

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 8, 2015 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 Lee to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz called upon the Department Heads for their reports:

Chief Ayala advised that they had been very busy during the holidays and hoped that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He advised that we had a couple of robberies here in the city and cautioned everyone to be aware of their surroundings. He stated that the police department had a safe at the station and if anyone had outdated prescription they needed to get rid of they could drop them at the station and they would have them destroyed. He also stated that the neighborhood watch was helping them out by reporting suspicious activity.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, wished everyone a happy New Year and reported that the water transmission line from the well to the water plant was complete except for replacing the sidewalk and this would be done as soon as weather permitted.

Mr. Reed advised that Mr. Saul Trevino, a long time employees, would be retiring as of December 31, 2014 and they would be presenting him with a watch, a plaque and a dinner as soon as Mr. Trevino gave them a date. He also advised that another long time employee, Mr. Romero Perez, would be retiring in February.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation advised that all was going good at Parks and Recreation, baseball and softball season was upon us and registration had already started online and March 7th was scheduled for opening day.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that their January calendar was out listing all of their activities and that they made over \$500.00 on their tamale sale and thanked

Ana's mom Ms. Gonzalez and everyone who helped make them and bought them.

Linda, Jacinto City Library, reported that everyone was back in school now and they were staying busy helping with school projects.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz welcomed everyone, stating that it was great to see this big of crowd and we would like to see this every meeting. She advised that she had already registered her boys for baseball online, that it was very easy and only took about five minutes.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that we have had two major fires in the last month or so and he cautioned everyone to be careful when using space heaters, if they had any questions or if they were not sure their heater was working right to call the fire department on their business line and the new fire chief would be more than happy to take care of that for them.

He advised that within a few months that they would be able to pay water bills on line, that we have had a lot of requests for that and so we were looking forward to that and it joins the ability to already pay traffic court problems and as they already knew, we were doing debit and credit cards at city hall. He stated that he was going to be looking forward to submitting a grant for small community park systems, it would probably be for master planning and they were going to Austin next week for that and then HGAC was sponsoring three all day workshops on reviving small city main streets and we would be putting a lot of effort into that as well, trying to build local economy and enhance our business district.

Mayor Diaz stated that she knew that people liked paying bills with a credit card, that a lot of people have thanked them for this.

6. NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council to appoint Fire Chief

Chief Squyres stated that the candidate that we were proposing had actually been with the department since 1998, she came to us as a volunteer and joined us as

an EMT candidate in a class and has been with us in various capacities ever since and she also worked as a professional fire fighter in Galena Park, she was a long time employee we think a lot of her and she was also our pyrotech for the fireworks and she also would be obtaining her code enforcement certification in the near future. He advised that for those who didn't know her, her grandfather was a regular attendant at the meetings Mr. Henry Duran and our candidate was Rebecca Meir. He ask Rebecca to stand and be recognized.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to appoint Rebecca Meir as Jacinto City Fire Chief. Vote: 5 For – 0 Against

City Manager Squyres ask the Mayor, if we had time would she allow Rebecca to introduce her family, that it might take a while.

Rebecca stated that she was a product of J. C. Preschool, she thanked the Mayor and City Council Members for the opportunity and she would continue to help provide the emergency medical services that our citizens had come to respect. She introduced her husband, mother and stepfather and all of her children .

City Manager Squyres advised that her husband was a HFD Captain as well so it ran in the family, so we had a new volunteer as well. He advised that she would be moving into the city that they were looking into a house on Muscatine and we would have to change the population signs for the city.

Mayor Diaz welcomed her, stating that we looked forward to working with her.

2. Council to approve David Paul Mascari as a Jacinto City police officer and Dennis Martinez as a Jacinto City Reserve Officer.

Chief Ayala gave a short bio on each officer and recommended that the council appoint them as officers.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to appoint David Paul Mascari as a Jacinto City Police Officer and Dennis Martinez as a Jacinto City Reserve Police Officer. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz administered the Oaths of Office to both officers and presented them with their badges.

