

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rives, Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Maner, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Gonzales absent due to work.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz called upon the Department Heads for their reports.

Chief Ayala stated that they had a complaint of unhealthy conditions down at Dollar General and he would let Council Member Rivas give the information on that and he just wanted to remind everyone of the vacation watch provided by the police department and if they were going to be out of town or anyone else they knew was too please advised them to contact the department for information on the program. He stated they have been staying busy, nothing major to report, that at the next Council Meeting he did want to recognize a couple of residents that had helped the department in capturing two suspects and he would bring it up later to the Mayor and Council.

Chief Ayala advised that Judge Biggs from Galena Park had passed away and he would certainly be missed and ask that everyone keep the family in their Prayers.

Chief Squyres advised that our radio system was completely ordered and should be here within the next few months and were looking forward to having it up and running after the first of the year and they appreciated the Council funding it as well. He stated that we have had our first serious cold snap and we haven't had so much as a smoke scare so far, that people are being cautious and they appreciate that and if they do have any issues or concerns about their heaters to please contact them and they will be happy to do a courtesy check for them.

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Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that Chief Environmental was out here that we were starting the Round 2.2 project with TGLO, that they were going to do pipe bursting and they were starting to tv the line. He stated that pretty much does it for our collection system when we get through with this job, that Horseshoe Construction had the job and they would pass out door knockers before they started the job and they had about 5000 ft. after this and hopefully we will figure out a way for TGLO to fund that too.

Mr. Reed advised that we had the pre-construction meeting for the next stage of water line replacement and went over where the work was to be done, that it was 6000 ft. of water line and they were going to start that job on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Diaz ask if that was going to be the whole street of Norvic and Kyle replied that it was, all the way to Kerby, that they did part of Norvic all the way to Flint and they were going to finish that out.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that Fall ball had ended and they were having their award ceremony tomorrow at 6:30 at the gym if anyone would like to come by.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that all was going fine and thanked everyone for coming out on Monday and helping service the seniors and they were keeping busy.

Mayor Diaz stated that the community garage sale had turned out good, that we had about 25 booths and she thought it would be bigger next year and we had a good turnout for the movie. She commended Cindy on the Thanksgiving Dinner, everyone loved the turkey and dressing and she knew they were looking forward to Christmas this year and she knew they got a little something different this years, that a restaurant across the freeway called Tepaliton had offered to sponsor the Senior's Christmas Party this year so that would be different and the seniors voted to do this and he was going to donate the food.

Mayor Diaz stated that Chief Ayala had mention Judge Biggs who had been a big asset to the community and commended Don Nichols on the good service he had and ask that they keep The Biggs family in our Prayers as well as former Mayor Nunez's family, the holidays were coming and this would be sad for them as well. She stated that we have had a lot of citizens pass away this year so lets just keep them all in our payers.

She advise that the Pumpkin Fest was a great success and thanked Kyle and his guys for the hay rides, that they were a great hit and all the kids enjoyed it.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated that all was going well, the city was doing well and he thinks everyone is appreciating this nice fall weather we were having. He stated that the kids would be out of school soon for Thanksgiving and then Christmas and everyone needed to keep that in mind.

Mayor Diaz reminded everyone that the next Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.

There was no unfinished business.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. First reading of Ordinance 2013-10 amending Chapter 3, Section 3 entitled "Dogs" and Section 5 entitled "Cats" of the Code of Ordinances of Jacinto City; providing for annual renewal of registration and licensing of all dogs and cats in the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve Ordinance 2013-10 on the first reading. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

2. Resolution 2013-7R of the City of Jacinto City casting its ballot for the election of a person to the Board of Directors of the Harris County Appraisal District.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and Seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Resolution 2013-7R appointing Mr. Ed Heathcott to serve as the city's representative on HCAD's Board of Directors. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

#### COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

La Gloria Sephus, 9701 Market Street Road, stated that the reason she was up here today was that she had some tickets for Monday night, November 18<sup>th</sup> for a fajita dinner, which will be held at Texaco Golf Club, the tickets were only \$10.00 so she would like for them to buy a ticket to support Chris Diaz.

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Mr. Don Nichols stated that he was wearing a couple of different hats right now and first he wanted to talk about his friend that most of us miss and that was Rachel Nunez, actually Mayor Nunez, that she loved this city and she loved this time of year and one of the things that they would always do this time of year was have big food give away and they were going to have one next Saturday at Jacinto city Elementary, they were working with the School District and the Constable was one of our sponsors, that he and Judge Risener were Sponsoring a lot of the food they were going to give away and he was encouraging and inviting everyone to help put the boxes together, he would visit with the Chief tomorrow and give him the plan so that he would know what we were planning to do and the School District was going to be a part of it and he would like for them to send anyone they know that needed to get community service time or just wanted to help. He stated that they would have fresh fruit and vegetables, he was told that it was going to be a real big one this time so he was excited about that. He advised that he needed volunteers at 8:00 a.m. and would start serving the public from 9:00 a.m. until Noon.

Mr. Nichols stated that then next month in December, they would have a big food distribution in the City Park in Galena Park and everyone was welcome. He stated that he didn't know if everyone knew that the Director of the Galena Park Food Pantry, that last year when Judger Biggs retired, he couldn't say that he took his place because there was no way that any one person could do the things that he was doing but one of the things that he didn't do was write things down so he was having to learn who helped, who didn't help so he would be letting people know their needs and since Jacinto City doesn't have a food panty they have taken in the senior citizens of Jacinto City so if they knew of a senior citizen, they were welcome to come over and the food pantry was open on the second and forth Saturday and they had a policy that if anyone shows up at the door, they don't turn them away and they were working on a way to get another food pantry here in Jacinto City. He stated that he had a special place in his heart for Jacinto City because like Jack he was a long time Jacinto City resident. He stated that he appreciate Cindy because the senior citizens were a lot of the people that help form who he was today, he appreciated them. He stated that to recognize and honor Judge Biggs, they were going to hold Christmas Parties in Galena Park in his honor and he would be letting them know about that. He stated that he appreciated everyone's support and if anyone would like to come out and remember Rachel for something that she would do, that he know Felix misses her a lot.

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Mayor Diaz thanked Mr. Nichols for all he does for Jacinto City and Galena Park Communities and she knows the seniors and all the citizens appreciate what he does. She stated that it was nice to see Felix at our National Night Out.

She advised him that she knew our food pantry was gone from here but if he did find a place to count on them to help him and they would be there Saturday.

He stated that he knew we were working on some stuff for Christmas and he was working on getting some donations for them with Councilman Robinson and this had been a great Opportunity for us to all work together for a number of years.

Mayor Diaz stated that it all goes back to the community and it doesn't matter who does what, we are working for the same thing and it all goes back to the community.

Chief Ayala stated that he would like to make a presentation, that this was a Citizens Award Commendation for Louisa Perez and Cynthia Gordina. He stated that these two women had provided information that helped the department apprehend two felony suspects and he and the department appreciated the citizens help with protecting the community. He stated that between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m. in the morning these ladies reported a vehicle leaving a business with an air conditioner, they contacted the police and kept a close watch, enabling the department to catch the suspects and make full recovery of the stolen property valued at over \$2,000.00. He commended them for their action on helping to make Jacinto City a safer place to live and work.

Chief Ayala stated that they had talked about the neighborhood watch and they were the crime watch because he had seen the calls that come in but they did plan to implement the neighborhood watch soon.

Ms. Perez stated that she didn't know why they ask for her phone number because they



Council Member Rivas stated that what the Chief was talking about was that we had a complaint about trash at two businesses and we ask the Chief to check it out and he ask the chief if he could tag along with him. He stated that they went to Dollar General and when they got there the Manager of Dollar General was out by the sidewalk , they spoke and ask her if she had a minute to speak with them and she told them sure, just a second, the manager walked into the store and they followed her and a customer was walking out and the Manager stopped her and ask her about a basket of merchandise that she had and the lady told her that she left it in the back and after the Manager checked and didn't find the basket and it turned out that the lady was shop lifting and all the merchandise that was in the basket was in her purse and she went to dumping that stuff out right in front of the Chief and he thought so this is what you do for a living. The lady tried to make her way out the door, saying she gave all the stuff back so could she go now and the Chief advised her that it didn't work that way. He stated that it was an experience and when they finally got to speak with the manager about the situation they came for, the problem of the trash had been taken care of and was now gone.

Mayor Diaz stated that she was sure that the citizen that lived behind the store was happy.

Council Member Lee advised that the Community Garage Sale and Pumpkin Fest was great, that he heard a lot of good comments and commended the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works on a job well done.

Council Member Garcia thanked both of the ladies for the assistance, stating that she was glad that Ms. Perez explained why they were out at that time.

Ms. Perez stated that was the time that a lot of robberies were done, that she had a lot of friends that has had stuff taken away, stating that her friend gets off work at 4:00 a.m. and calls her and they go riding around and just watch out for things.

Mayor Diaz advised that they could drive by her house anytime they wanted.

Council Member Garcia thanked each of our directors for watching over the city and apologized for missing the Pumpkin Fest but was ill with the flu, that she was glad to be back and thanked everyone for being there.

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Ms. Gordina stated that about three weeks ago she had a situation while stopping for gas on her way to work and called the police department and was advised that they didn't have anyone to send out at that time and questioned why they did not have anyone to come out.

Chief Ayala ask that she contact him and he would check into the call.

City Manager Maner advised that we normally have two officers on the street at all times but it was possible that both of them could have been on a call.

Ms. Perez commented on the officers always being at the Valero Station.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joyce Raines  
City Secretary