

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; Assistant City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. City Manager Maner absent due to illness.

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 presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Chief Ayala reminded everyone that school was out and to drive carefully and watch for the children, he also advised the residents that if someone came to their house saying they wanted to check something in the back, etc. to call the police department and let them come out and check to be sure that it was not something illegal.

He also reminded everyone that if they were going on vacation to be sure and come by the station and request a vacation watch and the department would check by their house daily.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director advised that the water line project was almost complete, they were doing clean up and would fix anything they had torn up before leaving the city, Which should be about two weeks.

He advised that the Oswego paving project had started, that this was one of the worst streets in the city but it would be very good when they finish the project and hopefully they would be able to do more streets next budget year.

He stated that they were ready to start spraying for mosquitoes but they have not had many complaints and the state wants to see complaints to justify the amount of spraying they do.

Mr. Reed advised that the city had been on J. C. Water for the last three days, no surface water and it was really important that they reports any leaks they see while we are on this trial period.

Heritage Hall Director Cindy Miller advised that the center had water exercises on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and senior swim on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., they had a movie today and would have their Father's party tomorrow and they could check the June Calendar for all events.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library stated they were staying busy, they had started their summer reading program with a kickoff party and they would be having family movies on Saturdays from 12:00 to 2:30.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated that like Chief said, please watch out for their surroundings and she also welcomed everyone to the council meeting, with a special welcome and congratulations to the graduates. She reported that everything was going well and if they had any issues to call city hall or one of your city council members and they would take care of them.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Squyres stated that he would put the fire department hat on first, that he usually get to brag about they have had no major events and since the last council meeting they had actually had two major fires and it was really a good reminder, even though we are out of the winter time heaters were not the only thing that causes fires. He cautioned everyone to be very careful with extension cords and running long cords to air conditions and things like that, it was very dangerous and if the cord was hot it was improper, that large appliances should not be plugged into extension cords. He stated that our heart goes out to those who did have the fires, that our fire department served our citizens well and did quick knock downs on both but the fire was just devastating obviously.

He stated that moving back to the assistant City Manager side, that Jack had mentioned several times that at some point we were going to have to look at water rates and we heard Mr. Reed talking about we were pumping our own water and he saw faces just light up and we might think that means that we are not going to have to look at water rates at some time but remember that right now the maximum amount of water we can pump by law is 20% of our own water because of the subsidence district so we could play with the numbers and do some things but eventually we were going to have to take a hard look and in Mr. Maner's behalf he just wanted to point that out. He stated that on the financial

front we did receive good news today, Standard and Poors looked at our city's finances and capability and about six or eight months ago when we restructured the debt of the city we were rated AA, which was actually an improvement over our previous rating, we were re-rated and got the results today and we maintained that AA rating and that was really a nice statement for the city's financial standing.

Mr. Squyres advised that one of his neighbors, a long time resident of Jacinto City, Ms. Pat Walston had passed away on June 11th and they would be having a Memorial for her at 2nd Baptist Church on July 5th at 3:00 p.m..

Mayor Diaz stated there was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Public Works Director, Kyle Reed presented the Consumer Confidence Report for 2013, stating that it was a very good report and that this they were doing it a little different, that there were copies available here, he would place some at the Library and it was on the city website and at city hall. He stated there were no violations last year, we were 100%, he ask that they look at the report and if they had any questions he would be glad to meet with them or they could call him at public works or city hall and for Spanish they could make an appointment and we would have a translator at city hall to go over the report with them. He stated that it would need to be on the agenda for the next four meetings.

~~3. City Attorney DeFoyd read and explained the Amendment to the Agreement for Funding with Harris County CDBG.~~

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to ratify the Amendment to Agreement for Funding with Harris County CDBG.
Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz stated that we would now move back to the first item on the agenda, presentation of Galena Park High School and Furr High School outstanding graduates.

1. Council Member Garcia's message to the graduates, along with a short story she felt applied to how attitude determined how circumstances impacts their life.

(Copy attached as a permanent record)

Council Member Garcia and Council Member Gonzales Recognized the graduates, starting with Furr High School:

Karen E. Banda
Anthony Gonzalez

Helaine R. Espinoza
Omar Galvan

Galena Park High School:

Cristian Mauricio
Valerie Marines
Patricia Morales

Arianna P. Ibarra
Steven Marroquin, Jr.

Council Member Garcia stated that this was actually the first time that we had recognized the outstanding graduates from Jacinto City and it was an honor for us to be able to do this.

The Mayor and Council presented the graduates with Certificates, gift bags from Capital Bank, caps and pins from the city.

City Attorney DeFoyd ask for each of the graduates addresses, stating that he had something he would like to send them.

Council Member Garcia ask that everyone please join them for punch and cookies after the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

A representative of Dr. Simmons from Furr High School advised that we had the valedictorian and Salutatorian of the graduating class here tonight as well as the star baseball players.

On behalf of the The Council, we would like to first of all thank each of you, the graduates, for accepting the invitation to be here tonight and allowing us to personally congratulate you for having graduated in the top 10% of your class. That is quite an accomplishment that one alone cannot fulfill without a support system. (Parents or family, friends, educators, and family of faith to the graduates) This academic journey could not have been achieved without any of you. Each of you are an important puzzle piece in the life of each of our graduates.

Graduates, it is your determination and perseverance that have brought you to this completion of this major milestone in your academic career. And we are confident that this is just one of many to come. Never forget that your success is a result of the work and determination of many. May you continue to excel as you pursue success while fulfilling your unlimited potential.

With that being said, I'd like to share a short story about THE GREATEST HITTER – author unknown (since we are in baseball season).



A little boy was overheard talking to himself as he strutted through the backyard, wearing his baseball cap and toting a ball and bat. "I'm the greatest hitter in the world," he announced. Then, he tossed the ball into the air, swung at it, and missed.

"Strike One!" he yelled. Undaunted, he picked up the ball and said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" He tossed the ball into the air. When it came down he swung again and missed. "Strike Two!" he cried out.

The boy then paused a moment to examine his bat and ball carefully. He spit on his hands and rubbed them together. He straightened his cap and said once more, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" Again he tossed the ball up in the air and swung at it. He missed. "Strike Three!"

"Wow!" he exclaimed... "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"

Graduates, your attitude determine how circumstances impact your life. The little boy's circumstances hadn't changed, but his optimistic attitude prompted him to give an encouraging meaning to what had happened.

Be assured that you too will have to face difficulties and challenges throughout life and sacrifices will need to be made. Just because you've now graduated and are moving into a new stage in life, does not exempt you. If you dare to be successful in life, remember the story of THE GREATEST HITTER and dare to face the circumstances (whether positive or negative), endure the pains, and adjust the attitude if necessary. Determine what moves you (discover your passion) and have the courage to make things happen. Remember always, the greater your dreams, the greater the obstacles you will have to face.

We are now ready for the presentation of our outstanding graduates of the City of Jacinto City.

They received applauses from everyone.

Arianna Ibarra's mother advised that she had never missed a day of school from elementary through high school and she also received applauses.

Mayor Diaz stated that she was sure that she received perfect attendance reward every year and that was really a good job.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL:

Council Member Rivas congratulated all of the graduates, stating that it was a big achievement, that the road was long but to just stay on the path they were on and it would all be ok.

He stated that one thing that he did want to mention was that J.C. Minor All Stars made it to the final round and he was pretty proud of that and if any of the boys were here tonight he would like to congratulate them for achieving up to that point. He wished everyone a safe and good summer.

Council Member Robinson wished all the graduates the best and like Council Member Rivas said, the roads were ahead of them now and to keep their dreams going.

Council Member Lee congratulated all of the graduates and thanked them for being here, to not ever give up and God bless them all. He thanked all the departments heads for the work they and their crews do and to the Mayor and Council and to Council Member Garcia who had the heart of an educator and she was really the one who came up with the idea of honoring these graduates, he was glad that she did and he appreciated her, she did a great job.

Council Member Garcia wished the graduates the best in life and like she said, there would be bumps in the road but just go with the flow. She stated that she thought this was the first council meeting for all of them and we welcomed them every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., to please come back again, they were the future. She thanked them for being here.

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Council Member Gonzales stated that he would like to say congratulation to them that what they had done was not an easy task, they had accomplished a lot and one day it would all pay off for them.

Mayor Diaz congratulated them once again.

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 typed name and title.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary