

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2022/2023  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 5:45 P.M.**

**Mayor Diaz opened the meeting and ask for roll call. Present were Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas, Council Member Garcia and City Attorney were absent.**

**Mayor Diaz turned the meeting over to City Manager Squyres.**

**City Manager Squyres advised this was a public hearing in keeping with State Law, that 2 or 3 years ago they had passed SB 2 which put very specific requirements on government entities as they pass budgets and tax rates, the problem was that when appraisals go up people are being taxed out of their homes so they put caps on cities, counties and to some degree school districts as to the amount each year they can raise or lower the tax and one of the steps is they have to have budget hearings and we have already had budget workshops where the public and council get to give their input and direct him to make some changes which have be inserted, it has been published and put on our website and we have met every criteria that the law requires.**

**He stated that we have the General Fund revenue \$8,763,288.00 and the major source of revenue is sales tax and property tax and last year the tax rate was .773590 and this year we were able to lower the tax rate to .65588 from about 77 cents last year to a little over 65 cents which is about 12 cents and the reason for this came from paying off the city debt. That several years ago we issued bonds to finance sewer lines and now they are paid off which was about ½ million dollars a year so that is something we don't have to pay. He stated that a lot of cities and city managers say don't let the citizens off the hook, keep in debt that way you can pass that on. He stated that we have so many capital projects going on right now it doesn't make sense to try to manage two or three more, so we would like to manage**

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**what we have, we exchange bond money for grant money for the next two or three years so everyone's tax rate goes down a little bit and he could not think of a better time to do this due to inflation and they will notice that their taxes go down this year.**

**He stated that the other portion of the budget was the Enterprise Fund which means you are buying something and selling something, that we buy water from the City of Houston and sell water to our water customers so it is a revenue fund that we generate what income is in this budget \$2,806,706.00 and we have to buy water from City of Houston which is about one million of that. He stated that years ago in the early 80's the City of Houston and the Subsidence District said the land was going down and now we can only pump 20% of water for the cities use and we have to buy surface water from City of Houston and it gets more expensive every year. He stated that there are two things that make up a big part of our budget and that is personnel and gave an example of the police department budget which was \$2,796,893.00 and that personnel was \$1,600,000 dollars of that for 21 officer, 6 dispatchers and administrative staff and that was what it took to run a Police department and the same could be said for all other departments, your largest expense, by far, is always personnel and we are making adjustments in salaries, not just police, to try to keep up it is very competitive to try and keep employees. We are also making changes in our HR, the retirement benefit has grown from 12.5% to 18% and the individual contribution has gone from 5% to 6% and the City's match went from 1.5 match to 2.1 match, he discussed other aspects of trying to hang on to employees.**

**Mayor Diaz ask for questions from the audience and council, there were no questions.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the Public Hearing on the budget at 5:35 p.m.**

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on September 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Member Robinson, Council Member Lee and Council Member Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas, Council Member Garcia and City Attorney DeFoyd absent.**

**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 of the previous meeting as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 Against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Thomas Rogers, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on the status of the rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant, the Slip lining project on Palestine and advised that the mosquito truck would be on the street and they were staying busy.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director advised that they were working on the ball fields and that they would be having a fall league, they were also mowing and had started working on the old library building.**

**Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated they were keeping the seniors busy and have an increase in participants and would be celebrating Grandparents Day tomorrow with a breakfast.**

**Chief Ayala advised they were getting ready for National Night Out which would be Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and at this time they have parties scheduled at 9701 Market at Big Bass, 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church and the Police Station. He stated that they had a aggravated assault with a knife at the Valero and the individual had been apprehended and had**

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**Received calls about the homeless in our area and he had contacted the Constable's office to see if they could assist with the situation.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that Commissioners Court would be voting on our next project on the Northside which would be Mercury to Flint and Market to I-10 and we would a request to issue an RFQ on the Agenda shortly.**

**Mayor Diaz ask that they put National Night on the Marques.**

**There were no Public Comments**

**There was no Unfinished Business**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Council to hold a Record Vote Approving Proposed Tax Rate**

**City Manager Squyres advised this was another thing we had to do in keeping with State Law required by SB-2, that we had to poll the Council on the tax rate and it had to be shown on the Public Hearing Notice that is published,**

**Mayor Diaz polled the council: Council Member Robinson voted Yes, Council Member Lee voted Yes, Council Member Gonzales voted yes, Council Members Rivas and Garcia were absent.**

**2. First Reading of Ordinance 2022-7 Adopting a Budget for FY 2022/2023**

**City Manager Squyres read Ordinance 2022-7 stating this was the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Ordinance.**

**Mayor Diaz polled the Council: Council Member Robinson voted yes, Council Member Lee voted yes, Council Member Gonzales voted yes,**

**Council Members Rivas and Garcia were absent.**

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- 3. Council to confirm Brandon Silva Elizondo as a full time Police officer**

**Chief Ayala gave a short bio on Mr. Elizondo stating that he had passed all the qualifications and he recommend to hire him.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to confirm Mr. Elizondo as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer. Vote: 3 For 0 Against**

**Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Elizondo and presented him with his badge.**

- 4. Council to consider Ordinance 2022-8 Amending Chapter 10 “Utilities” at Section 5E Garbage Collection Fees by establishing new garbage collection rates to be charged to customers for garbage collection**

**City Manager Squyres stated this was an annual event that we didn't like doing but in our contract with Waste Management there is a CPI adjustment clause starting in October.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Ordinance 2022-8 on the first reading. Vote 3 For 0 Against**

- 5. Council to amend Budget Code 25-6946 expenditures in the amount of \$250,000 and Budget Code 00-5594 Revenue in the amount of \$250,000 for rehabilitation of Wastewater Treatment Plant**

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**City Manager Squyres advised that this grant project started up earlier than we anticipated, that this was the Harvey Grant money on the wastewater treatment plant and was not budgeted so we needed to amend the budget and we anticipated we will use \$250,000, this is a fully funded grant and this is house keeping to be sure that we get a clean audit.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee. Vote 3 For 0 Against**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Robinson Congratulated Officer Elizondo and cautioned everyone to stay safe.**

**Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out and welcomed Officer Elizondo aboard.**

**Officer Gonzalez welcomed Officer Elizondo to the Jacinto City Family.**

**Mayor Diaz welcomed Officer Elizondo.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**