

PUBLIC HEARING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013, 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met for the second and final public hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2013/2014 on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Lee, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz absent.

City Manager Maner presented the budget summary for the proposed budget for FY 2013/2014 stating that,

Income from General Fund was projected to be	\$5,494,690
He went over the projected expenditures of each general fund Departments and advised that the total expenditures were leaving income less expenditures at	\$5,489,840 \$ 4,800
He advised that the projected income for the Water Fund was	\$2,844,570
Projected expenditures were	\$2,843,180
Leaving income less expenditures in the Water Department	\$ 1,390

The floor was opened for comments from the public.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick ask how much the salary for the City Attorney was and was advised that it was paid equally from three departments and was \$22,140.

There were no further comments and Mayor Pro Tem Lee adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:45 p.m..

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Lee, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner; City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Mayor Diaz arrived after roll call.

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: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Pro Tem Lee advised there was no Mayor's Report, that she was also a mom and that was a very important job and she would be here shortly.

City Manager stated that all was going well as far as we knew and as he always says, if there is a problem they know about to please let us know so that we can address it.

Chief Ayala advised that National Night Out was Tuesday, October 1st and encouraged everyone to go out, meet their neighbors and participate. He stated that he also wanted to let them know that if they knew anybody that needs help, someone that might want to cause harm to themselves and they hear about it to please call him or the department and let them know so that they can give them the help they need. He ask that everyone keep Larry Schion in their Prayers, that he was in the hospital and going through some tough times.

He stated that he and his department were here to do the best they could for them and to please call if they had a problem or witnessed any problems.

Chief Squyres stated that the neighbors on Casperson Street were singing the praises of the Dangerous Building Board and the City Council, the house at 1621 Casperson was demolished and you could actually see that there were houses behind there, not just a pile of junk. He advised that on the Fire Department side everything was going well, in fact, they had just relicensed the EMS and they had passed with flying colors. He advised that Fire Prevention Week was the first week of October and everyone be sure and change the batteries in their fire detectors and smoke alarms.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director advised that Public Works would be turning off the water in Jacinto Oaks at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning to replace four valves and would have two crews working and try to keep the time it was off at a minimum. He also informed everyone that the mosquito truck was on the street and they were spraying as much as they were allowed by law, that they were trying to get Harris County to help spray, that there had been Wes Nile mosquitoes detected but not in our areas yet. He cautioned everyone that if they had to be out, to be sure and use mosquito repellent with deet.

Council Member Lee stated that since he had informed him that he was turning off his water tomorrow, not as Mayor Pr Tem or a Councilman, but he appreciated the work the he and his guys had been doing, they had been very busy and he knew they worked a lot of extra hours and we appreciated them and when his water had been turned off, it had not been off that long.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, stated they had been busy and the October Calendar was out and it was going to be a very busy month, she invited anyone that was 60 years old or older to come out and join them. Cindy advised that she had just submitted the application to Area Agency on Aging for the funding of their meals and in a meeting last week, they did cut it 5% and went on to discuss what could happen if the government shut down.

Ivan Rojas, Park and Recreation Director, stated that everything was going good in the Parks and Recreation Department and he had flyers here for our annual Pumpkin Fest and went over the different activities that would be going on and commented on the community garage sale that would be going on as well and they would have the movie in the evening.

Mayor Diaz stated that they had not picked a movie yet, if anyone had any suggestions and as he said, we are having our community garage sale that day as well. She advised that the garage sale would start at 12:00 noon and go on until the Pumpkin Fest was over and you could sale anything you wanted to sell, she was asking for \$10.00 or 10 canned good for a 10 x 10 space and they would need to bring their own table and chairs. She stated it was for a good cause, that the money would go to Santa on the Fire Truck and the canned goods would go to the Food Baskets.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library, advised that Ms. Dorothy Bowyer, long time Jacinto City Liberian had passed away and that visitation was this evening from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and funeral service would be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday at Howard Glendale Funeral Home.

Mayor Diaz advised that she had just received a text that the doctors had called Larry Schion's family in for a meeting and ask that everyone keep the family in their prayers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2013-9 adopting a budget for FY 2013/2014.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Ordinance 2013-9 adopting the budget for FY 2013/2014 on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Council to award bid on TGLO Round 2.2 pipe bursting project.

Mr. Reed advised that the Engineers, Mr. Maner and he had reviewed the low bid and everything was in order and he recommended to the council that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Horseshoe Construction Inc. in the amount of \$512,592.50.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Robinson to award the bid to the low bidder, Horseshoe Construction, Inc. for the amount of \$512,592.50. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2013-6R setting the tax rate for 2013 was read by City Attorney DeFoyd setting the Maintenance and Operation rate at 0.665875/\$100 and the Interest and Sinking Fund rate at 0.134032/\$100 for a total tax rate of 0.799907/\$100.

Council Member Garcia stated that she had a question for Jim, that last year's rate was .766120/\$100 and this years was being proposed at .799907/\$100 and ask if that would affect the budget that we just passed.

City Manager Maner advised that the budget was prepared with that rate and this rate was what was called the effective tax rate and that was defined, under the law, as the rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as the previous rate on the same amount of property. He stated the reason it was up was because overall the values were down slightly so that was why the rate was up but in the notice that was published in the news paper, it notes, as Councilman Robinson was pointing out earlier to him that this would actually raise the amount of taxes that were collected from last year by only \$1,258.00 and when you are talking almost three million dollars that was way less than a percent, but it was the rate that would produce the same amount of revenue even though the rate is slightly higher, it shouldn't affect the amount of tax that most people pay.

Council Member Garcia stated that when we had the budget workshops, one of the things that people didn't want was property taxes to go up so she did request to see the tax rates since 2000 and she noticed how the rate fluctuate, that 2000 was the worst year at .9660/\$100 but the rates had gone down to like .84, .89, etc. with 2007 and 2008 being the lowest but even bringing it up to .799907 it didn't compare to what we had in 2000.

City Manager Maner stated that he took this position in 2001 and he could tell them that since that date we had always set the tax rate at the effective tax rate and even though the rates have varied up and down just a little from time to time, it really was just same thing he was talking about, the effective tax rate and as she said, it had gone down since 2000.

Council Member Garcia ask so just to keep the city operating like it was this last year, he was proposing the .799907.

City Attorney DeFoyd stated yes because that was the effective tax rate.

Council Member Robinson stated that he thought that everyone had a concern about the tax increase but like Jack and he were talking, \$1258.00 was not much money even on a \$100,000 home it probably wouldn't be much.

City Manager Maner stated that probably that \$100,000 home this year would be valued at \$98,450 and it actually would probably be about the same.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Resolution 2013-6R setting the tax rate for 2013 at .799907/\$100. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Council to appoint Representative and Alternate to HGAC 2014 General Assembly.

Council Member Garcia stated that she was already the HGAC Representative and if everyone was in favor, she loved attending these meetings.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to reappoint Council Member Garcia to the position of Representative to the HGAC 2014 General Assembly. There was discussion on an Alternate Representative and Council Member Garcia nominated Council Member Lee, seconded by Council Member Gonzales. Vote: 4 For 1 Against (Lee)

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Ms. LaGloria Sephus, 9701 Market Street, stated that the Jacinto city/Galena Park Rotary Club was having a cookoff on October 30th and it would be held at the Alvin Baggett Building at 1302 King Street in Galena Park, the tickets are \$10.00 and the Rotary Club raises money for student scholarships and all the activities in the community so if anybody want to buy tickets, she would have them at the next council meeting.

Ms. Sephus stated that the Rotary Club was also having a Rock the Boat with the Rotary, that you did not have to be a member of the Rotary Club to go, they were leaving on May 1st through May 5, 2014 from Galveston, Texas and it was a conference, she stated that she would do a brochure and leave it at city hall with Joyce and they could pick up one if they were interested in going.

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that she would just like to thank Jack for getting this budget together, that she knew it was not easy and it was hard to please everybody and she knew that it might sound like our property value was going up but she was glad that they kept it where it was about the same amount every year and she just wanted to let everybody know that it takes hours and hours to do this and he does a great job and as a citizen she appreciates it.

City Manager Maner thanked her, stating that it was a job not just for him but all the department heads and they appreciate that she recognizes it.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Gonzales stated that he would also like to thank the department heads, the city manager and the council for a good job on this budget, everyone spent a lot of time on it and he also reminded everyone that the next council meeting was moved up to Monday, October 7th due to TML Conference.

Council Member Garcia stated, just as a reminder, that if there was anything our public works department could help them with too please call and that went for every department and she would like to thank everyone. She reminded everyone that National Night Out was coming up and she would have a party on her block and the magic show would be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m..

Chief Ayala stated that he just wanted to say that our City Manager just turned 57 years old yesterday and ask everyone to join him in singing happy birthday to him.

Council Member Lee stated that he would also like to thank Jack and all the department heads and everyone who had worked so hard and he appreciated all of them and he did encourage them to participate in National Night Out and invite their neighbors, it was a great time and he looked forward to seeing them all out there.

Council Member Robinson wished everyone a safe weekend and safe National Night Out.

Council Member Rivas ask Kyle where the Wes Nile mosquito was found and was advised that it was in the Woodlands but it was in Harris County. Mr. Rivas reminded everyone to wear Off on National Night Out or something with deet.

Council Member Rivas ask Chief Ayala if he had heard anything about a fight at the Smith Park basketball court and was advised by the Chief that he had not.

Mr. Rivas stated that he got a report that it could possibly have happened, he didn't know and he ask Ivan if he would look into changing the timer for the lights because apparently the lights were off and that was when this altercation was supposed to have happened.

Chief Ayala ask when this was supposed to have happened and Mr. Rivas advised that they were telling him last week and he just didn't want some kind of crazy situation to happen. He stated the person that reported it to him said the parents that were there practicing T-ball and loaded up their kids and left and in one way, that was a good thing to do but as your leaving call the police, if they see something like this and think it might escalate call the police because we definitely don't need that.

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