

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Gregg Robinson, Council Members Rivas, Diaz, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner and City Secretary Raines. City Attorney DeFoyd arrived after roll call.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

#### REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated that he would pass on his report.

Chief Squyres stated that he would also pass on the Fire and EMS reports.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that the annual tire roundup was scheduled for Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and you were allowed 4 tires per household, no rims and no big truck tires. He stated that they were predicting some bad rain on Saturday and if so, they would make one round to get the tire that were out and possibly reschedule pickup on another date.

Mr. Reed called attention to a letter that he said comes out every year and they target our seniors or maybe everyone get it but the only people that ever call him about it is the senior citizens and it was a letter from American Water Resources of Texas that wanted them to buy a policy to fix your water line and sewer line should anything happen to it on your private property and if it was on their private property, they were responsible for that, the city did not fix that but he just didn't think this was good or wise for any citizen. He stated that he didn't know anything about them and it actually goes out to the City of Houston specifically but anyway he was going to talk to Cindy and to the seniors in the morning and like he said, it was not necessary, stating that he had a copy of the letter if they would like to look at it.

Ivan Rojas – Parks and Recreation Director stated that he wanted to let everyone know that swim season was coming up and they were having swimming lessons again this year and they would start on June 10<sup>th</sup> and they would have four sessions; morning and evening classes, they were registering now and the classes filled up pretty quick. He stated they would have senior swim again this year, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. (he corrected that to water aerobics instead of senior swim), stating that senior swim was from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m..

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that they were having their Mother's Day party on Friday and invited all the mothers to come out and visit with them. She reported that they had quite a few win gold and silver medals at the Senior Olympics so they were really doing good. She stated that they had started bean bag baseball today although they didn't have any bean bags so if anybody wanted to make them any bean bags she would appreciate it because she didn't know how to sew.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library, advised that they were trying to get everything scheduled for the summer reading program for all of the students and computer classes were going ahead as scheduled, that they were still very popular, both the English and Spanish classes and the classes were posted on line and if anybody was interested they could give them a call.

Cindy stated that she forgot to mention that Ms. Berry was going to teach the seniors four corner line dancing on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m..

Ivan stated that he forgot to mention that he had flyers available for swimming lesson if they would like to take one.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Robinson ask that everyone keep officer Simpson Castanada and Officer Walker in their prayers and also include Larry Schion who was going through a rough time.

Mr. Robinson recognized all the board members and thanked them for their services and recognized former Council Member Claudio Ochoa.

Council Member Diaz ask that we keep the Ochoa Family in our Prayers over the loss of his mother, that we were so sorry to hear that, she was a great woman and was always here at our council meetings and would be missed.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated that in the interest of time, he would just say what he usually says, things are going well and if they know of something that we need to give our attention to please let us know.

There was no unfinished business.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kyle stated this was going to be an improvement to our water system, that he didn't know a lot about the agreement with the railroad, he knew that they were charging us \$2500.00 for each crossing, that most of our water lines were tied into 8" water lines over here and we wanted to move them down and tie the new supply lines into the 10" and 14" lines which will only help our pressure and volume of water and like he said, he didn't know anything about the agreement.

Chief Squyres stated that the only thing he could tell them basically was that it was required and the engineer was telling us that we could not do the bore without this signed agreement by the railroad, they claim that it covers their review of the engineering and that was why it was \$2500.00 per site and he would suggest the next time they wanted to do repairs to their railroad in the city, we have a fee for them.

There was general discussion concerning the agreement and City Attorney DeFoyd stated that he had reviewed the agreement and it pretty much covered anything that could happen or might not happen, unfortunately they have the right-of-way so they can pretty much set the terms but he saw nothing legally wrong with it.

Council Member Rivas advised that he had to deal with the railroad himself at his place of employment and called attention to Section 3D which stated that no equipment could be moved in or work done without a railroad flagman being present to watch for trains and that they had to pay the flagman and so the city would have to do the same and was advised that was correct.

Chief Squyres advised that was actually going to be written into the contract for whoever the successful bidder was and they would have to take that into consideration so it would be part of the bid package.

Council Member Lee stated that basically if we want to run these lines this is what we have to do and was advised it was.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad allowing for two underground water line crossings. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve amending the budget in the amount of \$5,000.00 to fund the permitting fees for the two underground water line crossings. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Page 4 – May 9, 2013

Nancy Gosney, 1726 Belin, stated that as we all knew Larry Schion was diagnosed with leukemia last week and he was going under treatments this week with chemo and a donation plate was passed around our community on Monday and finalized on Tuesday with a total of \$1105.00 and a lot of people here in this room were a part of that donation. She stated that Larry Schion said thank you, he was quite surprised that he enjoyed that card that everyone signed and his wife, Terri, was very emotional at that time and said thank you, they really appreciated everyone thinking of them during this time. She ask that we also keep the Ochoa's in our prayers as well as Simpson and Walker. She stated that she had one question for Lon, the Chief or Jack, whoever could answer this question. She stated that to her understanding our frequency for our police department was with HPD and ask if that was right, were we tied with like 500 or 800 or something like that on our radios.

Chief Squyres stated no, that we were actually on the UF ban, we had our own system as our primary system, that we did have radios that were on the Harris County Trunk system as well so that we could communicate with them.

Ms. Gosney stated that she was told that by the end of this month that HPD was going to the same frequency that Precinct 2 and Galena Park and ask if we were going to join them or we going to stay on our own.

Mr. Squyres stated that he could tell her his opinion that it was worth staying on your own system, that during Ike there was too many people keying at one time and it was just overwhelmed and couldn't support us. He advised there were two competing trunk systems, one was Houston and one was Harris County and it was mass confusion right now out there and he thought the dust was going to have to settle a little bit.

He stated that within the next year we were going to have to make some changes to our own radio system and Mr. Maner would be addressing that in the budget process he was sure.

Ms. Gosney again thanked everyone for what we did this week.

Ray Morlock, 11509 Celtis, stated that the Galena Park Masonic Lodge had voted to give Damus Garey a Community Builder Award on May 25<sup>th</sup> at noon at 603 Baca, which was on the other side of the freeway and they would have a spaghetti lunch with the award to follow. He advised that Damus knew about it now and Jean had approved the date and ask that as many as could come out to please do so. Mr. Morlock stated this was the only award that Masons give to none Masons and you really have to step up in your community to deserve it and the only other one he knew that had received it was Judge Biggs and Mr. Berry before he was a Mason and it was really a big deal.

Page 5 – May 9, 2013

Council Member Garcia thanked everyone for being here.

Council Member Rivas and Council Member Gonzales wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

Mayor Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Raines  
City Secretary