

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met In regular session on Thursday, January 26, 2023 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call and Council Member Rivas 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 as presented.

Vote: 3 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala commented on the bad weather we had and stated we were very fortunate with only minor damage. He advised that we had Officer Calvillo leaving to go to work at Pct. 2 and Sgt. Ramos was leaving and that we had a couple of burglaries in the city to be careful and watch your surroundings. He applauded the public works department for all the work they did during the storm.

Chief Mier's report was not picked up by the sound system.

Thomas Roberts, Assistant Public Works Director gave an update On the wastewater treatment plant stating that they were pouring concrete and thanked the public works employees for the good job they did during the storm.

Ivan Rojas, Parks & Recreation had no report.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated they were keeping the seniors busy and that the Senior's Valentine Dinner would be on February 10th at 6:00 p.m. and they should have received an e-mail.

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Mayor Diaz ask Roger to thank the public works employees for all their work during the storm and she had ask Lon to call Mayor Waggoner and offer our assistance if needed.

City Manager Squyres advise that he and Kathy had sat in on an online feasibility meeting with the Harris County Flood Control regarding the recommendation we had suggested on Hunting Bayou and it would probably be another 6 months before we get the results of the feasibility study as the next feasibility meeting was scheduled for July and it would probably be a year before anything was done.

There was general discussion on the flood control issue.

Mayor Diaz stated that was why we never see Adrian Garcia over here, because he doesn't care for our city.

City Manager Squyres stated that he had accepted an invitation to have breakfast with his community Liaison and discuss various issues.

Council Member Robinson stated that he had offered to drive the liaison around the city and he told him to send him pictures, they didn't even have time to look at the issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, thanked everybody in our city for coming out to the Joseph House Grand Opening, it was so good to see everyone coming out and working together. She stated that if there were any kids or adults that wanted to start a soccer team they had the equipment that the people that they are working with are willing to do more and they want to put in a good veteran program here.

Wayne Nichols, 11502 Lane St. thanked the police department and fire department for their help by coming out and helping with Tressa when she fell.

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Brad Atchison stated he was here to ask the council to waive the Non residency fee for kids that live outside the city, that last year they had 109 kids register and only 21 were non residents. He advised that opening day for the league was March 25th and they were asking to have a parade.

Mayor Diaz advised that item was on the agenda and we would discuss It then. She thanked him for what they do for the kids.

There was general discussion about a program they have for the kids and Mayor Diaz ask if they could play in Jacinto City and Galena Park and there was discussion about boundary lines.

Donna Dailey ask about what kind of equipment they needed, that maybe they could help. She thanked Chis Diaz and JJ Rivas for the good BBQ.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Mayor and Council to discuss the possibility of allowing Residents to raise chickens**

Mayor Diaz stated that she was getting a lot of calls that it was not fair there was chickens in the city so why couldn't they have them.

City Manager Squyres advised that the city had an ordinance against Chickens and if they see them to let us know and we will check it out.

Mayor Diaz said she brought it up because she was ask and there were A lot of chickens in the city,

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Council Member Lee said this came up once before and we were going to research why the Ordinance was passed and it never came back up.

Donna Dailey stated that she didn't see a problem with hens but no roosters.

City Manager Squyres stated that if they decided to do this we would need to have strong rules controlling them, one would be a mandatory check each year and require permits to have them, number of chickens they can have, etc. He advised they had a copy of the information that he obtained from different cities with requirements for keeping backyard chickens.

Council Member Garcia stated that she was trying to think of problems that might come up later, that some people would be responsible and some would not.

There was general discussion about getting with the code enforcement because there were a lot of chickens out there.

City Manager Squyres stated that they could call in anonymously, that we would not tell on them.

Council Member Gonzales ask if the city would be liable if a dog killed a chicken and Mr. Squyres advised the city would not.

Mayor Diaz stated that the people who want this want's to do it right.

Council Member Gonzales stated that if we do this we would have to come up with regulations , the number of chicken allowed, free range or coop chickens etc.

City Manager stated that if Council decided to do this, please have it be coop' there was discussion about the size of the lots, how far away

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from the neighbor the coop would be placed, etc. and that Jim would have to have all of this to do an ordinance.

Council Member Lee ask what about neighbors that complain and City Manager Squyres stated that if we pass an ordinance there was not anything we could do, it would be just like the dog ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by council Member Garcia to table this item for review. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 2. Mayor and Council to consider waving the non-resident fees for Participants in the Jacinto City Little League and Girl's Soft Ball For 2023 season**

Council Member Lee stated that the history of this was that we installed lights, etc. and that residents complained that they pay property taxes and nonresidents didn't.

Council Member Gonzales that coaches from Denver Harbor would bring in a whole team in and play for free and the nonresident fee was established.

It was discussed about the league's boundary lines and this would help bring more kids in to play and that the businesses would benefit from this.

Ivan was ask if waving the fee would hurt any of his programs and his answer was no.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to waive the non-resident fee for Jacinto City Little League and Girl's Soft Ball for the spring 2023 season. Vote 4 For 0 Against

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COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Robinson stated that he hoped that everyone survived the storm and was enjoying this nice weather.

Council Member Lee stated God Bless All.

Council Member Garcia stated that she thought that Brad was making good changes in the leagues and thanked Donna for what they do at Joseph House that she would be glad to volunteer when she was available and advised Mr. Nichols that she hoped that Tressa was doing better.

Council Member Gonzales thanked the Chief, Thomas and their staff For all they did during the storm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**