

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Rivas, Diaz, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; Assistant City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. City Manager Maner out of the city for Public Funds Investment Act training, City Attorney DeFoyd out of state for a Shrine Hospital Board meeting.

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

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND COMMITTEES:

Chief Ayala wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Public Works Director stated that it was good to see all the former residents here tonight and reported that there were two Christmas lights out, that it was a Center point problem and they hope to have them repaired by tomorrow.

Mayor Nunez stated that she needed to thank Mr. Reed and his staff, especially Burley, that she had an English bulldog come into her back yard chasing her little dog and when she opened the door to let her dog in the bulldog tried to come in as well and knocked her down so she was a little wobbly right now. She stated that it took Burley over thirty minutes to catch that dog.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation, stated that she was glad to see all her family here and she just wanted to report what a great job public works and the recreation department guys had done on the trees, they had replanted 109 trees in Wilkie Park to replace the ones damaged by the storm or drought and they were just getting ready for the holidays and wished everybody a Merry Christmas.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that she wanted to thank the Mayor and City Council, City Manager, City Secretary and spouses of the council, department heads and staff for helping with their Christmas Party which was held Tuesday night, that they had a bunch of people there and so much fun and thanked them for their continued support to the senior program.

Mayor Nunez stated that it was wonderful and ask if there wasn't about 150 people there.

Rosalinda, from the Jacinto City Library, advised that everything was going good at the library and went over all the things they had going on and that everyone was always invited to the library.

Mayor Nunez stated that she wanted to thank all the department heads for the wonderful job they are doing and of course the city looks wonderful.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez stated that she had about fifty people to introduce today and she was going to start with Judge George Risner, former Mayor Mike Jackson and wife, former Mayor Mike Blasingame, former Council Member Doug Presser, former Council Member Gregg Robinson, former Council Member Lisa Shuptrine, former Mayor Chris Diaz and newly elected constable, former Council Member Damus Garey, former Public Works Director John Cooper.

Mayor Nunez advised that her Mayor's Report was going to be short and ask if everyone say our Christmas Parade with 30 floats and thanks to Joyce and Kathy Greiner, they did a tremendous job and our float was beautiful and there were so many kids out and everyone enjoyed it. She stated that Capital Bank donated the trophies and thanks to Council Member Diaz for getting our new Christmas tree in the budget and Chili's for providing and serving punch at the event.

Mayor Nunez stated that the next thing was Santa on The Fire Truck, that the hard job was stuffing 5000 stockings, not so much the walking but thanks to Captain Treague, from Furr , who has for several years had his JROTC students, who get to the fire station at 7:30 a.m. and half of them were from last year and they did a wonderful job. She advised that we didn't go into private facilities to give bags and ask Chief Ayala to please thank Sgt. Longrigg , that at the same time we were doing Santa on the Fire Truck, they were having their Christmas party and Sgt. Longrigg volunteered to be there and be their Santa and did a good job.

She advised that we had a few stocking left over and they were given to each of the city departments. She stated that was the reason we like to give the stocking out to the kids and the seniors that were out on the sidewalks because one year we ran out but thanks to Galena Park helping us we were able to cover the city, that we have a lot of children and they really enjoy Santa on the Fire Truck.

She advised that after we finished passing out the stockings, Chili's provided hamburgers for all the volunteers and we need to support these merchants that do all of this for us without asking for anything in return and she wanted to thank everybody that helped,

that one Saturday, she, Vickie Lee, Joyce and Kathy stuffed 1500 stockings.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Assistant City Manager Squyres advised that there was not a lot to report other than the fact that seeing them didn't make them look old, it made him feel old seeing all of the people who had been here so many years because he could remember serving under many of them and it was good to see everyone. He stated the city was trying to wrap up the end of the year and we had a lot of infrastructure projects going on so the city hall staff was swamped and we were looking forward to finishing out and start the new year with a bang.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Ordinance 2012-5 approving Targa Downstream LLC's application for a pipeline permit on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Assistant City Manager Squyres read Ordinance 2012-6, A comprehensive second Hand smoking ordinance and advised that it was on the city website.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Ordinance 2012-6 on the first reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Larry Schion passed on addressing the Mayor and Council

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Mike Stiles, 10706 Oswego, stated that he had been there almost 30 years and they were fixing to build a building next door to him and he was wondering if the city was going to step in there and make some drain modifications, that he hadn't really been a very good neighbor to him and evidently across the street he had burnt the people's fence down and all of the play equipment for their kids and he was asking if the city was going to look into this or do anything about it.

