

## COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members: Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; Assistant City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia out of the country.

The meeting was opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 4 For 0 Against.

### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala advised that National Night Out was just around the corner, the first Tuesday in October and if anyone was interested in hosting a party to let them know.

The Chief stated that Mr. Maner was a good City Manager and he really appreciated him and he knew that we were going to continue on and do the best that we can for the city.

He advised that they had been staying busy and to please call if you needed an officer for anything.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that Jack Maner was a very good friend and a good City Manager but we would move forward with the new city manager that we get and work together and keep going.

Mr. Reed stated that he wished that he had better news about the water well behind the annex here but it was not looking good, he advised that he didn't have numbers on the cost to replace that well but he didn't think it was going to be feasible, it was caved in, it was like about 200 ft. of well. He stated he was hoping to have numbers tonight but he didn't so he would be talking to Lon and the Council to make some decisions because whatever it was will be very expensive unless we plug that well, that he wished that he had better news but he didn't.

Parks and Recreation Director, Ivan Rojas, advised that all was going well at Parks and Recreation.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, stated that all was going well at Heritage Hall.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library, advised they were continuing with the Summer Reading program and staying very busy, that today was their late day, that they stay open until 8:00 p.m. and the computers at the library are in constant use.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Diaz thanked Ray Morlock for being here today, she was so sorry for the loss of Mr. Maner, that she knew that he was a great friend of everyone and ask that everyone keep the Morlock, Bellotte and Maner families in their Prayers, that Jack was going to be missed a lot but it was like Kyle and the Chief said, lets keep going forward and make him proud, that we all knew what Jack wanted for this community, we were a family here and to just remember that Jack was watching us so whatever we do, we had better do it right and make Jack proud of us.

She advised that we had movie night last Saturday, that it wasn't a big turnout because it rained and a lot of people probably thought we weren't going to have it but we did and still had a good turn out and everyone enjoyed it. She stated they were looking forward to doing it again and would get with Ivan and maybe do a movie dive in by the pool, that last year we did that and saw the movie Jaws. She advised that we would definitely do another movie night on the baseball field as well. She stated they were talking to Ivan about maybe doing some things with the kids at the gym as well.

She stated that mosquitoes were bad and remember that Kyle had to have complaints in order to spray for them so to be sure and call city hall and complain, if you don't call, they don't spray.

She stated that National Night out was coming up to be sure and sign up to host a party, that the food would be provided for you.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

Mr. Squyres stated that he had known Jack all of his life and had a high degree of respect for him, that they were both charter member of the Jacinto City Chamber of Commerce if

any of them remembered that, he was his friend, his lawyer and he had done a lot for many of us through the years and it was going to be hard to forget Jack obviously, he has a legacy.

He stated that putting on the fire hat, we had one good note, that they actually had a incident at the fire station and the old joke afterwards was how many firemen does it take to deliver a baby because someone came flying into their parking lot at the fire station and by the time the first fireman opened the car door it was just about time to play catch so they delivered a baby boy at the fire station a week ago tonight and it was so funny because most of the attendants working that night had never delivered a baby and they were almost fighting over who was going to the hospital and who was going to cut the cord and it was really comical and they did a great job and both baby and mom was fine and if they saw any of our staff to ask them how many firemen it took to deliver a baby, they would appreciate it.

He also stated that they were hosting, with Harris County Fire Marshall's Office, a pipeline Safety and awareness program this week at Town Center. He thanked Rebecca Meir for her efforts on the fireworks display, that she did a great job.

There was discussion on the Mayor's fireworks not going off.

Mr. Squyres stated that if you live in the area where the pipelines are going through, we knew they were not happy campers and we had been harassing that company and they get just about a daily phone call from us, we knew they were parking on the sides of the road and sinking into the yards and we were going to hold their liability coverage responsible for that so if they don't fix their yards we were going to make them very uncomfortable around here and we were looking at some possible other resolutions for future projects where we can take some advance action.

He stated that Mr. Reed had already mentioned that we had some major water well problems with one of our two wells and we wouldn't go deep into that and he was going to mention that every year we try to demolish several building that need to be demolished but better than us spending money to do it was if we could put enough pressure on the owner of the building to do it and for about two to three years now we had all been passing by an old store on Holland Avenue that burned down and it was torn down this week and we were very grateful, that was about \$10,000.00 that we don't have to do.

There was no Unfinished Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council to approve amending Budget Code 11-6808 in the amount of \$18,000.00 due to unbudgeted finance fees.

Council Member Rivas ask if we could have some discussion on the budget amendment and the reasoning behind it.

Mr. Squyres advised this was basically a legacy account, it was a very very old account and for whatever reason through many years, possibly before Mr. Maner even came into office, there were interest fees that were lingering and compounding for many years and there was no way to really look at a statement and reconcile it with purchases day to day and some time ago we realized it was a problem and raised the issue and so finally it has reached the point where we feel strongly that we need to deal with this, we need to put it behind us. We approached the City Attorney about it, legally there are ways out of it but the right thing to do is to pay our bills, we don't like this and we will obviously never let it happen again but at the same time we have to protect our Bond Rating and the faith of individuals and our city's credit rating was at stake and he would suggest that we go ahead and pay it.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve amending Budget Code 11-6808 in the amount of \$18,000.00 due to unbudgeted finance fees. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

2. Council to appoint successor to City Manger position.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to recommend that we appoint Lon Squyres as our City Manager. Vote: 3 For 1 Against (Rivas)

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mr. Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, stated that he was concerned about on Holland going toward Galena Park there was a pipe coming down, it was in Galena Park but all of that

was coming back toward us and it looked like a bunch of sludge and oil coming on each side of the ditch and we need to find out what it is because with a big hard rain it was going to come into our drain system so we need to find out what is being dumped in our area, is it safe for our citizens or what.

City Manager Squyres ask if he was talking about on either side of the roadway, the ditches. Mr. Rodriguez stated yes and Mayor Diaz advised that it was a big metal pipe that goes to the ditch.

Mr. Squyres stated that he could answer that for them, that it was the pipe that they were running to dump sludge that is dredged out of the ship channel into the levy area into that embankment area and they test that stuff and they tell us there is nothing wrong with it but we have already complained to the Corp of Engineers about it, in fact, he talked to one of those gentlemen around noon today and he told him that he would go and look at it himself today and he was supposed to meet with the gentleman in the morning about it and he should be able to give him an answer.

Mr. Isaac Menendez, 10913 Munn, stated that first of all he wanted to thank all of the Council Members for meeting with him and talking some of his comments and the Mayor as well. He stated that he wanted to congratulate Mr. Lon for becoming the city manager. He stated that he also wanted to say that they had just completed their little league season this year for 2014 and it was really a good season, that we didn't have as much participation this year as they have had in the past but it was a good season and we also had a team that made it past their District 17 Championship which was hard to do this time of year, it was rare because usually when they played other divisions everybody asks Jacinto City who but he wanted to really give thanks to Trinidad Gallo, who had been running the league as well and his wife and the board members who had really done a good job of promoting the league and with JJ's help and the part of that which had really help all the kids develop was the year round baseball and also select ball. He advised that if they didn't know, select ball was like travel ball where kids form a team and they go out to other areas of the surrounding area and they play tournaments and the weekend tournaments the parents have to pay and they are shelling out a lot of money and that is where these kids are developing their skills. He asked that if they did see this team that made it to District 17, all of them except one is a select player and it is a local team that he thought there was only one not from Jacinto City but in terms of development and bringing a kids skills up that is really where kids go to that next level and it was a good

thing and we have had teams here, that he created a select team here locally but the problem was getting the support behind those teams to help promote and prop them up and when teams aren't given that support the end up going to other areas. He stated that his son plays select ball and they had a team here in Jacinto City and it just got too much for them so he went and played in Humble and Baytown and all of these kids that are local that we could develop all end up going to other divisions and they are the All Star players on these other teams which is a shame because we really should be developing these kids here. He stated that he was working with Lon and it was a new day and that was what they were looking forward to, progress.

Mayor Diaz advised him that that if he could bring them in to the next meeting that we would love to get a chance to meet and congratulate them that she thought it was history.

Mr. Menendez stated that it definitely was for the nine and ten year olds, that Deer Park was eliminated by Jacinto City and that he definitely wanted to bring them out with their new uniforms and banner, that since they made it passed the district level they got them new uniforms. He stated that they were a great group of kids and he was very proud of them.

Mayor Diaz advised that Mr. Isaac was also a coach, that he volunteered his time and she knew it was a lot work and thanked him for all of his hard work that he did at the baseball field.

Ray Morlock, 11509 Celtis, advised the Mayor that he deeply appreciated her, he stated that he didn't want to say any certain one because he would leave someone out but he was going to say Joyce, she told me don't worry. He told Joyce he appreciated her that she took care of them.

Mr. Morlock stated that he still had some unfinished business with Jack here at the city, that he just hadn't had time to get with Lon yet, that they had several things that they didn't know where they belonged and he was hoping that they belonged here at the city and he didn't have to go looking for a safety deposit box somewhere.

He stated that Kyle did a tremendous job of to trying help him talk them out of the motorcycle being brought up here and they both lost but he did appreciate what she, Joyce and all of the staff had done for them and Dee and they would move on.

Mayor Diaz stated that Jack had meant a lot to a lot of us here and he would not be forgotten and we were going to keep his legacy out and do what we can and like she said, he was watching us to make sure we get everything done and everything right.

Mayor Diaz congratulated Lon advising him that he had some big shoes to fill and she knew he would do a good job as he had done in the past.

Council Member Rivas stated that Jack saw something in everyone and him, that when he got down on himself and thought he couldn't do what he is doing now he was there to say yes you can you are going to do all right and hopefully he was, that he was not going to let him down. He stated that the choices that he makes, the decisions up here, he didn't want anyone to get it wrong or that he has concerns or protest against a decision that is made by the rest of the council, he does that on his own and it was because of choices, he likes choices, he likes to see what is out there, pick and choose, that is the way it worked for him, they had a choice, they voted for him and here he was and that is the same thing he wanted, it was nothing against Lon and congratulated him and stated that he knew they would do great together and they have so far.

Council Member Robinson congratulated Lon and reported that Heritage Hall had fruit, etc. for all the seniors on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and if you didn't show up you missed a good time. He stated that he had know Jack for 34 years, he would be missed but we would keep moving on.

Council Member Lee stated that he would certainly miss his talks with Jack, that it seem like no matter what they started out talking about we always ended up talking about music, Texas musicians and different musicians we both liked and he really enjoyed talking to him and he would miss him and thanked them all for being here tonight.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he too would miss Jack because he gave him a lot of advise when he first came on council and he would remember that, that he had a big heart and he loved this city and he dedicated his life to this city and he thanked him with all his heart.

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Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:35 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 printed name and title.

Joyce Raines  
City Secretary