

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call and Council Member Gonzales absent due to work.

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: 3 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz called upon the Department Heads for their reports.

Chief Ayala stated that in the year of 2014, they had 97 narcotic arrests, and 41 arrests with narcotic paraphernalia which was a discussion they were bringing to the table today and he wanted to say also for the month of February they had 109 arrests total, 5 DWI's, 20 traffic arrests , 9 public intoxications, 53 warrants, 8 narcotic arrest and 1 disorderly conduct , 4 assaults and several other arrests, they had been very busy.

Chief Meir reported that in February they had a total of 86 calls, which was 20 more than we had last year at this time. They had talked with Big Bass to help them with their evacuation plan and they were talking with the schools about a plan for CPR classes for the 5th grades.

Public Works Director Kyle Reed, advised that they had his report for February and they have had a lot going on. He reported that in the last three days we have had almost 9" of rain . He advised that they managed to get the fields looking good for opening day and it would probably be a month before they could do any mowing in the city and the mosquitoes were going to be terrible. He mentioned that himself, the City Manager and members of the Council had gotten together doing some tire roundup and they had picked up 436 tires and would be doing another one in May and as he said, it was going to be a bad mosquito season and we needed to keep the yards as clean as possible and if they see any water leaks please advise them so that they can get them repaired as soon as possible.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that all was going good in Parks and Recreation. He thanked the Mayor, Council and City Manager for coming out and supporting Opening Day for baseball and softball and supporting the kids, they were

to have games this week but with all the rain they were not able to but hopefully after spring break we would have some sun and they would be able to play.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, stated that they had attended the rodeo on Tuesday night, would have game night on Monday and St Patrick's day party on the 17th and would be stuffing Easter eggs, so they were staying busy.

Rosalinda for the Jacinto City Library stated they were busy as usual.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated that as Ivan reported the opening day parade was this week end and everything was good, there was plenty of candy and if anybody didn't get any she didn't know what they were doing because after the parade she went by and there was still plenty of candy on the ground. She commended Ivan on the parade, stating that everything was really nice and commended Kyle and his guys on an excellent job and thanked Isaac for all his work with the league.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that yesterday he was able to tour the region with the Economical Alliance, who was hosting a person from the Governor's office that was in charge of economic development so they ask him to tour them everything north of the ship channel, they had a little bus rented and fed them all and we showed them the few open spaces we have as far as property in view of getting those filled, one industrial site and one commercial site both on Market St. with one actually going all the way to I-10 and as he was taken her through the city, driving down Market St., toward JC Café, Etc., two words came out of her mouth, cute and adorable, she liked our hometown feel of Jacinto City and he thought that the next time she was through here on a Saturday morning you would probably see her at JC Café.

Mr. Squyres stated that we also just completed a financial audit at city hall so Ms. Joyce and Kathy have been busy for the last eight days pulling records and taking care of the auditors, it is a little painful but one of the things that cities have too do.

He advised that the Spring News Letter would be coming out in a couple of days, they could look for it in their water bill or see it on the web as soon as it was issued.

He stated that Kyle didn't mention it but the sidewalk project on Holland was ongoing but

the weather had slowed it down but they were doing a great job and sooner or later it would be finished and it would look nice.

He advised that we also finished the U. S. Department of Agricultural pre grant application for the possibility of funding for a new police station, it was a loan/grant kind of program and we won't fill out the real application until they tell us what that ratio is as to whether there will actually be any grant funds, the primary part of the program is low interest loans but we will jump through all the hoops and see what they have to offer because he didn't think we needed to tell anybody that we need a new police station.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council to receive and award bids on asphalt Overlay project 2015-1.

The following bids were opened and read by the City Manager:

	Base Bid	Alternate Bid	Total Alternate & Base Bid
Trinity Paving LLC	82,900	96,100	179,000
Huff & Mitchell	85,175	100,500	185,675
El Dorado Paving	63,360	71,198	134,558
Hayden Paving	66,174.84	75,430	141,604.84
AAA Asphalt Paving	58,050	69,280	127,330

Mr. Reed stated that all of the contractors have done work for us and that AAA Asphalt was a very good contractor.

City Manager Squyres recommended to Council that we approve the lowest bid pending review of himself, Mr. Reed and the City Attorney and what we could do since it was

lower than the amount on the initial, we could do all the initial and let the money go as far as it could on the second part of it which was Kilroy and basically stop when we ran out of money.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and Seconded by Council Member Lee that council approve the lowest bidder pending review of the city manager and public works director on the bid for the Asphalt Paving Job 2015-1. Vote: 4 for 0 Against

2. First reading of Ordinance 2015-2 Declaring Unopposed Candidates in the May 9, 2015 General City Election Elected to office, cancelling the election, providing a severability clause and providing an effective date.

City Attorney DeFoyd read Ordinance 2015-2.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2015-2 declaring unopposed candidates in the May 9, 2015 general city election elected to office; cancelling the election; providing a severability clause and providing an effective date. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

3. Council approval of updated assignment letter for engineering service for design and construction of waterline rehabilitation for proposed community development block grant LJA project 15-00220.

City Manager Squyres stated that we had a standing agreement with the city's engineering company, LJA, and the last agreement letter was 2002 and it was still in force and everything was fine with it but as we sign the contract for this year's CDBG Grant, which is through Harris County, they require that we have a more current assignment letter, the terms were exactly the same, the costs were exactly the same and the percentages were all there, it was just an updated version of it.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the updated assignment letter for engineering services for design and construction of waterline rehabilitation for proposed community development block grant LJA project 15-00220. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

4. Council approval to designate The North Channel Star as the official city newspaper.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to designate the North Channel Star as the official city newspaper. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

5. Council Action on reallocating \$13,000 from Code 11-6745 Election Expenses to be used for safety and security at Smith Park.

Council Member Rivas stated that he would like them to consider this, as it comes up to vote, that it was not specifically to the parks themselves, it was for security and safety and ask that they bring that to mind.

Mayor Diaz ask that they explain a little about this gate, how was it going to be programmed, was there going to be a key pad, were all of them going to have gate openers or what.

City Manager Squyres stated that they had actually gotten some pricing on it already and what they were going to do, rather than recreate the thing, we were going to use the exact brand and model that we already have at public works, that every patrol car in the city and every public work vehicle and fire guys have a remote so that way we would install that sliding gate and there would be a 6 ft. fence all the way across the front of the park which was not secure now and would secure the park much more than it is now but the primary thing was that the officers would be able to go into the park to check out any Complaint without having to get out of the car, open the gate with a key and have the vandals see them and have time to leave the park.

Mayor Diaz stated that she hated to say this, that she wasn't calling them lazy but they have to work.

City Manager Squyres stated that was true but it was such a slow process that by the time they get in the gate whoever they were called on is going to be gone so now the police officer was going to be much more visible in the park, they can click open the gate, check the park and close the gate behind them.

Mayor Diaz ask if there was going to be a key pad and Mr. Squyres advised there was and there would probably be a 911 box.

Mayor Diaz ask if certain people would have access to it.

City Manager Squyres stated that it would be like anything else that council members get keys to.

Mayor Diaz ask if the small fence around it was going to be replaced as well and was advised that the 6 ft. would be on the front, on Market St. only.

Mayor Diaz ask what about the back where it was open.

Mr. Squyres stated there were some problems with the back but this did not address it. He stated that \$13,000 was what was budget for the election and that was where this money was coming from and since there is no election, rather than leave that money sitting there, we felt it would be appropriate to get something good from this.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve reallocating the \$13,000 from Code 11-6745 to be used for safety and security at Smith Park. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

6. Ordinance 2015-3E amending the code of Ordinances of Jacinto City relating to the prohibition of illicit synthetic drugs; containing findings and other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; declaring certain conduct to be unlawful and providing a penalty therefore, providing for severability, and declaring an emergency.

Ordinance 2015-3E was read by City Attorney DeFoyd.

City Manager Squyres verified with the City Attorney that since this was an emergency ordinance that it required only one reading.

Chief Ayala stated that we really need this ordinance and he would get with the Constable to start to eliminate some of them and provided samples of some of the synthetic drugs they were concerned about and how dangerous they were.

City Manager Squyres advised that the City of Houston passed a similar ordinance and what it did was take these things that could actually be sold at convenience stores, smoke shops, etc. legally and makes them unlawful and after the City of Houston banned them, we had two people try to open a business in our city and was able to show them that the ordinance was on the agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Ordinance 2015-3E relating to the prohibition of illicit synthetic drugs; containing findings and other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; declaring certain conduct to be unlawful and providing a penalty therefore, providing for severability; and declaring an emergency. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that she was wondering if maybe we could have our dog catcher work after 5:00 p.m., that they had been having problems on Chazen with big aggressive dogs getting out, She stated that she called 911 twice now in the last week and they came out the second time, the first time the dog had left so and she let them know so they didn't have to come out but when they came out on Tuesday night the police was even cornered by the dog and having said this, she thought we needed to use a little common sense too, she walked out to the mail box the other day and her little dog followed her and the dog catcher stopped real quick to tell her that he could write her up for that and the dog wouldn't get over two feet away from her because he was afraid of everybody but these big aggressive dogs seem to get out in the evening . She stated that she thought that Tuesday night the police tried to get the dog catcher to come out and they said they couldn't do that because it was after hours so they would like to see if we could rearrange his hours of something . She stated that they did get hold of the owners , she didn't know what happened but they had a long conversation with the police officer.

Mayor Diaz advised that we would look into it.

Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, stated that a couple of days back he did call the police department, he had a man at the back and a man at the front of his house and he didn't know what was going on and when he came into the front, there was a huge pit bull loose And the dog almost took a bite out of the Entex guy so this was about large dogs just look at the incident that happened here in the city recently and we have city employees working here in the city and these big dogs are vicious and we need to think about it and get rid of these dogs or make the owners have a pen or something to contain to them because some child was going to really get hurt and also with the cats, we have a lot of problems with cats and he would appreciate whatever they could do.

Mayor Diaz stated that the dog issue was a problem and she herself was afraid of dogs and when she see a dog loose she calls Lon and like he said, a lot of kids walk home from school

City Manager Squyres stated that we were working on the problem and that this last month 24 different dogs were picked up, actually taken away from the owner by our department and we actually had to euthanize 5 of them, one had to be tested for rabies. And we actually had one dog bite as well, 4 dead dogs, eight cats and 7 others and he assumed that meant wild animals and 15 different citations were issued and 100 warnings issued on dogs last month.

Mayor Diaz ask what the process was after they were issued a warning.

Mr. Squyres explained the procedure that follows a warning or citation. He stated that we were doing a lot more than we ever have, that we have never had these kind of numbers before, that we actually ran out of tags this last year, that was how busy we had been with this.

Vickie Lee advised that she had been contacted by Ms. Berry, the Choir director at JC Elementary concerning a fund raiser they were having for a gentlemen in Galena Park who was fighting stage 4 cancer and displayed the flyer with all the details.

Ms. Hazel Buck, stated that she had been a Boy Scout Troop leader for Troop 1301 along with her son Clarence Buck and they were here to promote their fund raising event. She advised that they were not sponsored by anyone and they were selling coupon books to support their troop. She stated the coupon books were \$10.00 and if anyone was interesting to please see them after the meeting and would they really appreciate their support. She advised that they were the oldest troop in the council and the only one that was self supported.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, stated that he would like to know if anyone made mention of Ms. Garey passing and was advised they had. He stated that he just wanted to add that he thought she was a very distinguished, upstanding and respected lady, she was a great volunteer and she would surly be missed.

Isaac Menendez, 10913 Muscatine, stated that he was the President of the little league and they had a very successful opening day. He stated that they did have some issues with about the restrooms, that he had met with Carmela and JJ and sent out an e-main to everybody and he thought that Lon was looking into it. He stated there were three main issues they had, one was overflowing, the second trash and the third was the toilet paper being used very rapidly, they looked at the issue and wondered what caused them. He stated that the restroom weren't actually getting clogged up, it was actually that people weren't flushing them and the other thing was there was a lot of trash around in the

Restroom and the reason was there were no trash can. He stated that the toilet paper was being used very rapidly and discussed what the city worker did about this, he stated that he thought JJ took a picture of this if they wanted to see. Mr. Rivas advised that he didn't take a picture. Mr. Menendez stated that it wasn't a major problem , that it was a very busy day, that it was probably the largest event in the city so before next year they were going to have a meeting with Lon to a wrap up of the issues.

There was discussion about there not being trash cans in the rest rooms about installing auto flush sensors and controlled toilet paper dispensers, etc..

He thanked the Mayor and Council for putting the fence and gate at Smith Park, that it was a very good idea and he wanted the Mayor and Council to start thinking about a master plan for both parks.

He discussed some issues with types of businesses that are coming into our city.

City Manager Squyres advised that the State Legislature was in session and they were working on some things that TML and the city has supported to tighten up the laws on this type of businesses so we were hoping that we didn't have to deal with it as a city because most of the cities are dealing with it are ending up in court because the businesses are challenging it.

Council Member Rivas thanked the Bucks for their dedication to the scouts and ask Vickie Lee for a copy of the flyer on the benefit. He discussed the bathroom issues and talked about a monitor for the restrooms during events.

Ivan Rojas advised that usually at these events the Ball League Board kept an eye on the restrooms, etc..

Mr. Rivas stated that he had caught some kids playing soccer on the tennis courts and had ask them to leave and they were talking about needing a place to play.

Ivan advised that we have put nets up at Akron Park and they just keep breaking them.

There was general discussion about the new safety measure for Smith Park and also needs at Wilki Park.

Council Member Robinson announced that the annual Easter Egg Hunt would be held on Saturday, March 28th, 11:00 a.m. at Wilki Park ball fields

Council Member Lee advised that they would be having a food distribution at Calvary Baptist Church on March 28th and would be having two this month because of Easter week, that they have this once a month and if they know anyone who needs help to send them by. He stated that he had a great time at opening day and he really appreciated the parks department and public works and police department. He ask for prayers for the Jean Garey family, that she would be missed.

Council Member Garcia stated that she was glad that we passed this Ordinance on the kush, stating that there were three people in her life that had used this with very bad side effects and one has passed away and she wished we had done this sooner and if anyone knew of any of these products being sold or distributed, talk to the children and bring it to our attention so that we can keep this trash out of our city.

She thanked Isaac and Ms. Buck for all they do for the children.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:10 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