

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Maner, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia 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: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz called on the Department Heads for their reports:

Chief Ayala cautioned everyone to be careful, there would be a lot of children out for the upcoming holiday events.

Chief Squyres stated all was going well, they were busy on the medical side and not so busy on the fire side. He stated they had a couple of busy weeks with fire prevention as she know, they had been at Jacinto City Elementary this week.

Mayor Diaz advised that the kids loved it and today they had the K-9 officer there and it was nice to have them there.

Chief Squyres stated that was what he heard from everyone, that Rebecca Mier headed up the program this year and she had done a really good job.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that the contracts were signed for the pipe bursting project and would probably start within the next couple of weeks and the water line project was due to be signed and we would have a lot of work going on during the holiday. He stated that the rain had certainly helped our parks, that he had never seen them look so green and pretty, that last year at this time they were brown. He advised that it was a little to cool to spray for mosquitoes right now but when it warmed back up we would have the truck on the streets.

Ivan Rojas, Park and Recreation Director, Reminded everyone about the Pumpkin Fest and Community Garage Sale on Saturday and he had flyers here with all the time and went over the different events they would have. There was discussion about the movie they would be showing.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that their birthday party was tomorrow and on Saturday they would be selling drinks at the Pumpkin Fest and their ceramic teacher

had a Nativity scene they will be selling raffle tickets on, they would be trick/ treating with the preschool on the 30th and would have their costume contest and Halloween party on Friday and they would be having a ceramic sale on Saturday, November 2nd from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m..

There was discussion about the dance and exercise classes at Heritage Hall.

Ivan reminded everyone that the cost for a booth at the garage sale was \$10.00 or 10 canned good and this would go to Santa on the Fire Truck and Food Baskets.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz encourage everyone to come out to the festival, it was a lot of fun and adults could ride the hay rides and they would be supporting our non-profit organizations who would have booth set up to sell goodies and the garage sale started at 12 Noon and they could keep their booth open through the festival if they wanted too.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated everything was going well and he was just looking forward to a nice weekend and the pumpkin fest, that this was the first year for the garage sale and we hope it will grow every year and it would be a good tradition for us.

Mayor Diaz thanked Kyle and Ivan for the decoration at the entrances, that she has received a lot of call with very positive comments.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUINESS:

1. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to change the November 28th council meeting to Tuesday, November 26th due to Thanksgiving Holidays. Vote: 4 For 0 against

2. City Manager Maner advised that the Variance Board met on Tuesday, October 22nd and recommended that the request for a funeral home be allowed at 1813 Holland Avenue. He stated that Leal Funeral Home was at the meeting and they have three other locations in the area.

There was general discussion on the request and Council Member Lee ask if they would be cremating there and was advised that they would not, that there was only about three licensed crematories in Harris County.

Council Member Rivas ask if that means that in the future if they were to want to change that, they would have to go through the process again.

City Manager Maner advised that would require a separate license, not only with us but also with the state.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Rivas to accept the recommendation of the Variance Board and allow the funeral home at 1813 Holland Avenue. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

City Manager Maner stated that the next application was for 10705 Market #D, which for everybody's reference, was in the strip center where Shipley's Donuts was. He advised there was a shop there that had applied for a license to legally sale religious items, which was fine but this application was to allow them to hold religious services at the location and the board heard their testimony and the testimony of the people here and the board voted to recommend that their request be denied.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to accept the board's recommendation to not allow the religious service at 10705 #D. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

3. City Manager Maner stated that those who attended the budget workshops and Public hearings during budget time heard all of this before but we were mandated to change our radio system and it was quite expensive and was going to cost a total of \$120,000.00 and it would be broken up between various departments and what we were asking the council to approve was to amend the Police Department budget in the amount of \$66,355.00, the Fire Department budget in the amount of \$25,186.00, the Public Works budget in the amount of \$21,925.00, the Recreation Department in the amount of \$4,149.00 and City Hall in the amount of \$2385.00 and the total was \$120,000.00 and again this was to update the city radio system and we were mandated to do it, it was not anything we were doing voluntary but it would greatly improve the system and improve the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve amending the budget in the amount of \$120,000.00 as listed on the agenda. for the mandatory purchase of new radio system. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, ask for clarification of what the Variance Board actually meets on.

City Manager Maner advised that the Variance Board meets when someone request a variance from the Zoning Ordinance, that the Zoning Ordinance in each district has a list of permitted usage of property and usage is one thing that can be a variance, not just property. He stated that if you wanted to use the property for something that was on the list, you didn't need a variance but if you wanted to use it for another purpose you would need a variance, it was called a specific use permit.

Ms. Moreno, 11105 Oswego, stated that Ms. Robinson lived behind Dollar General and they leave trash and junk there all the time and wanted to know if there was anything that could be done.

Mrs. Moreno and Ms. Robins were advised that Chief Ayala would look into this and see what we could do.

Council Member Rivas asked, if at one time, didn't they complain about someone getting into their dumpster and scattering the trash.

There was general discussion concerning Dollar General and Family Dollar and which one they were referring to.

LaGloria Sephus, Big Bass, advised that she had ticket to sell for the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Chili Dinner and Auction and encourage everyone to come out and support this organization who provided scholarships for seniors as well as other events in the city.

Sylvia Kee, 1623 Casperson, thanked the Mayor and Council for taking down the house at 1621 Casperson, that it really looks good, that you can look out and actually see houses behind it.

Shelly Rivas passed out some flyers from Chili's concerning a new service they now have.

Council Member Rivas cautioned everyone to be careful, that kids would be out all over the place.

Council Member Lee Gave a plug to the fire department and talked about what the kids learn from them during Fire Prevention Week.

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Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:30 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.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary