

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 14, 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 Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated that it had been quite, they were working on a number of unhealthy conditions out in the community and certified letters would be going out tomorrow. He advised that he did see Sgt. Jennifer Simpson Castanada, that she came by and paid them a visit, she was doing a lot better and just had surgery again and he was hoping to get her back some time in the future. He stated that we were losing a couple of officers to the HSCO.

Mayor Diaz ask who was leaving and was advised that it was officers Hernandez and Vela.

Chief Ayala reminded everyone about National Night Out on October 7th and to call the police department if they were interested in hosting a party.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that it had not been quite for him, but it had actually been a good month, the water leaks were down but if they did see a water leak to please advise them 24/7. He stated it was all over the news about the west nile virus and he thought there were three confirmed cases in Harris County, that we were spraying and Harris County was spraying out here and we would be spraying tonight but he was still not getting any complaints. He advised that if you were not having problems with mosquitoes don't complain but if you were, he needed those complaints because they would go through an inspection and he needed those documented complaints, that right now we were ok because of the west nile virus and he would tell them the best thing to do to keep from getting that virus was if you had to be outside there was a chemical called Deet that was in Off and it was effective but the best thing to do was stay out of them, especially babies and the elderly.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that everything was going good at

parks and recreation and last Friday they had a movie at the pool with around 70 people attending. He advised that preschool registration would be August 25th through 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for 3 and 4 year old kids. He stated that hopefully by next week the new restrooms would be available for use.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, thanked Ivan for allowing the seniors to use the pool and that today was their last session for the summer. She announced that the seniors would be having dinner and a movie on September 9th. Cindy called attention to a flyer where Texas Plus was having a contest and Ms. Taggey Hall from Galena Manor was picked out of five finalist and there was a website at the bottom and you could vote once a day and who ever got the most votes, the senior program with Harris County Precinct 2 would get \$25,000.00 which would go right back to us and the seniors in Precinct 2 so please vote.

Mayor Diaz encourage everyone to vote, that our seniors would benefit from this.

Linda from the Jacinto City Library reported that they were wrapping up their summer reading program and had 150 children sign up for the program. She also advised that they have ongoing programs all year round.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated that she had been out of town a lot this month and as far as she knew Mr. Lon had taken care of everything and the council members had been doing a good job. She advised that she would be out of town again this week to attend her grandmother's funeral. She stated that she had gotten some call about the movie at the pool and that it had turned out good and she was sorry that she hadn't been able to make it. Mayor Diaz announced that we were having a Remember Rachel back to school supplies and food distribution on Saturday, September 6th at Calvary Baptist Church on Fairfax, supplies were limited so it was first come first served for school supplies.

Mayor Diaz reported that last week we had the North Channel Chamber luncheon at our Town Center and had a nice turnout and on September 24th the Jacinto City/Galena Park Rotary would be having their luncheon at the Town Center.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Lon advised that one of our part time fire fighters, that works for the Port of Houston Fire Department full time and lives in Humble has west nile virus, so it does happen and just as a reminder, not to scare anybody.

Mayor Diaz ask what the symptoms were for West nile and Lon advised they were like flu symptoms and that about eight years ago Jacinto City actually had a death from this so it wasn't to be taken lightly. He stated that we did have to document in order for the spraying to take place and we were going to make it a little easier, you could e-mail your Complaint to our website and we would forward them to Mr. Reed.

Mr. Squyres stated that we hope to be starting on the second phase of our TGLO Round 2.2 soon.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council to amend Police Department Budget Code 16-6858 in the amount of \$1,923.00 to pay sexual assault medical charges to the hospital.

Chief Ayala advised that we have had three cases in our city and it is mandatory that the city pay these charges and then we send them to Austin for a partial reimbursement.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to amend the police department budget code 16-6858 in the amount of \$1,923.00 to pay sexual assault medical charges to hospital. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Council to amend Parks and Recreation Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$133,889,00 for new restroom facilities at Wilke Park.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to amend the Parks and Recreation Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$133,889.00 for new restroom facilities at Wilke Park. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. Council to amend Heritage Hall Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$5,561.00 for the purchase of benches.

City Manager Squyres explained that in the current budget we are in, there was \$10,000.00 budget for blinds for Heritage Hall and they only spent a small amount of that and so with this excess money we thought we would do this project. He stated that the plaza of Heritage Hall or Town Center was beautiful but not many people spend such time out there because there is no place to sit and be comfortable and it was also our designated smoking area out there and those two benches will be replaced with those as well and this would be a total of six benches. He advised that the auditor tells us there is a GABSY standard that keeps us from saying take the money that is left over from here and use it for that so it is actually a new amendment but it was going to have a zero budget effect on that because the money is sitting there.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to amend the Heritage Hall Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$5,561.00 for the purchase of benches. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

There was discussion on what the benches were constructed of and it was advised that they were heavy metal and the weight limit was 1000#.

4. Mr. Leonard Roberts was not present to address the Mayor and Council.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Debbie Morlock, 11509 Celtis, stated that she would like to thank the Chief and Ivan for their help on the Triathlon, that they had mostly 13 and 14 year olds and they had some younger one all the way down to 5 year olds but the four older ones went on a 5 mile bike ride, a 1 mile run and a ½ mile swim. She stated that the only thing they weren't counting on was the number of trains that were going to stop their progress but it went very well and they had parent volunteers, lifeguard staff and policemen to escort them and Mr. Squyres and she had talked for next year to make a different route and she just wanted to thank both of them publically.

Mayor Diaz ask that we try to advertise more for the next year and maybe we could have more participation.

City Manager Squyres advised that he and Ms. Morlock came up with the concept for next year of asking Faust Distributing to use their parking lot because that way we didn't have to go across the tracks or Market Street and that made it easier on the police department with no train issues and you could just do a loop in that part of the city and if they can coordinate this with them, we think it would be a much nicer event and nice smooth pavement.

Mayor Diaz thanked Ivan for the summer, that kids were going back to school and she was ready but her kids weren't. She advised that school started on the 25th so be sure and watch out for the kids.

COMMENT FROM COUNCIL:

Council Member Rivas ask his wife, Shelly, to give us some information on the upcoming blood drive.

Ms. Rivas advised that tomorrow at Town Center there would be a blood drive from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the name of Jack Maner.

City Manager Squyres advised that if they would like to schedule for that they could call city hall and the ladies there would schedule them on line for it where they would have an appointment before they get there.

Council Member Rivas ask Chief Ayala that when he says we are losing officers to the HCSO, what can we do to keep our officers here. He stated that on his way to work, that League City had a billboard stating that they offer a first year salary of something like \$57,000.

Chief Ayala stated that we had to try to make the pay better and gave some examples of what he thought would help us to compete with other departments.

Council Member Rivas stated these were things that we needed to consider and look into.

Someone from the audience ask how often did they get raises and about the insurance for the employees and their families and if that came out of their pockets.

City Manager Squyres stated that we evaluate for raises at the budget year and we were at that point now and it looked like we were going to be offering a small salary increase, it wouldn't be enough to make up for that, currently we pay 100% of the employee's insurance and for the family we pay 2/3 of it and they cover 1/3 of it which is very generous by today's standards.

Council Member Rivas stated that touching on another topic, safety and security and this was street lights, there was a lot of people out there saying their street was dark and we could use some street lights, well they were expensive and he wanted us to take some time to look into that, a couple of areas especially that was going to need them, it was just something that he thought we needed to get around to. He stated that he had a new resident who just moved in and he went to speak to them and they thought they were still in the City of Houston and when he told them he was a councilman for the City of Jacinto City they ask if they could get some lights out here and he advised that we would work on it. He stated that a long time resident had also ask him the same question so he thinks we need to do that, it was not like if we put that up it was going away and he thinks it would be money well spent.

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone for coming.

Council Member Lee thanked everyone for coming.

Council Member Garcia thanked everyone for coming and reminded them to call about mosquito complaints.

Council Member Gonzales advised that he had spoken with Kyle earlier today and that he mentioned that they were going to start stripping both walk ways to the schools so that would be a good deal for the kids. He stated that on the street lights he had done a survey on how many lights that were actually out and just need bulb changes and he would present that in the next budget workshop that we have coming up next week, give them a number on how many and if we need to add any.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Raines, City Secretary