

**WORKSHOP, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015, 5:30 P. M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in Special Session on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for a workshop with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call and City Attorney DeFoyd out of the city.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that a couple of weeks ago, two Council Member and the Mayor met with him and brought the subject of recreational vehicles, trailers, etc. up because we had an enforcement problem because of what our ordinance allows and doesn't allow and times have changed since the 70's when this was enacted, so they ask us to take a look at the very things that are out there and give them some suggestions to make decisions on. Mr. Squyres read the current ordinance stating what you could have and where it could be placed and that it did not cover the many other types of trailers and the council people there thought that we might need to have a broader type of ordinance so he put a slide show together to show some of the good, bad and the ugly of the trailers, he went over each slide and pointed out the problems, he advised there were a lot of boats in the city also and showed slides of various problems with some of the boats, they had not been licensed and would not be safe to put in the water and that would be one of the suggestions, that they have to keep them licensed. He discussed some of the slides that showed utility trailers filled with junk and parked in the right-of-way and in the yards that had been there for extensive lengths of time.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that basically what we wanted to do was clean Jacinto City as we had mention numerous times.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that it was Council Member Rivas, Council Member Robinson, the Mayor and himself that had this discussion and that they just through out ideas that day and went over some of the ideas, they discussed the number of trailers to be allowed, that they be parked on some type of permanent driveway, and the location where they would need to be parked., etc...**

**Mayor Diaz stated that in most of the pictures that Lon took, the trailers were bad and it looked bad having them in the front yard.**

**Council Member Lee stated that brought up his question, could we actually say anything about the appearance of the trailers.**

**Mr. Squyers stated that he didn't think so because that was such a subjective item, he could think it was real pretty and someone else could think it was as ugly as sin so we would have to draw some lines and went over some suggestions.**

**There was discussion about neither people or animals were allowed to live or stay in the trailers, no water or sewer hookup, no hard wiring, only extension cord for refrigerator, etc..**

**Council Member Lee stated that we were putting all of these vehicles in the same category, RV, trailers and boats.**

**Mr. Squyres stated that he would suggest that we categorize them all as recreational vehicles, where they all were or make it a combination but we would need some kind of limit on them.**

**There was general discussion about the type of hazards these issues created, health, fire, where they park, etc..**

**Mayor Diaz stated that it had gotten so bad that we really had to do something about it.**

**Mr. Squyres advised that they could put together what they would like to see in this and get Mr. DeFoyd to draft something.**

**Council Member Rivas stated that he needed more time to look over all these items to make a decision and choice on what we can and can't do.**

**Council Member Gonzales stated that he agreed with Mr. Rivas, there were a lot of gray areas that needed to be discussed before making a decision.**

**Page 3 – April 23, 2015**

**Council Member Lee stated that, obviously from the pictures, some of these problems had been here for a long time, they were dangerous, they were unhealthy and probably have rodents and we probably should have already done something about them.**

**Council Member Garcia stated that she had looked over several ordinances from different cities, she went over several items that she thought should be included in the ordinance and she stated that some of the things that she noticed in some of these ordinances was that they had to have state license plates that had not been expired for more than one month so that was something we could consider. She discussed the licensing of utility trailers. She also question residential versus commercial and would they be treated the same.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that basically what we were looking at was residential, explaining that the commercial would fall under the zoning laws.**

**There was discussion about trailers being allowed to park on residential vacant property. There was discussion about them having to be parked on a paved surface and alley parking and the amount of time they would be allowed to park on the street to load, unload and clean the trailer after use and discussion on how the trailer could be plugged into electricity.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to table this item for further discussion. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the workshop at 6:00 p.m..**

#### **COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. 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 Rivas to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Chief Ayala advised that Officer Jennifer Simpson-Castaneda was retiring from the department on April 30, 2015 and they would be hosting a going away party in her honor at the police department at 3:30 p.m. on that date and invited them to come by and join them. He stated the department had been busy addressing health complaints and junk vehicles as well as their normal activities.**

**Fire Chief Meir stated that the city had been quite for the fire department, that they were still trying to get the after school program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders on CPR and they were partnering with Whittier Elementary.**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that the mosquito truck was on the street and would continue to be and reminded everyone to call in their complaints. He stated that mosquitoes were especially bad on Lane street due to the levy.**

**He reported that the rabies clinic did well and issue tags to 210 animals and that the Tire Roundup would be on May 16<sup>th</sup> and that at a pre tire roundup a month or so ago we had picked up 400 plus tires and we would have a flyers out of this soon. He thanked Harris County for the help they give us with the mosquito problem.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that all was going well at parks and recreation, that the weather was finally allowing them to play ball. He announced that they were hiring summer lifeguards for the pool and if they knew of anyone interested to have the call the gym.**

**Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, announced that Senior Olympics would start on April 27<sup>th</sup> and that the opening ceremony would be at our gym at 8:45 a.m. and they would be in our city all day on Monday. She advised that they have 320 people signed up for Senior Olympics and that the May Events Calendar is out.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Diaz reminded everyone that Saturday was heavy trash day and that we are working on the art and wordage and will have 100 signs that will be throughout the city to remind everyone of heavy trash day.

Mayor Diaz announced that Jacinto City Elementary was celebrating 70 years of educating students on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the JCE Cafeteria.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Squyres reported that we were fighting high grass, junk vehicles and dogs and we were doing very well on the dogs and high grass, that we had gotten some complaints and some deserved probably but we wanted to get ahead because the mosquitoes are so bad.

Mayor Diaz ask if the ones complaining were the ones that had the high high grass.

City Manager Squyres stated that actually a few of them had cut them and for the most part people are trying to comply and that was really nice to see. He stated that we did have one issue, that Kyle mentioned that Lane Street was a bother for us with mosquitoes, mainly because of the dreg facility and he had talked with the new contractor that was handling this for the Port of Houston.

There was no Unfinished Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council action on variance board's recommendation at 10501 Market.

City Manager Squyres stated that the Variance Board had met on Tuesday and after talking with the owner as to what they would actually be doing at this location, the board recommended that they be give the variance for the business. They were advised that the fences, etc. would already be fabricated when they received them, they would clean them, take care of any minor repairs and they

Would be transported some place else for painting, etc. and then they would do the installation.

Council Member Rivas ask about how they were transported and would it create a traffic concern and was advised they were transported by trailer and would not create a traffic problem.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the Variance Boards recommendation and allow the variance at 10501 Market Street #H. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Council approval to amend budget Code 15-6927 in the amount of \$12,500 for security fence and gate at Smith Park

Mr. Squyres advised that the Council had already approved the expenditure and this amendment was for bookkeeping purposes so that it could be coded out of the right department.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve amending Budget Code 15-6927 in the amount of \$12,500 for security fence and gate at Smith Park. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. Council to amend Budget Code 11-6796 in the amount of \$85,424.49 to refund Texas Division of Emergency Management (FEMA) for overpayment of funds received for Ike Recovery Program.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the amendment to Budget Code 11-6796 in the amount of \$85,424.49 to refund Texas Division of Emergency Management (FEMA) for overpayment of funds received for Ike Recovery Program. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. Resolution 2015-5R designating April as Fair Housing Month in Jacinto City.

A Motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council

**Member Lee to approve Resolution 2015-5R designating April as Fair Housing Month in Jacinto City. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen Dr., advised that they had an accident over on Chazen with a school bus and she wanted to thank everybody for jumping on it and taken care of it. She stated that they had ask for speed bumps and she understood that they were on the list for speed bumps and they thanked them, she was just glad that a kid didn't have to get hurt and a bus only went into the ditch, that the bus was driving 37 miles an hour on Chazen and they do it quite often. She stated that officers come over and park there but everyone can't be everywhere all the time and they thanked them for what time they do get.**

**Ms. Dailey stated that what she wanted to talk to them about was that when she came in today they were talking about the vehicles and she was one of the poor people in town and she didn't have one of the big vehicles but she thought we needed some common sense there about the number of vehicles, where they can park, the size of the lot, etc. as long as it didn't look bad and wasn't a health hazard, she didn't think we should have to pay for any more permits, that we were permitted to death. Ms. Dailey ask that they please remember this when they are working on this.**

**Dale Pollock, 10325 S. Oswego, ask the council when S. Oswego and Dacus going to get speed bumps, that there were a lot of kids on those street and cars were speeding there all the time.**

**City Manger Squyres advised him that we depend on the police department for input on placement of speed bumps and advised him to go by and speak with Chief Ayala.**

**Lorna Macal, 10613 Norvic, advised that she was here on behalf of Second Baptist Church to invite everyone to their Annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast on May 7, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.. She stated that she didn't know if they were aware of the Care Van or not but it was a van that goes around and offer shots for children that aren't able to pay or whatever, and she**

Was working with Ms. Rainer at Jacinto City Elementary and she suggested our church to be a hostess for this, they hosted the first one in March and had 21 children come through and they would also be here on May 28<sup>th</sup> and it would be on the last Thursday of every other month and they would be working with all the schools in the area. Ms. Macal stated that she lived on Norvic Street and it was a very bad street for speeding cars. She advised that the church had a lot of family activities coming up, that in June they would be having a biking activity.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, ask about the council considering a Wake Ordinance, that when our streets flood and trucks, etc. drive down them and the water will go into the homes.

City Manager Squyres advised that there was a State law concerning this and we would do some research and see if it was needed.

Mr. Jim Berry, 11009 Flaxman, advised that he was aware that his grass needed mowing, that he had started mowing it and because of all the rain had stuck his lawnmower because the man next door had built his lot up and he gets all the water over in his yard.

Mayor Diaz stated that we appreciated his effort and coming out and letting us know.

Ledia Hernandez, 11205 LaCrosse, stated that she was here on behalf of her mother, that they had made two applications to put a porch at the front of her house and it had been denied twice, that they had changed the measurements so they were not too sure why, maybe they were not understanding something or maybe something was not being explained correctly, that they just wanted some space to put a small porch so that when it rained she could get in with the grandkids or groceries without getting rained on. She stated that she just wasn't understanding and she had called twice.

City Manager Squyres ask if she could stay after the meeting and he would be happy to chat with her and see if we could take care of it.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**



**Council Member Rivas stated that as far as the trailer situation goes, we were going to look into it, work on it and come up with some good solutions and ideas before they pass an ordinance so rest assured seniors that they would look into it, that was one thing that they didn't discuss, what if it was a senior citizen. He stated that on top of that, how many of them had neighbors that in the evenings have a flood of cars in front of their house, that was him, he had neighbors with eight or nine cars so that was something they needed to look into he thought. He stated there were some place that he had drove around and seen, that he didn't have a sidewalk in front of his house and he didn't park in his yard but he sees that, where they cross the sidewalk to get on the other side and something we need to consider too was that if a new home gets built here he thinks that we need to put in there that the sidewalk needs to be built too, they pour a concrete drive and pour the sidewalk and the reason being that if you pay for it, you are going to take care of it. He reminded everyone to call Kyle if they had a mosquito problem and to support the senior Olympics, parks and recreation department and have a good weekend.**

**Council Member Robinson encouraged everyone to have a good weekend.**

**Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming out and stated that Tuesday was San Jacinto Day, which was the day we won our independents and explained how this was pronounced in Spanish and how we pronounce it.**

**Council Member Garcia thanked the Port of Houston Representative for being at the meeting the third time in a row. She stated that just this week that she had run into Direct Energy people out in the street and she didn't know if the residents knew this or not but we were not supposed to have solicitors at our door without a permit and when she ask them to see their permit and one of them was hesitant and ask her for her ID so she took out her council member card and told him that we take care of our citizens for safety reasons and he showed her his permit and she thanked him so if they see anybody coming to their door ask them for their permit, they have that right. She advised that a couple of weeks ago we had some kids selling items from door to door and this was late at night and they are not supposed to be out so if you have any of those, please call the police department. Ms. Garcia thanked Kyle for getting the mosquito truck out there and reminded the citizens to please call and report**

**Page 10 – April 23, 2015**

**mosquito problems because he needed the complaints to be able to spray. Ms. Garcia suggested that at the next council meeting we have another workshop to discuss the item about sidewalks that we were not able to get to.**

**Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone for coming out and he hoped that they could get to this workshop pretty quick and get this done for the vehicles and trailers and just a reminder as councilmen here, they were welcome to suggest anything on this matter because they were the spokes people for them so feel free to contact anyone of them if they had any thoughts on this matter.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m..**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**