

COUNCIL MEETIN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call.

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

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

Chief Ayala advised that on March 5th the police department would be having a BBQ Benefit for the baseball and softball leagues and would appreciate everyone coming out to support this event.

He advised that he had spoken with someone from the Harris County Sheriff's office and been advised that since December there had been 9 robberies in the area around Jacinto City but none had occurred in Jacinto City.

Mayor Diaz stated that at about 6:00 a.m. this morning they hears ambulances and the helicopter going all around the city and had several calls from citizens asking what was going on and later she heard that we had two major accidents.

Chief Mier reported that so far this new year the citizens had been very good to them and they had no news to report.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, reported that City of Houston had a 12" water main blowing for over 12 hours down on Market Street and that citizens were calling us because they thought it belong to us. He stated that they had been trying to get ahold of someone with the City of Houston and wanted to be sure that our citizens knew that it didn't belong to us, that we take care of our problems as soon as they are reported.

Mayor Diaz called attention to a problem on Holland Avenue from the construction going on there and was advised that was the Flood Control repairing the cave in on the drainage ditch and that they had already been contacted about the problem.

Bernard Perezs, Public Works, advised that they had talked to the contractor and our crew had cleaned the mud off the road.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation advised that they were staying busy getting everything ready for the baseball and softball leagues and that they were still doing registration and Opening Day was scheduled for March 12th.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated that all was good at Heritage Hall and that they continued to get new members for the center. She called attention to the February Calendar for the center and announced that their Valentine Banquet would be February 12th.

Sue Ellen, Jacinto City Library advised that they were gearing up for more programs, they would have a nutrition class on Saturday conducted by Harris County Health Systems and that on February 11th they would have a Zombie Valentine Party for teens 12 and up and on February 20th they would have a sole food pot luck dinner

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that the mud on Holland Ave. was bad but at least they were finally taking care of the project.

He advised that we were working on paper work with the Architect for the police station and hoped to be having the ground breaking around April 15th.

He advised that there was also two sidewalk projects that should be kicking off in the near future, Holland Avenue from Market Street to the freeway and on Munn Street where the pipeline crosses.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor and City Council presented Certificates of Appreciation to Brenda Kocian, Judy Clark, Rachel Balderas and Snuffy's Poodle Parlor for their work in behalf of hundreds of stray or abandoned animals in Jacinto City.

There was general discussion about what all they did to help place animals for adoption on their face book page and the different programs that were out there to help with stray and abandoned animals.

Mayor Diaz stated that Montgomery County had brought 10 dogs to Galena Park High School This past week and that 6 of them had been adopted and that tomorrow they were bringing out some cats for adoption.

Mr. Squyres stated that Snuffy's did doggie makeovers so that we could adopt them out.

2. Chief Ayala Introduced Mr. Francisco R. Benavides, gave a short bio on him and stated that he recommended that the Mayor and Council confirm him as a Jacinto City Police Officer.

Mayor Diaz advised him that he would be working for an excellent chief and working with a good department and recognized the officers present.

Mayor Diaz administered the Oath of Office and presented Officer Benavides with his badge.

Officer Benavides was welcomed aboard by the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Diaz introduced the new dispatcher from the police department, Claudia Molinar.

3. City Attorney DeFoyd read Resolution 2016-1R setting the General city Election for May 7, 2016.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to appoint Wayne Nichols as Judge for Precinct No. 163 and Gloria Partida as Alternate Judge for Precinct No. 163. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Rivas to appoint Wayne Nichols as Judge for Precinct No. 229 and Gloria Partida as Alternate Judge for Precinct No. 229. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Resolution 2016-1R as read. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. City Attorney DeFoyd read Resolution 2016-2R creating an Early Voting Ballot Board for the May 7, 2016 General City Election and appointing members to serve on the board.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to appoint Wayne Nichols to serve as Presiding Judge for the Early Voting Ballot Board and Gloria Partida and Matthew Shuptrine as members and approve the Resolution as read. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

5. City Manager Squyres advised that the list of over budget items the council had was for items from the FY 2014/2015 budget and we were required by the law to amend these items. Mr. Squyres went over the list and explained the reason for the overages.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the over budget items from FY 2014/2015 budget year. Vote: 5 For 0 Against (copy attached)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dee Maner, 10249 Wiggins, thanked Brenda and her crew for all they were doing to help

With the stray and abandoned animals in Jacinto City, that Brenda spends her own money to have many of these animals spayed and neutered. Ms. Maner discussed a problem they were having with cats on Chadwick, that they were killing off the birds and squirrels and that the children couldn't play in the yard because of the dead birds, etc. and the cat poop, that it was a very bad problem that needed to be addressed. She stated that she knew the city was limited in what they could do and she would try to get some help from the county and state.

Brenda Kocian stated that regardless of who you called they wouldn't help, that cats were out of hand everywhere and discussed the number of cats and dogs that she had taken care of.

Ms.. Kocian stated that Judy Clark, Rachel Balderas and Mary from Snuffy's Poodle Parlor had been a blessing to her, that they had a website where they put animal up for adoption, etc.. They discussed the city trying to get the Snap Truck to come here and the people that were on assistance could get their animals spayed and neutered free, that she and her crew needed the city and residents assistance.

There was discussion about an organization called Friends for Life, that would provide traps, a (Trap and Release Program) and explained how it worked but this problem was not just in Jacinto city, it was everywhere.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked the ladies for what they do to help with this problem and congratulated Officer Benavides.

Council Member Robinson thanked Brenda and her crew and welcomed Officer Benavides.

Council Member Lee stated that they were right about the animals, that he had thought we could do something about it and had talked with the County Commissioner about this and nothing had been done and he thanked them for all they were doing.

Council Member Garcia welcomed Officer Benavides and thanked Brenda, Judy, Rachel and Snuffy's for all the work they do.

Council Member Gonzales Welcomed Officer Benavides, that we looked forward to working with him and if we could help him in any way to please let us know. He thanked the ladies for all they do for the animals and the city.

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Brenda stated that we all needed to work together and she wished there was some way we could go after the pet owner for not taking care of their animals and having them spayed and neutered.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary