take care of the one spot that he had marked in red on Munn St., that it was the only street that joined the west side of Holland Avenue. He stated there was a break there and it was damaged and he was not going to blame the last contractor that went through there with a pipeline because he thought that everybody that goes through there contributed to the damage of that area, he didn't know if they could put it in the budget and then re-coop the money from the people that damaged the sidewalk but regardless of that they needed to look at the liability to the city. He discussed lawsuits against cities because of sidewalks and they need to address damaged sidewalks.

City Manager Squyres advised that he had a meeting next week with the last contractor to discuss this issue.

There was general discussion about that could be done to address this issue and what type of material could be use for this sidewalk instead of concrete.

Mayor Diaz ask Lon to get with Kyle and try to take care of this.

Council Member Rivas ask that Lon contact him about this matter and suggested a driveway into the area which would keep the off the sidewalk.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Shelly Rivas, 1307 Horatio advised that that one of the churches from Galena Manor was having a fund raiser at the Baggett Center and would have booths set up this Saturday.

Chris Diaz commended the Mayor and Council on doing a great job and wished his wife, Mayor Diaz, a happy birthday.

Council Member Rivas stated that we needed to look at the drainage there on Munn St. as well as the sidewalk and cautioned everyone to be safe.

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for coming out.

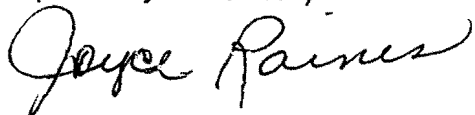
Council Member Lee thanked all for coming out and thanked the council for all their work on the budget.

Council Member Garcia advised the citizens that we were here working for them.

Council Member Gonzales welcome the church to the community and ask if they would take tires at the hazardous waste site at the fire station and was advised by Mr. Squyres that they would.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Raines  
City Secretary