Mayor Diaz thanked them for choosing Jacinto City and welcome them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Isaac Menendez, 10913 Munn, stated that he was the Little League President and that was what he was here for that he wanted to give them a quick overview as to where they were in the league. He stated that they had just wrapped up their pre registration and had a 130 kids registered in November and December which was really remarkable considering they usually have a total court of about 260 so they were talking about a 50% registration rate, that a lot of people took advantage of the lower registration fee that they charged but now they were going into full mode and try and get that other 130 kids in. He stated they were really trying to get as many kids as they could registered. He advised that registration was all online, they had a couple of people that wanted to meet in person and they were going to start doing in person registration on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for kids from 4 to 16. He stated that the Jacinto City Council and Administration had set aside some money for the leagues to use for ball fields and they were going to be taking advantage of that, that he had already given some plans to the city planner or permit section and they were going to look at it and they were going to try to do some dugout work and so forth.

There was discussion about online registration from cell phone.

He discussed their board meeting, stating that they were always open for question or if they need anything from them to contact them.

Mr. Menendez advised that they hoped that baseball season would start March 7th, considering if the girls softball could get organized and they would help out with that if they contacted him. He stated that they were doing well and went over what they had raised in sponsorships and they had a tournament coming up on January 24th and 25th and a portion of those proceeds would be going straight to the little league and they invested those funds into the parks and so forth. He advised that if anyone wanted to see their minutes or financials they were available to everybody and ask if anyone had any questions.

Council Member Rivas stated that he had one, the concession stand at Smith Park, what was his idea on that.

Mr. Menendez stated that Smith Park was a little monster that he had ideas about and he would really like to take it off line and discuss it with the members personally and see what they think, what their thoughts were on Smith Park, ultimately he hopes were that Smith Park could one day be a self sufficient field where it could sustain maybe the girls softball field or something like that. He stated it definitely needed a concession stand, there was no kind of revenue generated from our T-ball fields which means we have to pay out of pocket for the umpires and discussed how much this cost. He stated the concession stand at Wilki, if they had a good night, they were running about \$300.00 a night net, that didn't include cost, so after they pay the umpires they ended up about even or some times in the red and he was thinking about they could do better with that but Smith Park did need a concession but it needed a lot of work, it was a great park if we use it in the right way and push it in the right direction and he thinks that with their help there was a lot of things that could happen but he didn't want to go to big to fast and discussed different options they could look at.

He stated that they had a board meeting coming up on the 20th, they would discuss that and he would probably meet with them next week when the start construction and kinda breaking ground on their projects, he amended his statement to meet before they start on any project.

Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, stated that he was with LULAC and they would be celebrating 15 years in February of working and giving scholarships for the Galena Park youth and it hadn't been easy but he thanked them all for helping them out, that it meant a lot to send our children to college and working together had done it and he also wanted to thank all of the Police Department for keeping us safe, they had done a good job and he saw them constantly. He thanked the Chief and rest of the officers for keeping us safe, that here there would be an officer there within 2 minutes if you needed them.

Chris Schion stated that he had a residence at 1430 Sheryl and he was raised here and there was a lot of stuff that goes on in this city that he tries address to people, as far as Jack, he wasn't here anymore, he had talked to her about it and he had talked to JJ about it and it just didn't seem like nothing was happening about the situation even though they had done been to court and he won, he was still owed \$21,000 and one of their officers says he was bankrupted and says he doesn't got the money for it, he knew that he was off one year with pay and he was just still wonder what conclusion they came to about him not wearing his vest and they knew exactly what he was talking about, the incident that happened with the boy with the gun and everything else that went on with that situation. He ask if there was no response.

Mayor Diaz stated that she didn't understand what he was asking.

Mr. Schion stated that he was just asking basically why one of their officers would say that he didn't got the money to pay his lawyer and yet he sued his father for \$40,000 and lost In court and now he don't want to pay or stand up to his end of the bargain, that he owed \$21,000 to him and his lawyers and refuses to pay, he says he is bankrupted and don't have no money and he disagrees with that because he know he work here with them and he makes about \$55,000 a year. He stated that he was sure that nobody was going to answer any of those questions.

Council Member Lee stated they couldn't, they weren't the court.

City Attorney DeFoyd stated that it was a personnel matter as well, he should take that to court.

Mr. Schion stated that he had already done that and won so when was he going to get his money Mr. Walker.

Mayor Diaz apologized for the comments.

Chief Ayala stated that he just wanted to let everybody know that he had some of the best officers in the State of Texas and he was very proud of them and that Lt. Walker or any of the officers would put their life on the line for the people in this city.

Mayor Diaz stated that yes he did and he and the officers were given applause for their service.

Mayor Diaz recognized the police offices and firemen in the audience and thanked them for what they do for us.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas welcomed the new officers aboard and this was a great little city as they would see. He addressed Chief Ayala stating that with the instances that had occurred here like he had stated they were going in the right direction by hiring more police officers but he wanted more, he didn't see enough activity, he didn't see guys enough, that he drives through the city and doesn't see them like he thinks he should , the

City Was small that there was a point in this city that you could stand and see every city limit and it was on Market Street right where the power lines run so he thought he should be able to see a police officer when he comes home driving down Market Street, that sometimes he made the whole way from 610 to Jennifer and he didn't see them. He stated that he was not saying that they were just out lolly gagging, he just thought more would be better and hopefully we go in that direction and we get more.

Council Member Rivas addressed Kyle Reed stating that he knew he said the weather was not cooperating with him, well we were going to see, we were going to get more rain and he knew that when he drove around he saw a lot of water standing a lot of places and he knew he had a lot of stuff to do but we needed to address those things too because he hears about them.

Mr. Reed questioned where he was talking about it standing.

Mr. Rivas stated in ditches and places where there was not a drain for it to go and it sits there and sits there and we need to address those things, get those issues resolved and he would give him a chance to respond.

Mr. Reed stated that all he could say right now was they were doing the best that they could do, like the police department does, that we had just had about 6" and then another 5" of rain and as soon as they could clear that water they would and that was all he could say.

Mr. Rivas stated that he didn't say that he didn't do the best he could, he knew that he did, he knew that all of the guys did.

Mr. Reed stated that they see the water and the bird baths in Jacinto Oaks and now that he brings this up there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the city that he has tried to do, water lines are horrible, the ditches are horrible, the storm drains are horrible and he has met with council people and he keeps hearing two or three years more and he thinks we need to do it now.

Mr. Rivas stated let's get started.

Chief Ayala stated that he wanted to respond to Councilman Rivas and he understood what he was saying and he would like to see an officer at all time when he comes through

and believe him he is looking for his officers, he was looking to see and he would make a call and ask where the officers were and explained that one might be out on a stop, booking someone at the jail or transporting someone to county all at the same time, however it was true, we needed more officers because we wanted that visibility, that everybody was concerned about visibility and believe him he hears it. (all of Chief Ayala's comments were not picked up by the recorder.)

Council Member Rivas addressed Ivan, stating that as Councilman for Parks and Recreation, he got sent pictures of the gym floor being dirty and where they try to play volley ball they were sliding and slipping and ask who took care of that.

Ivan stated that the gym attendants took care if it and that it got swept and mopped every day, he explained that when it was cold and wet outside moisture formed on the floors but they were mopped every day and sometimes twice a day.

Council Member Rivas ask if we had to put some kind of signs out there to warn these people before we have a major injury .

Ivan said we could put signs out there but it depended on the weather and the humidit. He stated that no one had complained to him.

Council Member Rivas stated that we were going to have to address this issue seriously because he was getting complaints from people he would know, he didn't know why they weren't bringing it to him.

(All of Ivan's comments were not picked up by the recorder)

Council Member Rivas stated they might have to shut it down and do intervals in between to keep the floor safe.

Ivan discussed the schedule for the gym.

Council Member Rivas addressed Cindy stating that the concerns that he hears from Heritage Hall was about attendance.

Cindy discussed some of the issues she thought had a lot to do with this, age, etc., went over some of the things they do to try and encourage people to come out but so many seniors baby sit their grandchildren or just don't want to get out, that she was willing to do

to do anything it took to bring the people out.

Council Member Rivas stated that they were willing to do anything too, that the Christmas party was something else.

Cindy stated that they have tried donuts and pastries once a month to try and get them to visit along with other things.

Mr. Rivas stated that he would just hate to see that program fall so low that we would have to cut the program.

(All of Cindy's comments were not picked up by the sound system)

Mayor Diaz stated that we were just going to have to advertise, maybe once a month send a letter or something, that most people didn't know what Heritage had to offer or that there was transportation to pick them up.

Council Member Rivas ask the library to put their hands together because he had nothing for them. He wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed the new officers.

Mayor Diaz welcome Officers Horton and Gonzalez, who had just come in and thanked them for what they do.

Council Member Robinson stated that he hoped everyone had a happy holiday season and welcomed our new Fire Chief and our new Officers.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for being there, welcomed the new officers. He advised the Department Heads that they were great and if he had any complaints, he would call them.

Council Member Garcia ask if Rebecca was the first woman Fire Chief and was advised that she was and stated that she was making history and welcomed her as well as the new officers

She ask Isaac Menendez if the baseball board meetings were all open to the public. Isaac stated they were but he didn't have a calendar set up yet, but he did put it on face book and everybody was welcome. There was discussion on the type of meetings they had.

Council Member Garcia ask one of the new officers when Jacinto City was established and

he replied 1946. She stated that going back to issues, she personally didn't feel that the council was the only people that had communication with any of our directors or city manager, if there was anything that needed to be reported to go directly to them or try to reach one of them and they would try to make that contact and pass on their information to the directors so they could make contact with each of the citizens. She stated that whatever issues were out there they did try to address, that she knew that everyone of them had always had an open door policy, Mr. Squyres had an open door policy, they had always made time for her anytime she went in there and they would do the same for them. She stated there was a lot of work that needed to be done and at budget meeting all of this was discussed and ask that they please join them and at the public meeting they could also address their thoughts and what they thought should be included as well so that it could be discussed. She stated these meetings were important, it was not just them making decisions, they also wanted feedback from the citizens but at that time was when it was all decided, they all wanted things done in the park, Heritage Hall, streets, water, etc. but we can't do it all so we try to do the best they can and cover a little in each area but it was very expensive and we couldn't do it all in one shot , it was going to take money and time and requires planning but always know that our directors are there for everybody.

She welcomed Dale Pollock back, stating that he had been away for quite a while.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he would just like to say happy new year to everyone and he knew that he had said it before that he worked shift work and when he was coming in and out from work, he did see the officers, he sees them patrolling the neighborhoods because he will come home at 4:00 a.m. in the morning and he will ride the neighborhoods just to see and he does see a lot of them. He stated that Mr. Rivas said we needed more and there was always room for improvement and we can establish that, he thought we had a wonderful fire department and police department and we all work together and he welcomed the new officers, stating they would see that we were a small city but we all worked together, they would find that out and if there was anything that we could do for them don't hesitate to ask, they would help.

Council Member Rivas stated that he hoped that he saw officers, taken where he lived.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he did live next door to the police department but he did run the main roads and he sees them out there.

Council Member Rivas stated that he did think they were great, he just wanted them to put that right foot forward for 2015.

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Mayor Diaz, once again, thanked everyone for being here and welcomed our new officers and fire department, EMS and police department and thanked them for what they do.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joyce Raines
City Secretary