

WORKSHOP, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met for a Workshop on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Robinson, Council Members Rivas, Diaz, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

Mayor Robinson stated that the first item on the agenda was Council naming a memorial in memory of Former Mayor Rachel Nunez and that it was open for discussion

Council Member Lee advised that there was a suggestion that the Heritage Hall be renamed after our late Mayor and he was all in favor of that.

Council Member Diaz stated that there were people in the audience and ask if we wanted to ask them for their opinion or could we since it was a discussion.

She was advised that we could.

Council Member Lee asked if we wanted to hear from the rest of the Council.

Donna Dailey stated that she was a senior over at Heritage Hall and first of all, they were satisfied with their name Heritage Hall, it was not after one person, there were a lot of seniors that go through the town of Jacinto city and Heritage Hall was a mixture of everyone over there and they did not want their Heritage Hall named after any person, in fact they would like to put it on the minutes that Heritage Halls name would never be changed except for Heritage Hall. She stated that it was so easy to name a building after a [person and in a few years we forget that person and then go to the next one and the next one, that there had been a lot of seniors and non seniors that worked very hard to get Heritage Hall going. Frank Haney's mom was a hard worker, their director was a hard worker, they had a lot of people that were very dedicated, she was not taking anything away from Rachel, she was a good person, she helped us but did she help us anymore than Ana Diaz has helping them as a council person. She stated that they didn't want their name changed, they were Heritage Hall, made up of the heritage of the people of Jacinto City, now if they wanted a plaque at Heritage Hall, they had no problem with the plaque but to change their name, they were not for it.

Dee Owens stated that they were going to speak on the same subject but they were doing this separately. She stated that she was the only one here that was here when Heritage Hall was named and she was there when it was named. She stated she was the Parks and Recreation Director, that she went all over the State learning about senior citizens programs, she came back and with a lot of help from a senior committee, went for the first grant to have Heritage Hall and they were standing out in the hall way before they went in

to get the grant and these people were wonderful people and Mr. Skrabanek was with them and they decided to name it Heritage Hall for a good reason and Rose had done everything she could to make it happen and Cindy would speak to that, it was to give a voice to the people that are the heritage of Jacinto City and it was the plan from the beginning to have the people that founded the city, that came to Heritage Hall to have a place to leave their heritage. She stated that she didn't know how many of them were familiar with the steps of human development, she was sure Carmela was and one of the steps of human development was about the age of sixty and all of them were too young except Jack Maner, Jim and Joyce she thought (Mayor Robinson stated that he was sixty) and it come a time in your life when it was very important that you pass on your knowledge, what you have learned and heritage to the next generation and if that is done effectively and pass into your golden years letting go of your life, if it is not done, you will always be in a little turmoil and Heritage Hall was set up so that people could in these years put down their heritage and she had already talked to Cindy. Rose was working on it and she had worked on it so hard and ask if they knew Rose Springs, that she had worked hard on keeping the heritage of Heritage Hall alive. She stated that Jeannie Diggs was one of the first directors, she thought the second, and Rose was her assistant and then they were very into making sure the history and heritage of Jacinto city was kept alive. She stated the name Heritage Hall, she agreed with Donna, although she did not come with her and they did not collaborate on this and she felt very very strongly that she didn't think it would honor Rachel nearly as much as it honored the people that gave the name to it but she did agree that we needed to do something very wonderful for Rachel Nunez for all the work that she did and she like Joyce's idea that she was just throwing stuff off but she had been around a while so she knows what has been done before but she would really encourage them to remember the people that stood in that hall way, the seniors, back at the very beginning before we went into the meeting for the first grant for Heritage Hall, they came up with the name and she thought it was in honor of them that we keep it.

Council Member Lee stated that he was going to ask what the significances was in the name heritage but she answered that for him and he thanked her for that but he would like to point out that Ana Diaz has done a lot but she is still with us and we hoped that she would be with us for a long time that we didn't honor people that way when they were still alive so that was not a point of contention there and thanked her for her comment.

Council Member Garcia stated that every December we have our Christmas Parade and we always meet at the Town Center Gazebo and we always seem to stand by the gazebo whenever the Mayor speaks so she was thinking that at least we would hear her name every December if everybody wants to name something after her or maybe just a plaque and when people gather, they can read or even a plaque out here but the thing here was we only meet twice a month and not everybody comes to the meeting, she thought more citizens go out there and gather around during Christmas time.

Donna Dailey stated that she walked around this circle thing out here today and there was 14 bare spots and it takes up three or four parking spaces so she knew it had to be important to us for it to take up that much parking and still have 14 blanks. She stated that right here was where we have our council meetings and it might be only twice a month but Christmas time was only once a year and just a suggestion to think about, maybe we could take one of those blocks, they do a lot of things with pictures and stuff and she thought that Rachel would love to have her picture there.

There was discussion about the space honoring Joe Moreno that had his picture.

Ms. Dailey stated she thought it would be very pretty and honoring.

Council Member Diaz advised that she understood it was about \$3,000.00 to do that.

Ms. Dailey stated that maybe we could raise the money, that \$3,000.00 wasn't that much and after ball season was over she would be glad to help raise money, we could get a lot of the citizens doing things and working together as a group for the city. She stated that she would be glad to help as long as Heritage Hall stayed Heritage Hall.

Council Member Diaz stated that her name was already out there as a Council Member and she thought it would be nice if we could do it the way Joe Moreno did with the picture.

Donna Dailey mentioned that she was the first female mayor.

Dee Owens stated that she also died while she was in office and that made a big difference from the Mayors that had gone before and hopefully the Mayors that come after her, we don't want that to happen. She stated that the picture on the monument would really distinguish her, that Moreno had also died while in office.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he had a question, did Heritage Hall encompass all of those building at that location.

City Manager Maner advised that actually the total complex was name Town Center and it consisted of a community building, Heritage Hall and the preschool but he would throw this in, he just didn't think there was enough of a separation in the buildings to name individual parts of it and that was just a personal opinion but actually the whole complex was Jacinto City Town Center.

Council Member Lee stated so you could have Heritage Hall and still have Rachel Nunez Town Center, there would be a separation then.

City Manager Maner stated that you could.

Council Member Rivas ask if that was what we wanted to do as far as doing that, not to take anything away from her but waiting on superman, if superman wants to arrive and what would we do for him.

Council Member Diaz stated there was just so many name, she had got names of citizens that had passed away, spouses had called her, could we name this park after by husband, they were going to name Heritage Hall after Rachel, etc. and she was thinking we can't be naming things after everybody as much as we would like to.

Council Member Lee stated but there was only one Mayor he was speaking of and she was well loved in the city and Heritage Hall and very involved.

Council Member Diaz stated so were a couple of other people who were well know and well loved as well and they want something named after them, she had a call from Marsha Speaks and she wanted the park across from the library named after her husband.

City Manager Maner stated that several years ago we did have a similar situation, not a died in office situation but ex city councilman Joe Harwell passed away and when he was in office, he was over Police and Fire Departments and an ex policeman himself and his family approached the city and wanted them to name the fire station after him and the people in office at the time and he agreed with their action, decided that was not a proper thing to do, they didn't want to do that but there was a plaque down there in honor of Joe Harwell and what he was saying was, that in his opinion, a memorial of some sort, whatever the council decided, would fit the situation better than naming any given building because as Council Woman Diaz had pointed out, Jacinto city is a small city and we only have a few buildings and to let him give them one example and asked who on the council could tell him who Wilki Park was named after, no one knew.

Council Member Lee stated that Mr. Skrabanek and Milton Lusk were all people who were very involved with the city or served the city at one time.

There was discussion about how long Milton Lusk served on the Council for many years.

City Manager Maner stated that was the only city building that he knew of that was named after any person.

Council Member Lee stated that the library was named after Mr. Holder.

Council Member Diaz ask who Smith Park was named after and was advised the family that donated the property.

City Manager Maner stated there were two other options that hadn't been mentioned yet, he thought Shelly mentioned it earlier in a low voice but there was Akron Park, Lane Street Park in addition to the other things that were mentioned so there were lots of options.

Council Member Garcia stated that she liked Donna's idea, if we did that for Joe Morano she didn't see why not, this was the place of meeting .

Council Member Garcia ask Council Member Gonzales what he would like, she knew he had an idea.

Dee Owens stated that she was going to show her age again and Joyce could show her age when she backed her up. She stated that she didn't know how many of them were coming to the council meetings back when Town Center was the love and fight of Mike Jackson's life, that was his big thing when he was in office, he did everything humanly possible to get Jacinto City Town Center and then he retired because that was his thing and ask if any of them remembered how hard Mike worked to get Jacinto City that, he worked on grants, went to meetings, etc. and told everyone that he was not leaving until we got a community building in this city and her point was that he, himself, wanted it named after Jacinto city that she was showing her age because she had been around a long time.

City Manager Maner stated that one thing he mentioned a while ago about who was Wilki Park named after he would also ask the council this, when was the last time you told anyone to meet you at the Milton Lusk Youth Activity Center. Everyone agreed that they just say the gym.

Donna Dailey stated that going along with what Jack said, if someone says meet me at Akron park you know it has to be on Akron St., Lane Park you know it is on Lane Street. She stated that she was all for plaques and for honoring somebody but we were making it more difficult, she was ask the other day where was Wilki Park so when their name changes like that it is not letting them know where to go, that we had Leo Foster Field and she remembered when that was named, there was a lot of controversy over that, she stated that Mr. Foster was a good guy, that she remembered years, him sitting on that pitcher's mound without any legs, he dedicated his whole life to that field but unless you are in your 40's when you say Leon Foster Field they don't where it is so she agreed, let's leave our building and parks names so we will know where they are at when you sending or meeting someone there but it was definitely nothing good for Rachel.

Council Member Rivas stated that he would think, with the community willing to come together, to do fund raisers to bring some money together, maybe not in front of this building but how about across the street, something small, dedicated to her as you make your way into the front of building in memory of her, kinda like what we have out here but smaller.

Ms. Dailey ask that they please not take up three or four parking spaces.

Mayor Robinson stated that he remembered the controversy, when he was on the council and someone ask them to move it and he was against it. City Attorney DeFoyd stated that he remembered that as well.

Council Member Rivas stated that we had to remember that these oak trees, someday in the future, would be grand oak trees so we would have plenty of those we could name after people.

Council Member Garcia stated that they do that at Rice University after a certain number of years.

Mr. Rivas was advised that they were the small oaks and would not get very big.

Ms. Dailey said if we used one of the panels out front maybe someone would keep it up a little better, that she sees people working on it all the time but that big planter grows some good looking weeds, she wasn't putting down the city for it because she does see them working on it but with a planter that big maybe we needed to fill it up with something else, maybe if it was solid people could just sit down on it or something like that it might look nicer most of the year.

There was general discussion about what could be put in the planter.

Council Member Garcia ask if we were all in agreement about some sort or plaque type somewhere even though the place was discussed.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he wanted to make sure that whatever we do or decide on that we make it as big as the accomplishments and dedication that she gave to this city, just so it fits whatever it is and people will really enjoy doing that.

Council Member Lee stated that whatever we do, he would like it to be in an area that is well seen, just like Mario said, something that would equal her accomplishments and also you have to consider all the people in this town that supported her, they wouldn't fit in

this room if we got them all here so you have to consider that we need to be doing it for them and not just for what we are saying in here tonight.

Donna Dailey stated that if we could get all of those people and charge them a dollar to get in we could get the \$3,000.00 to take care of it.

City Manager Maner stated he really thought that whatever was decided, he didn't think it would be hard to raise the funds for it.

Donna Dailey ask if we came up with \$1500.00 could the city match it.

City Manager Maner stated that the council had the purse strings but it could be done, it would have to be approved, it was not a budgeted item.

There was general discussion about ways to raise the funds and City Manager Maner stated that he didn't \$3,000.00 would be hard to raise.

Dee Owens stated that she thought people would want to be a part of it.

Council Member Lee stated he liked the idea of having the monument at the new city hall but he would also like to see some type of recognition for Rachel in this one.

Nancy Gosney stated that if the Mayor and Council donated their salaries for one month that would be \$3,000.00.

City Manager Maner stated that she didn't mention him but let him ask her one thing would she match it and give up a month of her earnings.

Dee Owens stated that she wanted to make one statement about this raising money, that she thought the people would want to give money to Rachel and not just because the city can't afford it but because she thinks the people will want to be a part of it and if they decide to wait and see how much money they need to raise, that she thinks there are a lot of people that love Rachel and will get out and do something and she loved the idea of the new city hall and here too.

Dee Owens stated that she like Joyce's idea and the Mayor and council ask what was the idea. Joyce stated that we were just throwing out ideas and she said that if they didn't want to change the name of Heritage Hall what would be wrong with putting a big plaque with her picture in the lobby at Town Center in memory of her, you would not be naming anything after her but you would still be showing her the respect for what she did for the

city but in the same sense you are only going to see that if you go to the Town Center whereas if you put it on the monument or whatever then everyone could see it.

There was general discussion concerning this idea.

Dee Owens stated that she like the idea of something at the new city hall, that she didn't know what it would look like but she wasn't an artist but JJ was and he stated yes he was.

Council Member Rivas stated that he had a little project coming up, a concession stand at Smith Park and the gentleman that had been a great deal of help so far with this, works for a stone company and maybe telling him about this, something could be pushed to this and he was also an architect and wonderful person and he thought that with his help they might be able to get an idea what we could do.

City Manager Maner stated that there were so many things mentioned here and tonight with our agenda being what it was, it was not scheduled for any kind of action and he would recommend that they take some time to think about it. He stated that Rachel, with her history with the city, deserved something and he agrees that the city needs to do it but with so many things mentioned he didn't see how they could decide tonight.

Mayor Robinson stated that if we do a fund raiser we need to find someone to be the banker because the city shouldn't be doing that.

Council Member Garcia stated that we were not making a decision today and there were a bunch of ideas thrown out, something for them to think about and ask if they thought we needed to have another workshop to make a decision.

Council Member Lee stated that we would have to that we hadn't come up with anything yet.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he was wondering if we could come up with some idea, present them and see what the general consensus is on these ideas, he liked the idea of it being across the street where more people could view it, it just felt like it might be better that way than at the Court House of Heritage Hall.

Ms. Dailey made some comments about the fund raising that was not picked up by the sound system.

Donna Dailey ask Mayor Robinson if there was anything they could do to fix it so Heritage Hall's would be Heritage Hall so that other people won't come in and want to change the name so that Heritage Hall would stay Heritage Hall.

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She was advised by Mayor Robinson, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Manager Maner that there was not.

City Manager Maner advised that City Council could adopt an ordinance stating that the name of Heritage Hall would always be Heritage Hall and then at the next council meeting they could change that.

Council Member Garcia stated that was a good comment that Nancy brought up, that in the past when the parks had been named has family consent always been a part of the decision.

City Manager Maner stated that he thought it should be that he thought we should have the consent of the family to do something but he didn't think the family should be involved in deciding what it was but if the family didn't want it, which he didn't think would be the case, we just shouldn't do it but he thought if they consent to us having some sort of memorial he thought it was up to the city to decide what to do, except for their input like any citizen.

Council Member Garcia ask if anyone had gone to the family and ask.

City Manager Maner stated that he thought everyone had just assumed that it was ok.

Council Member Lee ask if we were going to advertise a fund raiser in the city.

Mayor Robinson stated that he had gone by to see Felix but he wasn't home.

Council Member Rivas stated that he thought when we got some of these ideas together that when we go to some of these Mayor and Council dinners maybe we could talk to some of those people because she was loved by so many there, when he had said a few things at one of those dinners so many people were touched by that and they just came to tell him they were definitely going to miss her and loved her and he thought when it came to the fund raising part those people would be more than willing to help out.

City Manager Maner ask if the council thought they should schedule another workshop to narrow down the possibilities on the consensus of what kind of monument they would like to see and then do the fund raiser, that it occurred to him that somebody, not us, of course as city officials, that if somebody is going to be going out there and soliciting money from individuals and businesses that they should be able to tell them more specifically than just something.

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Ms. Dailey stated that she was sure we wouldn't have any trouble raising the money and she would be happy to help after ball season if they could wait that long.

Council Member Rivas stated that another thing that we needed to think about when this does kick off and we decide to do this fund raising is how people might feel, wondering if they are giving it to a legitimate person.

City Secretary Raines suggested setting up an account at Capital Bank and have the people make the contribution to the Rachel Nunez Memorial Fund.

Mayor Robinson ask if there was any more discussion and that he would continue to try and get hold of Felix to see what their feelings were about this.

Council Member Garcia ask about meeting in a couple of week to either discuss what we were doing or a fund raiser.

Council Member Lee stated that he thought it was a good idea, that we did need to have something more specific to give people, a reason to raise funds.

Council Member Garcia stated that she thought the Tuesday before the next council meeting if that was alright with everyone.

The consensus of the council was to schedule the workshop for Tuesday, March 26th.

Mayor Robinson stated the next thing on the agenda was Council discussion on possible changes to various city ordinances and ask City Attorney DeFoyd to address this.

City Attorney DeFoyd stated that we could not go forward on this item that it was not specific enough under the Texas Open Meetings Act, you have to say what ordinance you want to talk about and we have a whole book of them and the public has to know which ones we are going to discuss so he would recommend that we table it until the next workshop and list the ordinances that they are interested in talking about and by that same token our charter provides that if any of the council has an ordinance that they want to propose, change, alter or talk about, they could contact him directly and he would prepare a draft on whatever it was that they proposed and bring it back to them, that was not a meeting, that was allowed specifically by law and by our charter.

Council Member Lee ask if we needed a motion for that and was advised that we did not.

Council Member Rivas said with those ordinances that we wanted looked at, altered or changed and was advised that he would need to call the City Attorney, that we could not discuss any ordinance tonight, that item had been tabled.

Council Member Garcia stated that she went to Joyce this morning and told her she would like to see every ordinance we had and it was a thick book so she only got to copy certain sections but there was like 11 chapters and what she was thinking because some of the stuff was outdated and it was kinda like the charter and she thought that every section needs to be revised and if we break it up by sections such as Fire Protection, maybe Lon Squyres along with a couple of other people gather together, look over and study the section to see if there is anything that needs to be reviewed, gotten rid of, some of the stuff may stay the same but some of the stuff is out, it is no longer, we need to modernize the whole thing, not just a piece of it and if there were changes that needed to make to the electrical code section or building regulations she thought it was best that we took it apart like the charter was done last year and look at every section, that they weren't the ones that make that decision, it was the person that had that expertise, that have the code, that are up to date and knows what our city needs to have in place but how do we word it, how do we put it on this agenda, there might be some chapters that didn't need any changes at all so maybe at a workshop they could bring up date on what they found but some of the stuff was written and passed back in 1959 so we needed to look at that again and see if it was up to code. She stated that she thought that if we were going to look at anything in the ordinance we should look at the whole thing, break it down.

Council Member Lee stated break it down into pieces and take your suggestions to the department head that might be involved and talk to him/her about it.

Council Member Garcia stated that maybe if each of them, like for example she copied the section that pertained to her like the animal Control, Health and Sanitation and she could work with Kyle and see maybe if he could educate her because he was the one who know what needed to be in place.

Council Member Lee ask if we needed to list specific ordinance and was advised they did.

There was discussion that each section was composed of different ordinances and that each one would have to be addressed separately.

Council Member Garcia ask if when we discussed a chapter, that workshop would be just strictly for that person, whoever was composing that team for chapter 1, would just bring to the table what was found in looking over that chapter to see if any changes needed to be made.

She was advised that they would have to specify every ordinance that was in that chapter.

Council Member Lee stated that if you were going over Chapter 1, you would have to list ordinance in Chapter 1 on the agenda.

Council Member Garcia stated so like Chapter 1 – General Provision there were 39 sections and we would have to list each one of them.

City Attorney DeFoyd advised that you had to say which Ordinance you wanted to discuss and advised that what they were looking at was the codification of our ordinances and the codification was a little bit different than the ordinance itself so that is why you would have to say which ordinance you were going to talk about and then when we look at the codification of that ordinance and Joyce would go digging in the file back there and find the original one and then go from there, that was the way you do it.

Council Member Lee said if wanted to do It that way, just go through the sections and just find the ones that need to be changed; hopefully there wouldn't be that many.

Council Member Garcia ask how about starting at chapter 1 if that was ok with everyone, that was her view but she was not the only one that sits up here.

Council Member Lee stated that he would read it.

City Manager Maner stated that he thought the best thing to do, seriously, was if they wanted to have a special meeting, that Jim had just told them they could get with him and he would help Joyce word the agenda item so that it was properly worded.

Council Member Garcia went over some of the things that Chapter 1 deals with, stating there were several topics that could fall under police, city hall administration and ask if they wanted to assign this like Jack and Lon and we might need Chief on some of this.

Ms. Garcia was advised that some of these were State laws and we couldn't change those.

Council Member Garcia stated that was another thing she wanted to ask, that we had adopted several ordinances, we follow State regulations or whatever, do we get rid of what we have in place. City Attorney DeFoyd advised it would just depend on what ordinance we were talking about specifically but she could amend anyone she wanted to amend, call him and he would prepare the amendment.

City Secretary Raines advised that all of the ordinances were on the web and they could search by word if they were not sure of the section.

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City Attorney DeFoyd stated to keep in mind that there were several ways to write ordinances, ordinances were written by lawyers and every city had a different way of writing things and some of these were not written by him and some of them were.

Mayor Robinson ask if the council wanted to look at certain things in the ordinance book they could write it down and get with the City Attorney and we could do a workshop on it and was advised they could.

Council Member Garcia stated that she saw some stuff that falls under general administration, police department, maybe each department head or whatever could take a certain piece and whatever pertains to them, have another workshop and just let us know if anything needs to be changed, maybe nothing needs to be changed and we will just leave it like that.

There was general discussion on possible things that could be addressed and that maybe we needed to look at the ones people were complaining about first.

Council Member Lee stated that he thought a lot of that could be taken care of with a phone call to Jim.

Mayor Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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