

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner and City Secretary Raines. City Attorney DeFoyd out of the country.

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: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala reminded everyone that school started on Monday and to please be careful out there on the road. He advised that he had just given Officers Walker and Simpson each a check for \$12,500.00 from the benefit, so we did over \$25,000. He thanked everyone for their support. He reminded everyone that National Night Out was on the way so if they were interested in having a block party to let him know.

Chief Squyres stated that in the interest of a brief meeting he would pass.

Public Works Director, Kyle Reed, passed on his report.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised everyone that they would be registering for Preschool next Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and he had some forms here at the table if anyone was interested.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated that as far as she knew, everything was going fine, that like Chief Ayala said, school would start on Monday and we were starting to get ready for National Night Out and working on our October Fest and we were also going to be working on Jacinto City Trade Day. She stated that she was sure they remember that we had a good turn out at our community garage sale and everyone wanted to do it again on October Fest, that October Fest didn't start until 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. and we wanted to start the Trade Fair about noon on the baseball field, a 10 x 10 spot, bring your own table and chairs and set up on the ball field. It would \$10.00 for a 10 x 10 spot or donate 10 cans of food and the money would go for Santa on The Fire Truck and the can goods would go to the Food Baskets, it was for a good cause and hopefully we will have a big turnout.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated that he would like to go on the record of being in favor of short meetings, so he would pass also.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Council to receive and award bids on construction of Water Improvement System 2012.

City Manager Maner advised that we had received three bids.

A Absolute Plumbing Inc.	\$708,571.85
Reliance Construction	\$798,540.85
Alcott, Inc. dba TCH	\$954,914.50

City Manager Maner recommended that they table these bids for tabulation and Review.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee that the bids be tabled for tabulation and review by Mr. Reed and the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Garcia. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Council Member Garcia ask if the results of the review would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

City Manager Maner stated that in all honesty, these bids were so high he was pretty sure they would.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Comments from members of the public.

Nancy Gosney, 1726 Belin, stated that she was unable to attend the last two workshop they had but two comments were brought to her attention, but first of all she wanted to thank Council for their decision lately, she thought they had been making great decisions, especially for over here on Holland and she wanted to compliment them for that. She stated but one of the things was Carmela's comment about the Easter Bunny not being a

priority and raising our taxes was commented from Mr. Allen Lee and she thought in the second meeting another comments was made about reference to paying taxes and she was going to go back four years, that was what she did to the council four years ago and Carmela knew this here and Mario had seen it before, she stated that we know our Council Members make \$300.00 plus their car allowance of \$225.00 and the Mayor makes \$350.00 on the salary and \$300.00 for the car allowance, that was \$525.00 per month and if you add their salaries together that was \$1,850.00 and if you add their car allowance for a month it was \$1,425.00 and if you average up all their salaries over the year it was \$22,200.00 and average up all their car allowances for the year it was \$17,100.00 and if you add all that together, it was \$39,300.00 and she went over what she had calculated on their miles, etc. and roughly we were looking at \$595.36 they should be compensated for their mileage, leaving \$16,504.64 and went over what mileage she thought they would have to have to get to \$17,100.00. She stated that she thought that four year ago Carmela remembered this, she was behind this podium herself, she challenged and invited the council to donate their \$17,100.00 back to the city and perhaps make a water park if she remembered. Ms. Gosney stated that she knew they spent a lot of time in our city but the thing that was most disturbing was raising the taxes. She stated that she looked on HCAD and she found the addresses of 10346 Fairfax and she found the address of 11510 Tilia and these were exempt 100% on our tax roll, how could they explain to their neighbors that raising their taxes where they pay \$1,000.00 or more a year on taxes when the house you are living in is tax free, she was trying to justify how we could raise the taxes when these numbers here clearly show that we have the money to play with so maybe we need to revisit some of these areas. She stated she was very concerned in both regards but the other issue on the Easter Bunny, was it really a big thing, we really want to do things for the kids. She stated that four years ago Carmela was all about inviting and challenging the council, was it really a big issue for us to get these things for our children.

Council Member Garcia stated that in response to that, when she brought that up, it was something that she noticed on the budget workshop and in a workshop is normally where we are supposed to talk about things, that is where everybody shares ideas, she didn't know where that idea came from and that is why she ask the City Manager because that was never talked about among the council, never even brought up once so when she saw it on the budget she questioned it and Jack mentioned that the Mayor had brought that up but it was never discussed with any of them and that was the purpose of the workshop to bring your ideas to the table and she didn't think it was a bad idea, she was all for the kids just like she was all for everyone in the community, not just a specific population, she didn't have a problem with donating, she had donated as many of them had but she didn't announce it. She stated she was more than happy to donate, she didn't know if the Mayor researched or went about to look at other ways to get the costume for the kids, that she

did make a call to Jacinto City Elementary and they did not have one. She stated that at the school where she worked they did have a bunny costume and they use it as a fund raiser and it was purchased by the PTA. She stated that she didn't want to say no to something that was going to help bring families together and she also make a call to the Library and they did not have an Easter Bunny so she did try to look for other ways to partner up with other communities and she did also research on the internet and the cheapest one was like \$87.00, not saying it was the best one and the highest was like \$299.00 and that was what she found, if the Easter Bunny costume, when she said priorities there was stuff that needed to get done, they were responsible for spending whatever it is that we need to bring into the city, we are held responsible, we have to put priorities first and she wasn't saying that the Easter Bunny costume was not important, it was just that there were other things that need to get done with tax payers money. She stated that she had nothing against the Easter Bunny Costume if there was other ways we could involved other communities and she would be glad to make a donation. She stated that she had never notice the item for donations in the budget before but she knew it was there now and there was no excuse for them not to donate a percentage of what they make.

Ms. Gosney stated that they couldn't talk in the workshops and she just wanted to come up and ask them this question and she was informed that we lost a lot of Christmas Decorations, vandalized so we were facing that now too.

Council Member Garcia stated that was another thing that they discovered at the workshop too, they weren't aware of it.

Ms. Gosney stated that was her only two questions, other than that they were doing a great job, those two things really got her attention, especially raising the taxes, she know that all of her neighbors don't want their taxes raised and we need to find other ways to do things.

Ms. Gosney advised Kyle and Mario that after the meeting there was a lady and gentleman that needed to speak to them about the streets to try to find out how to do something.

Council Member Lee stated that he would like to make a quick response since she singled him out , stating that we had all considered that it was realistic to raise water rates but the reason for that was because the City of Houston has raised our rates a 100% over the last five or six years so it was just realistic. As for charitable organizations not paying taxes, that was just their constitutional right.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, stated that he just had a question about the ball fields, that he noticed there was a sign for Leo Forster Field and a sign for Harmon Field

but the signs are crisscrossed, he always thought the little league field was named in honor of Leo Foster and the big boys field was named in honor of Mr. Harmon but if you were to drive to the fields today, you would see it the other way, that it really didn't affect the price of tea in China, but we owe it to the memory of the families to get it right or properly locate the sign. He stated that he knew a lot of people get offended when Jacinto city is referred to as San Jacinto, him being one of them so he just thought if a park was dedicated to somebody, get the names right please.

City Manager Maner advised him that we would research that because they should be right.

Mayor Diaz ask Kyle and Ivan to look into this and be sure to get the fields right.

2. Comments from Council Members:

Council Member Garcia thanked our public works department for painting those school safety lines for the kids, with school starting up on Monday it would help keep everybody safe and also our police department who was going to be on the lookout.

Council Member Rivas stated that we had that pipeline construction going in and what he saw the other day when they moved in was mud being tracked from one side to the other side on Lane so if they saw something like that to let him or somebody know and we will definitely tell them that they need to keep our streets clean and discussed what they should be doing to prevent the mud getting on the streets, so if they saw this to please let him know, he was ready, that was what he did.

Ms. Moreno stated that they owned the Land behind Nopatilos and they had put two huge mounds of dirt back there and if they level that out, their whole back yard is going to flood every time it rains and she didn't know what that dirt was for and she didn't know if there was somebody that could check into that but their back yard would flood.

Council Member Lee ask for her address and she stated it was 11105 Oswego and it was directly beside where they built the parking lot and she was very concerned about that.

Mayor Diaz ask Kyle to please check this out tomorrow.

Council Member Rivas stated that he believed that at their variance meeting that was one of the things that was addressed, that commercial needs to stay commercial and residential needs to stay residential.

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The question was ask if they had to have a permit to do this and City Manager Maner advised that if it was not paving or concrete, they didn't have to have a permit.

There was general discussion about the problem and Kyle was ask to check this out tomorrow and get in touch with Ms. Moreno.

Mayor Diaz announced that Stated Representative Ana Hernandez Luna and State Senator Sylvia Garcia were having a Legislative Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, September 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Jacinto City Town Center.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:25 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.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary