

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 11, 2014 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 submitted. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala advised that he had a list, here on the table, of all the National Night Out parties and commented and gave some facts on the 911 tragedy on September 11, 2001 and he just wanted to say how fortunate we were to be a part of such a great country.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, discussed how bad the mosquitoes were and that they were spraying as many nights as they could and that Harris County would be helping them. He advised everyone to stay in as much as they could and protect themselves when outside and reminded them to call in their complaints.

Mayor Diaz expressed how important it was to call in complaints where there was mosquitoes.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that all was good in parks and recreation and advised that the Fall Festival and Hay Ride was scheduled for October 25, 2014 and that the new bathrooms were now open.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, stated that she had flyers available, that Texas Plus was coming out and doing a bingo on Wednesday, the 17th at 10:00 a.m. and game night was Monday the 22nd from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., to bring a covered dish and join them. She stated that she wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for the Dinner and a Movie, that she had been with the city for 14 years and this was the first time that no one had not said anything negative about it. She stated that the food was very good and the seniors wanted to thank them.

Linda, Jacinto City Library, announced that Ms. Stephanie Orr was no longer with the County Library and stated that she had flyers available outlining their programs and hours.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz thanked Cindy for the Dinner and Movie, it was a very good movie and she really enjoyed it. She announced that we were having a movie night this Saturday and we were also having a premier by Baby J and ask him to please stand and explain his video, She also introduced his Manager Rolando.

Baby J stated that they did this music video to discourage drinking and driving and texting and driving because as we all know it is an epidemic and was continuing to grow. He stated that it was done in memory of those who had lost a love one, who had been affected directly or indirectly and for the lives this song could impact. He advised that they officially released the video on line on Labor Day weekend. He stated that he was excited to have the live viewing of his video on Saturday, September 13th at the Jacinto city movie night and thanked them for their support and for being a part of this special project to save lives for many years.

Mayor Diaz stated that we needed to get the word out about the Video so maybe the kids would come out, that she knew a lot of them texted. She advised that the LULAC youth would be there selling popcorn, hotdogs, etc., that it goes for a good cause and we always try to get a nonprofit organization to come out and make money for their organization and she encourage everyone to come out, that the movie would be at approximately 9:00 p.m. and that Mr. Kyle would spray for mosquitoes and that we were also supposed to have a cool front come in.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that we were working on the news letter which would be going out the last of September or early October, that it was going to be a little different with a few new things in it so please keep an eye out for it. He stated that we were also anticipating making a few changes on the website and one thing that he thought a lot of people were going to be interested in was that we were going to be a lot more financially transparent, the website was giving us a lot of tools that we could use so within a few months we hope to actually post our check register and as we cut checks, they would see a

monthly check register on the web so that anybody can go and look at every dime that the city spends basically and we were actually trying for a transparency in government award for doing that.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. First Reading of Ordinance 2014-3 Adopting a Budget for FY 2014/2015

City Attorney DeFoyd read Ordinance 2014-3, stating this was the first reading and it required two readings.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2014-3 adopting a budget for FY 2014/2015.
Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. LaGloria Sephus, 9701 Market Street, stated that she was here on behalf of Jacinto City/Galena Park Rotary Club and they were having a Community Rally on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Baggett Building, 1302 Keene St. in Galena Park and they would be having a variety of events and fun for the whole family. She stated that she had flyers and she would be putting flyers in the businesses in Jacinto City and they would like everyone's support.

Ms. Gloria Partida, Big Bass, stated that since LaGloria brought that up, some of the seniors today were playing bingo and some of the ladies were discussing about how to get over there since it was on a Saturday and someone mentioned to talk to Ana so since she was here she would mention it to see if someone could pick up some seniors to go to that function on that Saturday.

Mayor Diaz advised that they would see what they could do.

Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, stated that he was with LULAC and they were going into 15 years of LULAC here in Jacinto City and Galena Park and they had gathered up more

than \$86,000 for the youth for scholarships and they would be having another BBQ on October 11th and it would be on Holland and Market and invited everyone to come out and support them. He discussed how many children they had been able to help attend college, that they got them started with backpacks in elementary and now they were seeing them going to college. He stated that it takes all of us, not just LULAC, to work together and he wanted to thank the Jacinto City Police Department and Chief Ayala who always donates and helps.

Mayor Diaz thanked him for all they do for LULAC.

Mr. J Ramon, 10811 Munn Street, He stated that he was glad they were talking about the budget and transparency and he had a question, he stated that he understood that our last manager passed and asked if he was a single man, that it had to do with the budget.

Mayor Diaz ask what it had to do with the budget if he was a single man.

Mr. Ramon said because if he was a single man nobody could collect the retirement, if he got married in the last couple of weeks he would imagine the new widow would collect his retirement like about \$120,000 a year or how would that work, he was asking, that it was his business, it was the city budget.

City Attorney DeFoyd stated that he was out of order.

Mayor Diaz stated that we did not have to answer.

Mr. Ramon stated that when he was sitting in that seat right there, that was his argument, that these people had been married all this time and they were conducting business illegally with the city for their own benefit.

Mayor Diaz ask that they let the man rest in peace.

Mr. Ramon stated no, that he wanted the corruption to end and they were all a product, they were born from the corruption that he got involved with every single election.

Mayor Diaz stated that she didn't think any of them here were appointed, they were elected by the people.

Mr. Ramon said no she got appointed, she got elected later.

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Mayor Diaz stated that she didn't understand why Mr. Jack being single had anything to do

Mr. Ramon interrupted saying it had to do with the city paying like a \$120,000 a year to somebody who doesn't do anything, that had to do a lot.

Someone from the audience spoke out staying that it was his business if he wanted to get married.

Mr. Ramon stated it was his business to disclose to everyone that he was married (Mayor Diaz gaveled down the comment from the audience and Mr. Ramon and ask Chief Ayala to ask for order.

Chief Ayala advised the individuals they were out of order.

Mayor Diaz stated we were advised by the attorney that we did not need to comment.

Mr. Ramon stated that when someone from the public speaks tell them they were out of order, that he had three minutes and ask if they were not going to answer that. He stated that was why people from out of the city were coming over here asking about corruption, that they were covering it up and it had been going on for years and hopefully it would stop now that Mr. Squyres took over and hopefully he won't get involved in the elections like the previous manager did.

Mayor Diaz advised him that he had three seconds left if he wanted to continue.

Mr. Ramon ask if he was not going to get any answer from the elected officials and Mayor Diaz polled the council advising him no.

Mr. Ramon stated that Carmela would probably lie like she was when she was translating.

Mayor Diaz advised Mr. Ramon that his three minutes were up.

Chief Ayala stated that he just wanted to make a comment, he stated that there was no corruption at city hall, that he worked with Mr. Maner and if there was an issue, he would have reported it to the Texas Rangers, that Mr. Maner had done his job and did it well, his interest was the community and he just wanted to say, for the record, that if there was any corruption, as the police chief he was not going to stand for any corruption in Jacinto City and he didn't think anyone else would and for the record, there is no corruption, that Mr. Maner served this town well.

City Manager Squyres ask to be allowed to address one very brief thing, he stated that here we get audited, that they actually come to us twice a year and the first thing the auditors do before they come in and examining the books, they send everybody that works at city hall in key positions and he believes that they send the Mayor and Council the same questionnaire asking if we are aware of any charges of corruption, he advised Mr Ramon that he had been on the record now so everyone of them were aware that he had made this charge so we had to pass that charge on to the auditors and that meant that they were going to look at that charge when they come through and audit our books now and it was necessary for them to do that because we were going to make them aware of that so when they come in when we close the year at the end of this month his allegation was going to be examined by the auditors and they are very very thorough.

Mr. Ramon made a comment from the audience which was not picked up by the sound system.

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that she had the upmost respect for Jack, that he hadn't always agreed with her, he wasn't a yes man but he could tell you his reason why and he was honest beyond reproach. She stated that we might have had some corruption here at one time but we got them out of the council so she didn't think we had to have it again. She stated that something else she would like to comment on, that earlier today we had a Spanish speaking citizen, she might have given a lot of good points, she didn't know, she couldn't understand her, that we had a translator but what it ended up being was conversation and she thinks that when we have a Spanish speaking resident that it needs to be handled a little different than what it was because she might have said something that she wanted to hear, she had no idea and she didn't think we should have conversations like that without everybody here being able to understand that this was America and we speak English, that was our language, but we did have interpreters. She stated that she wanted to say that she appreciated the Council, it was the first time in a long time that we didn't have to worry about anything, we can miss council meetings because we don't have corruption sitting up there and (Mr. Ramon made a comment from the audience and was advised by Mayor Diaz that he was out of order) and she was really glad that we didn't have attitudes like this on our council anymore. She stated that it was nice to be able to come into respectful people , they were not ashamed of the people sitting up there, they hold themselves accountable and that is what she appreciated. She stated that she had ask for more money for the Jacinto City Police Department because she felt safe and protected here and she thought that was why we had a lot of residents staying here, if you have a problem you can call and within 3 minutes they are there and you can't do that in Houston.

Dina Gonzales, 10502 Oswego, stated that she was here on behalf of Jacinto city Elementary and their school was going to be celebrating 70 years this year, that they were incorporated in 1944 and the District would be having a celebration, probably in May, and they were inviting old principals and alumni and they are planning a big celebration and they are also selling their shirts and they were \$10.00, they had limited numbers but she did have a few and if they would like to purchase one after the meeting to please see her. Ms. Gonzales advised Baby J that she had gone to a Texans game and it was really nice seeing him up there on the big screen and she congratulated him for being a positive model.

Mayor Diaz advised that Jacinto City Elementary Principal has ask if we could wear our shirts on National Night Out.

Ms. Gloria Partida, Big Bass Resort, stated that she just wanted to mention two things that she got out of what the lady that spoke first said, that her understanding was that the numbers on the papers were not right and that the money that was being hidden should be used to open a facility for the youth to be trained for policemen was what she got out of. Ms. Partida stated that she had been in Jacinto City 6 years and she loved everyone one of them, she loves what they do for the seniors and she had never had a problem with any of them, if she ask them a question they had answered her truthfully, that she considered them in Jacinto City as her family and she felt very very offended that the man said we were liars, that they voted for them and he should have voted for the ones he wanted in here but she just wanted to say that she loved them, loved Jacinto city and appreciated everything.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, stated that first of all he wanted to compliment Chief Ayala for observing 911, that people live fast pace lives and don't take time to observe things like that and he thinks that is really important and it is the great thing about living in Jacinto City and he really appreciated it.

Mr. Hernandez stated that he felt Jack was a great man, a great leader, a great mentor and if you would have taken time to know the man, you would have found that out as well and he was more than blessed to have that privilege with Jack.

He encouraged everyone to go out and support their favorite teams be it pro, college or high school, that life was too short, go out and have a great weekend.

Vickie Sorensen, 1726 Belin, ask the Mayor to be sure and tell her son to tell his friends about movie night and she wanted to see this young man's video.

She stated that she had a concern, mainly in Jacinto Oaks, that they have a pack of wild dogs and the pack was growing and she heard Mr. Burley saying in the back and if she misunderstood him she apologized, that he had caught a couple of the smaller puppies, three litters of puppies but that he hadn't been able to catch any of the adults in over two years (Mr. Burley spoke up and correcting that but it was not caught by the sound system) She stated that she had been living in JC for 14 years now and she left her hour almost every morning around 5:30 a.m. and like clockwork on Wednesday mornings they were out there after the garbage cans and were also out there on other mornings as well and many mornings when she walks out, there they are at the end of her driveway and it scares the heck out of you, a pack of wild dogs. She stated that we have had citizens that have been threatened while walking or riding bikes and she would not walk without a stick. She stated that we have had citizens that have lost pets because of these dogs. She stated that she knew that Mr. Burley was trying to do everything he could and knew that Kyle was helping try to do everything he can. She stated that last night she was at citizens police academy for Precinct 2 and thanked Chris for letting her be a part of that and Judge Delgado from Harris county talked about dangerous dogs last night and we could call Harris County for help on this, so could we please call Harris County for help on this because we need to take care of this, it was a pack of seven plus dogs right now.

Chief Squyres stated that we had called Harris County on similar issues, he thought actually on this pack and they resisted that and we actually brought that issue up with the County Attorney at a meeting recently as well and he said it was a matter of policy, not statute so we would ask him again and he thought he would see Commissioner Morman tomorrow evening and he would go arm twisting.

Ms. Santos Alvarez, 14216 Bonham, Houston, 77015, addressed the Mayor and Council in Spanish and was ask by Mayor Diaz to please speak English, that she would appreciate it.

Ms. Alvarez refused and continued to speak in Spanish with Mr. Raul Rodriguez translating. She stated that they got the cards that she gave to them (there was discussion as to whether she spoke English or not) Mr. Rodriguez stated that she wanted to make something clear on the numbers on the papers that she talked about a while ago, she did not want them to take offense to what she had said, she said that we were recording what she was saying and if they took it in the wrong way from how she had said it (there was a

lot of discussion in Spanish and English and Mayor Diaz gaveled the comments down) Mr. Rodriguez stated that she said she had proof of what she said on this paper and also she was referring to what had happened in Galena Park , that was what she was referring to just a while ago and he made her realized that Jacinto City had nothing to do with what was going on in Galena Park.

Mayor Diaz thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his assistance.

Mr. Avalos addressed the Mayor and Council with Mr. Raul Rodriguez translating. He stated that he is a news reporter and he was saying could the people not speak Spanish for them the council.

Mayor Diaz stated no, they could speak Spanish.

Mr. Avalos continued talking about immigrants in the United States and what they came to this country for. (There was more discussion in Spanish from Ms. Alvarez in the audience)

Council Member Lee ask to be allowed to say that when someone comes to speak Spanish they bring an interpreter with them and we have a little bit more of a heads up on what we are going to be dealing with it and we were not prejudice against anyone.

Mr. Rodriguez translated Council Member Lee's statement.

Mr. Avalos continued to speak in Spanish and Mr. Rodriguez stated that what he was saying was that years back Mr. Jack told him to leave when he was giving food to the needy families and that was one of the reasons that all of this is going on because Jack told him to leave the city, Mr. Rodriguez stated that he was not aware of that, he was just letting them know what he said, he was just the translator.

Mayor Diaz thanked him and advised Mr. Avalos that his 3 minutes were up.

Ray Morlock, 11509 Celtis, he stated that he had talked with Lon on Monday and he talked with the Chief just a little bit ago, stating that he was not too sure it was the safest thing but on his way here he turned on Belin and sees a ladder in the middle of the street standing up and he hoped that by the time he gets back there was not an ambulance but the tree was down. He stated that this tree was split and about to fall down.

City Manager Squyres thanked Mr. Morlock for the call, stating that he was one of the many that called on it, that we were actually on top of it for a little while now, that the power company had to actually remove one of the lines before we could allow a tree service to do it, we had already wrote a certified letter to the owner of the property and they contacted us and we gave them until Center Point took the wire down to take care of the tree, that we couldn't dictate who they used but they were supposed to have a contractor there today or no later than in the morning.

Mr. Morlock stated that since they talked about Center Point, he went two week before he called them and he worked for NRG and he just wondered why he had to wait for two weeks for all the street lights down Belin to be out, that somebody should have noticed it and reported it, he called and they were fixed that day.

Lon stated that he knew he had a lot more pull than we did because we actually ask the police department, since they are here in the evenings, we task the police chief's crews of making a list of every street light in the city that is out, that he produced that list and notified him and they were reported and he actually had the dates when they were notified back at the office and he was telling him something that he didn't know, he didn't know they were all lit now but he did know that Galena Park was having the exact problem with Holland Avenue and it just seemed hard to get them to respond.

Mr. Morlock stated that you didn't have to call, you could go online and they would advise you daily until they were repaired.

Chief Ayala stated that he just wanted to say that we did report a number of lights out all over the city and that we do it online and he also advised that an officer had gone down on Belin, the tree was down and off the street.

Nancy gosney, 1726 Belin, stated that since we were talking about the budget, anyone that wanted a decent job, go to Buckey's, she thought they were paying \$14.00 an hour and she thought that was more than what an officer get paid here starting off.

Council Member Rivas thanked Chief Ayala for the kind words in memory of 911 and like he said before, we had several meetings on this budget, we were going to do what we can and he was glad to hear about the transparency and there was absolutely nothing that he had to hide, never had nor never will, if you didn't know him get to know him.

Ms. Alvarez started speaking from the audience and Mayor Diaz gaveled her down advising that we did not have any more comments from the public.

Council Member Robinson wished everyone a good safe weekend and we appreciated the kind words too and he would see them at the movie.

Council Member Lee stated that he would like to say along with what the Chief said and what Councilman Rivas said, we are all accessible, you could get in touch with all of them and doors were always open at city hall and the City Manager would be happy to talk to them if they had any questions and they could get their answers a lot quicker by contacting us than springing something on us at a council meeting and in a lot of situations there were things that we could not say in a council meeting. He stated that we were accessible, open and transparent and we would answer their question if we could and if not he would send them to Lon or the Mayor. He announced that they had a food drive at Calvary Baptist last Saturday, it was well attended and they fed a lot of people and handed out 135 bags of school supplies, several of our city employees were there helping and we appreciate it and they would be doing this the first Saturday of each month. He stated that he would certainly like to say that he appreciated Council Member Garcia attempting to translate in a situation that was thrown upon her and he appreciated it.

Council Member Garcia stated just a couple of things on the budget, that we had several meetings and when they get presented the budget the very first time by the city Manager if there is something that they did not like or that they would like to add, that was the time they discuss it and they have several meetings before they open it up to the public and there had been several revision before it got to the residents for them to comment, it was open to everybody and the agenda was always posted days in advance, there was always transparency, they could always come and some of them that were sitting out here tonight had been able to make some of the budget meetings and we appreciate that they were here and are listening, involved and really care because we want their input and it was very important, they don't just make decisions on their own, they try to listen to the citizens, that was their job. She stated that we don't know everything that is going on, we depend on the citizens to help keep us informed and then we do everything we can to take care of the problem. She commended Mr. Squyres on getting back to them and the citizens when they have questions. She stated that she was glad that we were moving on to online payments which was something we talked about in the past and was glad that Mr. Squyres mentioned the transparency, this was something new for this year and we want to be as transparent as possible. She advised that the budget was available to everybody, as long as

you requested it, you could get copies of it and it was very detailed, this was just a summary. She advised that they could go to the City Manager or the City Secretary and tell them they wanted to know about something in the budget and they would be glad to help them.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he would just like to say that he was proud of the people of Jacinto City, they were not afraid to stand up for what they believe in and they really show, here in these meeting like this, that they appreciate our services here, it was good to see that and we have a lot of good people here and not to long ago we lost a great one in Jack Maner, he served a lot of time here and gave a lot of time and effort for this city and we need to remember that too.

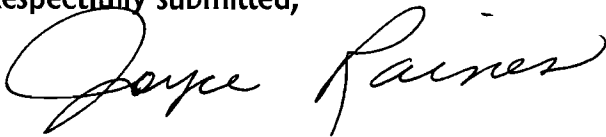
Mr. Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, stated that what he was seeing here was they were talking to the council and he was talking about everybody, not just the Hispanics, that when somebody was up here talking there was talking going on in the back and you couldn't hear what was being said and they were right, we needed to get an interpreter and the thing was that when the Mayor puts that gavel three time people need to know and respect, there had to be silence or the person could be taken out, it was very important that when the gavel comes down, silence and respect, respect the council and the Mayor.

Council Member Garcia Discussed having a translator at the council meetings.

There were additional comments by Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Dailey.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary