

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY MAY 14, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 14, 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 Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz advised that we would come back and have the Department Head Reports, that today was Senior Awards Day and one of our Council Member's son was receiving an award so she would like to ask Judge Risner to come forward and administer the Oath of Office to Council Member Mario Gonzales so that he could attend the award ceremony for his son.

Judge Risner administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Mario Gonzales.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala passed on his report.

Fire Chief Mier reported that they have made 68 calls and are still working with the schools.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director stated they were going to try to spray for mosquitoes tonight if it was not raining. He advised that over on Holland Street the sidewalks were completed and where they have grass, it was supposed to be asphalt and discussed way to keep people from driving on the grass, that we did appreciate what the County did for us.

Kyle advised that we have had 8 ½" of rain this week and we were doing the best that we can, that we haven't had any flooding yet.

He advised that Saturday was the tire round up from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and we would have two crews and they normally made three rounds. He stated this was our second tire roundup this year.

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Mayor Diaz stated that we have had a lot of rain, she was glad the house on Wiggins was down and now they need to cut the grass and weeds.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director reported that the pool would be opening for the summer on June 9th and it would also be open Memorial Day weekend.

He stated there would be a Food Drive at Town Center on June 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and they would be having Movie Night on June 20th.

Mayor Diaz said this was a good thing and she understood that the Rotary wanted to do this once a month, one month in Jacinto City and the next month in Galena Park.

Ivan gave information on a Basket Ball Camp they would be having, stating he would have more information at a later date and it would be a five day camp.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director reported their Mother's Day Party was on May 7th, that game night would be on May 19th and the seniors were getting ready for water exercises in June.

Ivan reminded everyone that preschool graduation was on Friday, May 22, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at Town Center and invited everyone to come out.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated there were a lot of things going on this week, that Galena Park High School was having their Senior Prom Saturday so please watch out for the kids out there. She stated that this year they were having their prom at the National Science Museum and she thought that was really nice. She stated that we also had baseball going on right now and she understood that heavy trash was working our pretty good and ask if we were still working on the signs.

City Manager Squyres advised her that we were and hopefully by the next meeting they would be done.

Mayor Diaz stated that we did need to get the signs out to remind everyone that we do have heavy trash every Saturday, to put all your junk in the front and it would be picked up.

Mayor Diaz ask how many of our seniors won gold medals at the Senior Olympics and was advised that a bunch of them did. She advised that the last day of school was June 4th and Ivan would have some programs to help keep the kids off the streets and we would do as much as we could do.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that we were still fighting with the Flood Control District on the collapse we had on the Lane Street gulley and what we are being told is that the contractor is selected, they told us who the contractor was but they haven't made one step toward repair that or even clearing it out, that initially it was just a couple of slabs and then two more caved in and it was becoming a pretty effective dam right now.

Mayor Diaz stated that she was getting a number of complaints about this.

Mr. Squyres stated that before hurricane season we were going to find a way to get it cleared one way or another.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Gonzales ask the Mayor and Council's permission to be excused so that he could attend his son's award ceremony and he also thanked the citizens for allowing him to serve another two years.

Mayor Diaz stated that as everyone knew that on March 26, 2015 the city was able to pass a Resolution cancelling our city election due to the incumbents not having opponents.

1. Judge Risner administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Garcia.

Council Member Garcia thanked her parents and all the citizens for their support.

Judge Risner administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Ana Diaz

Mayor Diaz introduced her mother, her husband Chris, her brother and Kim Bellott and thanked all the citizens for their support and confidence in her.

2. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to appoint Council Member Mario Gonzales as Mayor Pro Tem. Vote: 4 For 0 Against
3. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2015-2 Setting the Salaries to be paid to the Mayor and City Council at the same rate as the previous year. (Mayor: \$350 per month with a \$300 car allowance and Council Members at \$300 per month with a \$225 car allowance). Vote: 3 For – 1 Against (Rivas) Mr. Rivas stating that he thought they should do it for free.
4. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to appoint Lon Squyres as Investment Officer and Kathy Greiner as Assistant Investment Officer. Vote: 4 For – 0 Against
5. Allan Jamail addressed the Mayor and Council stating that he was going to start off by complementing the Mayor, she runs a very good meeting and he appreciates that, this city has needed meetings to be conducted in a way that we could keep them orderly and discuss things in a way that was civil and he really appreciated that and he found himself liking her more and more, that he had doubts as first but the meetings that he had been coming to he thought she was doing a very good job.

He stated there were a couple of things that he wanted to bring up and the most important was the upcoming Public Works Appreciation Week that was coming up and he would like to see the city possibly consider, next year, having an event to recognize our public works employees. He stated that about three years ago he and his wife decided they would throw a luncheon for them and they did down at the barn and they bought them all t-shirts and they enjoyed them and he and his wife discussed it this week and they were going to do it again next year and they wanted everyone that was in office to come down there and enjoy themselves and thank the public works employees and he was going to have a Resolution prepared for that event and he advised Ms. Garcia that if she would like her notice, this was it, this was a one year notice that he was going to prepare a Resolution and he was going to see to it that it came before the council and she could vote up or down on it, it

didn't matter. Mr. Jamail read an article that he took off the internet about the public works community, that this started on May 17th through May 25th, so next year he and Linda were going to try to do something more to recognize the public works people. He stated that there was probably no one in the city that he complained on or called on more than public works, they were the backbone to this city, yes we had a great police department, fire department, we have all good departments but public works was the nuts and bolts of the city and so these guys and women were out there and they get very little recognition and they wanted to see that they get some type of recognition every year, very seldom does any citizen stop them or praise them, we see a lot of that toward our police and our fire departments and we should do that, they risk their lives but public works in this city has always been something that he has been proud of. He commented on the work that he and the city attorney did to get the new public works facility for the public works, he ask that we look ahead to next year and recognize Kyle, Barnardo and all of the people in public works. Mr. Jamail ask Kyle how many he had in public works and was advised 18 people.

He stated that he was not complaining about them because they didn't do their job, it was because they didn't do it fast enough to suite him but he wasn't their boss, they were.

He stated the other thing that he wanted to touch on tonight was mosquito control, that he heard something about it and he wanted to say something about it, no disrespect to Kyle, but at the last meeting he was at, Kyle, in his report, stated that we have had a minimum of mosquito complaints and he heard Council Member Garcia make a statement that they could also call the police department and the thing of it was that the citizens didn't know who they could call, he had copies of the last two new letters that were sent out and there was not one mention of who you call for mosquitoes, there should be better communication for the citizens, that he knew that one of the council members suggested that maybe we should put it on the marquee and that was a great idea. He stated that communication was vital and we were not really providing it.

Mr Jamail discussed a conversation that he had with City Manager Squyres about communication with the citizens, possible creating a packet for new citizens coming in so they would be aware of requirement in the city as well as contact for different problems.

He stated that he started in this city when it was a General Law City and stayed on long enough to see us become a Home Rule Charter City so he knows a lot about this city and he tries to educate people on things but he really thinks the city needs to put out something in the newsletter.

Mr. Jamail stated that he wanted to move on and this was something that he didn't really care to talk about but he found himself having too, he addressed Ms. Garcia, stating that she brought up at the last meeting that he violated the city charter and he had reviewed the charter and he had not violated the charter, that he really didn't like having to come up here tonight and defend himself because it shouldn't even have been brought up as far as he was concerned, that he and her had been texting each other that week and if there was something wrong all she had to do was call him but she waited and ambushed him up here in front of the public and said don't take it the wrong way but he did take it the wrong way because it was wrong so he had to take it the wrong way. He stated that what they brought up was a resolution to keep the city clean, it did not bind the city in anyway to cost the city money but she found a way to reprimand him for that and she couldn't say she didn't come prepared because he found out that she had been talking about it prior to it and that she brought a piece of paper with the article and section written on it, so she came prepared to dress him down and he didn't appreciate that, he didn't think that we should have that attitude toward each other, that he liked her and he wanted her to like him and if he did something wrong, tell him but he didn't do anything wrong that she blamed him and the city attorney for violating the charter and they didn't violate the charter. He stated that the charter didn't say that every resolution had to come before this city council prior to it being put on the agenda but she said she wanted him to bring them prior too. He stated that she didn't know the words he wanted to use in the resolution so he had to send the words to him but to satisfy the part that she said that council ought to know ahead of time, he e-mailed every one of the council, they got it ahead of time, the Mayor got it ahead of time so he did notify everybody and then notified everybody that the city attorney had it in his possession and he was going to write it in the more formal language that the city council would want it to be in and he didn't see where he did anything wrong and he really took that very personal but he was not

going to hold a grudge because he was not that way, he and his wife were here to help the city and anything they could do to help the city, they wanted to do it and he just wished that people would think before they get on to citizens because we need citizens coming up here with ideas and suggestions.

Mayor Diaz advised Mr. Jamail that on her part, she appreciated everything that he had done and they all wanted to clean up Jacinto City so she was with him on that so any suggestion or ideas he had for them to help clean up we were there so keep coming with ideas, that she would take his idea and submit them to the council.

Mr. Jamail stated that he usually only came about every four or five years and Mayor Diaz said that she would like for him to come to all of her council meetings.

Mr. Jamail stated to Ms. Garcia, that as God was his witness, he didn't mean anything personal, that was business that she was dressing him down on, it wasn't a personal attack on him and he understood that Jim DeFoyd would tell her that he and Jim had gotten into know down and drag outs but they had never taken it personally, he said he took it personal but he was not holding no grudge.

Council Member Garcia advised Mr. Jamail that she appreciated that he had given them a years notice to give them something to think about because he came with great ideas and they were here to listen to him, not to knock down ideas or anything, if he had a great idea share it, they couldn't come up with everything on their own, they were the eyes they need and she just wanted, for the record, to be sure that she did read the charter correctly and ask Jim DeFoyd who normally sends him a request for resolutions the council wants to pass.

City Attorney DeFoyd stated the council had to decide on any resolution.

Ms. Garcia ask him if they normally came from the council or the citizens and Mr. DeFoyd stated that it usually came through the council, as long as the council member put it on the agenda, that was what it takes or the Mayor could put it on the agenda.

Mayor Diaz stated that he did send the resolution and she didn't see any problems with it.

Mr. Jamail stated that when the idea hit him to do that it was because he had just learned that it was Keep Texas Beautiful that week and he thought it was a great idea to incorporate Jacinto City in it , probably she would have got a long notice in advance but it just come up like it did and he thought he was doing the right thing by trying to get it

Worked out as fast as we could.

Ms. Garcia stated that she apologized if she had offended him in anyway.

Council Member Lee stated that in Council Woman Garcia's defiance, he appreciated what he did and he didn't think anything was done wrong by our charter since the Mayor put it on the agenda but he would like to have a little more notice himself, there was a lot of time when council felt that things were just done without their knowledge and it was not supposed to be done that way.

Mr. Jamail stated that if it had been something binding this city financially it would never have been done that way.

Mayor Diaz thanked Mr. Jamail again for all that he does and to keep coming with idea.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Jamail passed out some high grass and dog pictures that he had taken, he stated that he had turned in over 300 dogs in the last two months.

Mayor Diaz advised that the address on Wiggins was where we had a house removed and we working on getting the high grass taken care of.

There was discussion on how many citation had been issued on dog violations.

Mayor Diaz welcome Galena Park Mayor Moya and her husband to the council meeting.

Sylvia Kee, 1632 Casperson, stated that as a former employee of public works, she would like to thank everyone of the employees, she knew they did a fantastic job and sometimes they were not appreciated but they were very hard works and she certainly enjoyed all of her time that she worked down there and she could not have ask for a better boss than Kyle Reed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas had no comments

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Council Member Robinson congratulated the Mayor and Council Members, that the next two years were going to be tough to be ready.

Council Member Lee advised that there would be a Food Drive at Calvary Baptist Church on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and everyone was welcome to come by and thanked everyone for coming out.

Council Member Garcia commented on Mr. Jamail's suggestions about providing information to citizens on who to contact after hours.

City Manager Squyres advised that we also rolled the phone from city hall to the police department automatically at the end of the day and weekends.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:50 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 typed name and title.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary