

PUBLIC HEARING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014, 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met for a public hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2014/2015 on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 5:30 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.

Mayor Diaz advised that the purposed of the meeting was the first Public Hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2014/2015 and turned the floor over to City Manager Squyres.

City Manager Squyres advised that this was a Public Hearing in regards to the proposed budget for FY 2014/2015 and there was two pages of what we referred to as a budget summary and he would briefly go through that and we would certainly answer any questions that anybody had. He advised that there were some summaries on the table and ask that if they had not signed in to please do so.

City Manager Squyres advised that for this year's budget the income for General Fund was \$5,081,588 and the income dedicated to bonds or I & 4 is \$481,302 which gives us a total income of \$5,562,890. He explained that there was nothing listed in expenditures for debt service and we removed that for a purpose, it seem like there was a little confusion in the past years, the county and the auditors expressed a concern that it could be construed that we were entering that debt service twice and it caused a little confusion with the county we think so we are not listing it there, the debt service will be listed on the next page. Ms. Squyres went over the proposed expenditure for each department in the general fund advising that the anticipated expenditures were \$4,932,594 and we were actually at this point showing a budget surplus of \$148,994 that could be allocated at a later time without moving us into the debt column in this fiscal year we were approaching.

Mayor Diaz stated that we did not want to be in the debt column and City Manager Squyres stated that we certainly did not if at all possible.

City Manager Squyres advised that income from the Water Fund was \$2,849,231 and went over the breakdown of the proposed expenditures for each department, advising that expenditures were \$2,847,550 leaving income less expenses at \$1,681.00 which was a very tight margin.

Mr. Squyres called attention to the second page which was the Debt Service and advised

that all the debt was funded with tax money this coming year and it was \$481,302 and the breakdown on that for expenditures at \$481,002 plus the bonding agent fees of \$300 and it was basically a wash, that what came in through taxes was spent to pay the bonds for that particular year.

Mr. Squyres advised that was the summary of the budget and he would be happy to go into specific departments if anyone would like.

Mayor Diaz ask if the public had any questions concerning the proposed budget.

Mr. Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, ask if there was enough money allocated for potholes in the budget. Mr. Squyres stated that he would defer to Mr. Reed but he believed there was with the understanding that many of our roads we try to push over to the county because the county maintains roads but yes there was money for potholes.

Mr. Hernandez stated there was a flood prone areas in Wilkie Park between the softball field, restroom, tennis courts and the batting cages and after a hard rain the water stays there and it takes quite a while to drain and was there any money in the budget to take care of that problem.

Mayor Diaz advised that we did discuss that at the last workshop, they were aware of it and were looking into it.

City Manager Squyres stated they were trying and ask Kyle to correct him if he was wrong, weren't they going to look at that and see if they could do something with some of the park money that was left this year to do some filling in and maybe look at the drains.

Mr. Reed stated that they were already doing something but that problem was not going to be a 100% solved until you put new drains in the park and probably raise the elevation because the park had sunk.

Mr. Hernandez ask if this was a long range project or did they have a projected time for it or what.

Mayor Diaz stated that if we had the money it would get done as soon as possible .

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Mr. Hernandez ask if there was money in the budget for fire extinguishers for the police cars.

Mr. Squyres advised that there always had been and if their fire extinguishers were out or they didn't have one, they should do so and there was money for that.

There was general discussion about the different needs that arise for fire extinguishers and how important it was for them to be in the police units and we would double check to make sure they were there.

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, she stated that the last time she was here at the council, they were talking about our police officers and we were losing them and she was wondering if, in this budget, we had raised the pay to where we can keep some good officers rather than just being a training for the young guys. She stated that we needed seasoned officers who knew how to talk and deal with people, that sometimes we have some that are just arrogant because they are young. She stated that she was willing to pay more taxes to have better police officers. She stated that if there was any extra money she would like to see it put in with the police department so we could get some real good police officers that would stay.

City Manager Squyres ask to address salaries, stating that we were making two salary adjustments across the board this year and one of the things we did this year was change our health care plan, we were not in line with the affordable health care plan and we had to alter our plan and because of that we are actually talking a couple of things away from our employees as far as the coverage, actually very little, but we through it was appropriate to do a compensation on the pay to adjust for that so if you are insured by the city, which is all full time employees and a couple of our part time with special classifications, they are going to receive a 3% pay raise and of course that includes the police officers and part time employees not insured would receive a 2% if this budget passes council. He stated that they were looking at specific police positions and doing a salary survey to see if we need to bump some up. He stated that we have lost some officers and we realize that, it has been a problem for years and years but to competitive with the County, which is taking most of our officers, you would have to raise those salaries \$16,000 to \$17,000 each and that was impossible for a small city at this point anyway.

Mr. Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, stated that we had been losing a lot of good officers and every time he looks around we have a new officer, he was not against new officers but we have officers that know the streets, the houses, the criminals, etc. and when they are gone we have to train the new officers. He stated that we were the lowest paid on police department, we need to try to find what is going on and try to keep these officers. Mr. Rodriguez talked about the condition of the police station, the lack of room and the restroom facilities and case of a 911 call it went straight to the police department and we needed a new police station, that was the no. 1 priority in our city. He reminded everyone that today was 911.

Council Member Rivas stated that we looked at the budget, had meetings on it and he thinks that with what we have to work with, we were right on track and have done the best we can.

Mayor Diaz ask Ivan if he got any more estimates for the shades for baseball.

Mr. Rojas advised that he was working on that, had made some calls and was waiting on quotes.

Mayor Diaz ask him to please work on this to get lower bids, that for the residents that go out and watch the kids in baseball it was a necessity to have the nets and stuff to protect our kids and spectators from balls.

Ms. Santos Alvarez, 14216 Bonham, Houston, Tx. 77015, address the Mayor and Council in Spanish which was translated by Council Member Garcia.

Ms. Santos Alvarez handed out her business card to the Council and the public members. She pointed at the numbers on the budget's first page and made the comment that the numbers look good but that everyone knows that behind those numbers, there was mismanagement of money and money was being stolen, that it was easy to set over here and talk about the police department but was there money here to work with the youth, lots of kids do not eat well, that we should be spending money on schools. She mentioned that for that reason, certain people (and she did not name anyone specifically, but made the comment that they knew who they were and that they had nice vehicles and homes) but would not leave their positions. She said the city ought to invest in better schools and in youth programs that would equip the kids with skills and keep them off the streets. She

compared Jacinto City with the Cloverleaf area, meaning that the Cloverleaf area was once not a nice-looking community but has made improvements since then and offers programs for our youth. At some point in her speech she also mentioned the Mayor of Galena Park changing the locks and that he (pointing at City Manager Lon Squyres or someone sitting on the Council) would not leave and that he should. It was explained to her by the Jacinto City Mayor that she was confusing the City of Jacinto City with the City of Galena Park as for the door locks and it was explained to her by Council Member Garcia that we have a Youth Center which hosts youth activities.

She was also advised that the schools were taken care of by the School District, not the city.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:59 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