

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Thursday, March 9, 2023 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Secretary Raines and City Attorney DeFoyd.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that they were finally making good progress on the wastewater treatment plant and that on the South side they were cleaning dip gutters and they could not clean in areas where cars are parked, that mosquitos were getting bad, they were receiving some complaints and would be cleaning the ditch on Lane at turkey run gulley.

Chief Meir stated it was business as usual with them, reminded every one that day light saving time changed this weekend and also to check their batteries in their smoke detectors.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director advise that things were going great at the center and they were keeping the seniors busy, they had gone to the rodeo parade, the rodeo and the flea market.

Mayor Diaz stated that she has gotten several call saying how much we do with the seniors and some from Galena Park asking if they can come over here and she told them yes but we could not pick them up.

Chief Ayala stated that we were having a problem with dogs running loose in the city and we were going to come down hard on the owners and they would be working on junk vehicles and unhealthy conditions. He cautioned everyone to be aware of their surroundings and to call the police department

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If they see anything they feel might be suspicious and advised them to be aware of putting checks or money orders in their mail boxes, that they had been notified of them being taken from mail boxes. He ask if anyone had seen a blood trail in our city yesterday in the 10200 – 11400 blocks in four of five different areas that had been left by the garbage truck and they were investigating this.

Mayor Diaz said she was glad about the dogs, there was a lot in the city and so many people walk.

City Manager Squyres advised that we were installing 8 park benches on lane street by the levy, that we had a lot of walkers in that area and they could rest and watch the birds in that area. He stated that he had missed the last council meeting, that he had met with the Federal railroad people and Union Pacific railroad, he went over things they had discussed and he told them about the engineer stopping the train blocking the intersection and going across the street to Popeyes to eat.

He advised that we were into the grass mowing season and the code enforcement officer wrote more tickets than some of our police officers.

Mayor Diaz call attention to the message on one of our marques, that she didn't know if it was the color or what but you couldn't read it.

City Manager Squyres stated they would check it out, that what you see on the computer screen is not what you see on the sign, to let us know if they see anything that we need to address.

Mayor Diaz stated that we just want to keep the city clean.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey ask what were we going to do with the dogs that she heard the City pound was full.

City Manager Squyres advised that it was not full, that we always have room.

There was no Unfinished Business:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council approval of Quarterly Investment Report 10-1-2021 – 9-30-2022

City Manager Squyres stated this was something that we were required to do and we do it before the audit, he went over the report and ask fi there was any questions. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to accept the Quarterly Investment Report as presented.

Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. First Reading of Ordinance 2023-1 declaring unopposed candidates in the May 6, 2023 General City Election elected to office.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approved the first reading of Ordinance 2023-1 declaring Mayor Diaz, Council Member Garcia and Council Member Gonzales elected to office on the first reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz stated that the City had not had an election in nine years and they appreciate the confidence the citizens had in them.

3. Council to confirm Leonardo R. Marin as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer.

Chief Ayala gave a short bio on Mr. Marin, welcome his family and recommended that the Council confirm him as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Lee to confirm Mr. Marin as a full time Jacinto City Police Officer.

Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office and welcomed Office Marin to Jacinto City.

Officer Marin's father pinned his badge on him.

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Mayor Diaz stated this was something special, we had not had that in a long time.

4. Lt. Longrigg to present 2022 Racial Profiling Report.

Lt. Longrigg stated this report was required under S.B. 1074, and had been collecting police contact data for the purpose of identity and responding to concerns regarding racial profiling practices and it was his hope that the findings provided in this report would serve as evidence that the Jacinto City Police department continued to strive toward the goal of maintaining strong relations with the community. He went over the report and stated that Jacinto Police Department had not receive any complaints in 2022.

Mayor Diaz thanked him for the report and advised Office Marin that these officers and the Mayor and Council were his family ready to help him with anything he needs.

5. Mayor and Council to present Pastor Robert Stearns a ceremonial Key to the City.

Mayor Diaz stated that we were proud to have Joseph House and Pastor Stearns come to our city and presented him with a ceremonial key to the city.

Mayor Diaz ask Elizabeth from Heritage Hall how this was working for the seniors.

Elizabeth advised that it was very helpful and the Seniors looked forward to it.

Mayor Diaz ask Council Member Rivas if he would like to comment as he was Instrumental in helping to get Joseph House into the city.

Council Member Rivas stated that he met Mr. Stearns through his mother-in law and she told him that he had to see some of the good work they were doing and he went to one of the Joseph House centers and met with Mr.

Stearns and knew that Jacinto City needed this. He stated that we had some problems at first but all of them worked out and he appreciated Mr. Stearns so much, at Christmas they handed out toys to children that wouldn't have had a Christmas otherwise and he was a wonderful person.

Pastor Stearns stated that he knew he wanted to build a house in Jacinto City, he had been all over a lot of places and had never felt love and appreciation as here in Jacinto City. He stated they should take a look, they didn't have to hold elections because of what they do for the city. He stated that at his open house the police chief said he needed to come see him and he told him that he appreciated what I was doing for the city and if there was any way he could help to let him know. He stated that he has a great team and ask them to stand up and be recognized and introduced Donna, Flo. Pat and Sam. Pastor Stearns stated they had some new things coming up and will run it by Council if they need anything, he also recognized Major Jones from Pct. 3.

Mayor Diaz thanked him for everything he has done for the city.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he had missed a few meetings because of work, but Jacinto City was in his heart and he called Kyle or the City Manager on what issues he would see and they looked into them and let him know what we could or couldn't do. He advised that the Little League's parade and opening day was March 25th and they had sent him an e-mail that they were having a raffle for \$10.00 a ticket and name some of the items they would have in the raffle and they also had 6 children that could not afford to play and they need sponsors for them and that he was sponsoring 2, Chief Ayala was sponsoring 2, Council Member Robinson was sponsoring 1 and Council Member Gonzales was sponsoring 1. He advised that his wife had a birthday yesterday and wished all a good evening.

Council Member Robinson welcomed Officer Marin and congratulated Pastor Stearns and thanked everyone for coming out.

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Council Member Garcia reminded everyone that Little League Parade was on March 25th and Welcomed Pastor Stearns as a member of the Jacinto City family and thanked him for all he does for the city. She stated that when they sit up here they come from one job to another and we thank the people who elected us to sit up here, that we all work together and you can come to any of us if you have any questions. She advised that spring break was next week for GPISD.

Council Member Gonzales thanked Pastor Stearns and his staff for all they do, that a lot of people benefit from this. He welcomed Office Marin, advising he would be working with a lot of good officer and Chief and they would show him the ropes

Mayor Diaz stated that the Easter Egg Hunt would be on April 1st at 2:00 p.m..

Carvana Cloud, stated that she was the Director of Domestic Violence with Trident Justice Solutions and was going to be working with Pastor Stearns and Joseph House and the City.

Mayor Diaz advised that the Racial Profiling Report was here on the desk if anyone wanted to look at it and City Manager Squyres stated it would be on the website tomorrow.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**