Assistant City Manager Squyres ask to address the question, stating that was the Schmidt Machine Shop and before they could build something there was a couple of steps they had to take. He stated that was an industrial manufacturing complex and that neighborhood was zoned as residential so they had already gone ahead and applied for a Special Use Permit and in fact if he lived close enough to them he should have gotten a letter inviting them to that hearing for the Zoning Board Meeting. Mr. Squyres stated that there were no neighbors that expressed anything negative about the facility being built there so both the Zoning Board passed it and the City Council affirmed the vote of the Zoning Board. He stated that the one thing that wasn't addressed in that was the fact that to do this, they also need to adjust the setback designations for that location and to accomplish that, there has to be a meeting of the Variance Board and that board has not met and so we are going to be sure that we take his address down and when the letters go out for that meeting and the probable date is Tuesday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m. and he would receive a letter telling him about the meeting and it was a committee of citizens that serve on the Variance Committee and they will hear concerns during that meeting and urged him to be at that meeting so the committee could hear both sides to help guide their decision and once they make that decision, it will come back to City Council for validation of the decision.

Mr. Stiles stated that he would really like for the city to look at this very closely, that when they built the strip center up there nobody was notified and every bit of the water that comes from Market Street goes back there and it flooded his neighbor several times because it all runs north and they didn't open up the ditches or make the drainage any bigger and if they build a building there, they are going to flood them, he stated other issues that he had with this business and he would really like to be at this meeting and was advised that he would be invited.

Mr. Rodrigo Gonzalez and they had opened up a new business on 10918 Palestine and he and his wife just wanted to introduce themselves to the Mayor and Council. He stated that their business was a music school and they were going to kinda promote the Mexican-American culture and went over the different types of lessons they would be giving and they had just found out there was an ordinance against loud noises and they had some concerns because their business did produce some noise and maybe they could get with them at a later date to discuss this with them.

There was discussion concerning their business and they were welcomed to the city.

Mayor Nunez stated that she was going to ask the Assistant City Manager to read a proclamation and she would get up and present it to her dear friend.

Assistant City Manager Squyres advised that in addition to the Proclamation, we had been given a bio of Ms. Garey and he would like to read that as well. (Copy Attached)

Mr. Squyres also read a proclamation designating December 13, 2012 as Jean Garey Day in Jacinto City.

Mayor Nunez presented the proclamation to Jean stating that she was very proud and honored to present the proclamation, not only from the Council but all her friends that were here today to show how much they love her.

Donna Dailey addressed everyone stating that Heritage Hall's President Frankie Haney and they would like to present her flowers just for some of the stuff she had done at Heritage Hall and it was always nice to see her at game night because they knew that she was going to bring in a beautiful coconut cake or banana pudding, they love it and they miss having her at their game night and they hope to see her this month. Ms. Dailey stated that they always say that behind every great man there is a woman and now they saw why Damus does so well, he had Jean.

Dee Owens stated that she couldn't let this moment pass without saying they were both from Tennessee and both got married at the same place in Corinth, Mississippi but the one thing she had never had was for people at a funeral come up to her and say, you see that woman over there, that is the most beautiful woman they had ever seen and she had that said about Jean so many time and one other thing, that every elected official in here owed their position to the hard work of Jean Garey.

Council Member Garcia advised Ms. Garey that she had a fax that just come which read " to Ms. Jean, Happy Jean Garey Day, I deeply regret that I am forced to miss your day but as you know, I am out of town attending a school that is mandated by State law. My congratulations to a lady that certainly deserves this honor. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you all these years and he looked forward to continuing to do so. Just because Damus had retired from City council didn't mean that she was off the hook. Everyone there in council chambers with her tonight and all who knew her respect and loves her, she lights up a room just by walking in, especially if she was carrying a bowl of her banana pudding or one of her coconut cakes, to keep that winning smile and sunny disposition and he would see her when he got back in town, Love Jack."

Jean stated that everybody knew that she loved everybody here in Jacinto City with all her heart, she had always loved this city and she would always thank everybody for all of this. She stated that she could never do this, that it took everybody in here to do this, we all have to work together and we have worked together, that her Sorority had all been

together for nearly 50 years now and they could never do it without helping each other in the church, the city and any other activity. She stated that she loved everyone so much that she just couldn't say enough for them and she thanked them so very much.

Jean introduced her family, oldest son David, his wife Pam, grandchildren Jon and Jeanette and youngest son Bill and his wife Susan and that her boys had grown up here.

Mayor Nunez recognized Judge Parrott and thanked him for coming up for Jean's day.

Council Member Diaz told Ms. Jean they had been through a lot and she missed her and she still called her, that when they went shopping a couple of week ago she called her and when they had sign up for toys and food baskets and Jean said she would come up even if she had to wear her mask and she told her that she knew she wanted to come but if she didn't feel up to it, she understood. Ana stated that Jean helped her a lot and she owed a lot to Denese as well because whatever Denese learned came from Jean and then Dense taught her and of course she had help, thank God Kim Bellotte was there. She stated that it was not the same and they had people ask about her during registration.

Jean stated that Denese had told her that if she felt like going that she would pick her up and she didn't know what they would have done without her, that she had been with them through day one, gone with the them to all her appointments and treatments and they would never have made it without her.

Ana stated that she did teach her a little about making the coconut cake and she almost had it, that she loved her and missed her.

Council Member Rivas stated that all he had to say was thank you so much.

There was general discussion about activities they were all involved in.

Council Member Diaz advised that they did their food baskets and toys for tots today, that they did over a a 125 food baskets and over 500 toys and they would have some bikes for Christmas.

Council Member Lees stated that we thanked Damus and Jean very much for everything they have done and we loved them. He stated that they had been out here 16 years but he realized tonight that they were new comers but the first thing they attended when they moved out here was a block party on Munn Street hosted by the Garey Family who were great neighbors and great people and they thanked them for everything and he wanted to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and God Bless everyone.

Council Member Garcia stated same here Ms. Jean, we loved you ever since we first met, her smile was contagious, don't lose it and her kids were so blessed to have her and Damus as their parents and she was honored to have met them and to continue coming here and Merry Christmas to everyone and thank everyone for being here.

Council Member Gonzales addressed Damus and Jean stating that he had been on council for a short five years and he knew that they had been special to this city and we all thanked them for their time and generosity.

Mayor Nunez stated that she had know Jean and Damus for so many years, they had always been there to support her and she appreciated that and what Jean and Damus had done for the city words could not express the gratitude that all of us feel toward both of them and from she and Felix, they love them and she knew that Felix had always hugged and kissed her more than Damus and from her Merry Christmas, she was glad her family was here and she knew that she was going to enjoy them, God bless both of them and please continue serving the city and she knew they would.

Jean stated that she could have never done what she did without Damus, it took both of them, that they did everything together and still do.

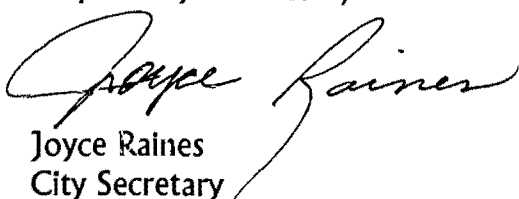
Mayor Nunez advised Jean and Damus' Children they were blessed to have such wonderful parents and she knew because she had know them for a long time and she congratulated all of them for having a mother and father like Jean and Damus.

Robert Hernandez stated that he just wanted to thank Ms. Garey for always being in support of him and his family, that she truly was a giant here in Jacinto city and her influence went far beyond this room, it was far reaching and she had done so many things for the community and thanked her.

Mayor Nunez invited everyone to stay for cake and punch and to visit with friends.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,


Joyce Raines
City Secretary

Jean Garey

Jean Garey moved to Jacinto City, with her husband Damus in 1956, they settled in and shortly began raising their two sons David and Bill. As the boys started growing, Jean and Damus began to be more involved with the community in which they were raising their family. Jean's love for children always guided her volunteering efforts. In the early to mid 60's Jean became secretary and treasurer for the Jacinto City Pony and Colt league where she helped with various fund raisers to provide baseball equipment and uniforms for the kids of Jacinto City who were less fortunate.

In 1965 Jean joined Beta Sigma Phi sorority and began many years of dedicated service helping raise money for scholarships given to graduating students in our area. As most of you remember, if you saw Jean Garey coming in the door with a white envelope in hand, you were about to buy raffle tickets for something.

She also became, the secretary and treasure for the Jacinto Oaks Civic Club, where she was instrumental in raising money for the beautiful entrance signs into the neighborhood.

Jean later joined the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo where she holds a lifetime membership badge for her continued support to raising scholarship money for our kids. She was in charge of getting our area's quilts on display at the rodeo, and she also helped with the beauty pageant and any other necessary jobs.

In 1986 under the tenure of Mayor Mike Blasingame the Toys for Tots and Holiday Food Baskets programs were started by his wife Mary Alice, of course Jean Garey was right by her side. During the first year they provided food and toys to 3 families marking the genesis of these longstanding programs which have continued to flourish down to this day. When Mayor David Gongre was elected, his wife Sue continued the tradition along with Jean Garey right by her side. The programs became even larger providing food and toys to several hundred citizens and their children. Over the years, these programs were funded primarily by

donations from area companies and individual citizens. Jean was instrumental in fostering relationships with these generous benefactors.

In 2001 when Mayor Mike Jackson was elected, his wife Denese continued these programs. The first year was a learning experience, but with Jean Garey by her side, giving advice along with Daniella Haney serving as the Spanish interpreter and Beulah Hart as the produce manager and part time bookkeeper, they were able to take the Toys for Tots and Food Basket Programs to a new level. Anheuser Busch had helped out the last few years but when Denise and Jean teamed up they were able to garner the additional support from Anheuser Busch, to provide food and toys to a little over 1500 citizens of Jacinto City by Christmas 2008 making this one of Jeans proudest moments as a volunteer. The Anheuser Bush 25 year club along with their Hunting and Fishing club made it possible for Jean and Denise to also deliver hundreds of bicycles over the years to less fortunate kids on Christmas Eve, leaving some of the most amazing memories Jean could have ever wished for. Jean was so loved and respected by the employees at Anheuser Bush that they expressed a desire to do more for the community. That was all Jean needed to hear. The Anheuser Bush Hunting club along with the help from Sellers Bros, began sponsoring the Easter program.

Shortly after Christmas 2008 the Anheuser Bush Brewery was sold and all donations halted. In 2009 under the direction of Mayor Chris Diaz, his wife Ana wanted to continue the tradition of these programs, and you guessed it, Jean was right by Ana's side, and was again instrumental in helping the program become a success despite the setback of losing the brewery's support. Due to health issues, that was the last year Jean was able to actively volunteer for the program. These programs and their many recipients will forever be grateful for Jean's unwavering love and devotion.

Jean was always active in Heritage hall, along with her sister Joyce Raines, she Joyce and Damus volunteered for many years of fund raising, festivals and the day to day needs that heritage hall required. Heritage Hall has always held a special place in Jean and her sister Joyce's hearts because their mother, Mrs. Bonnie Samuels was an active member for many years. Jean did all this

volunteering while becoming a Grandmother to her grandchildren Janette and John. She always managed to work and be active in her children's and grandchildren's lives while fulfilling her need to volunteer.

Jean has always, no matter what she was involved in, attended and supported her church, The United Methodist Church of Jacinto City. She would volunteer at her church for Helping Hands, garage sales, various dinners or whatever was needed, including being a faithful member of her congregation and serving on its board for many years.

As most of you know, Jean is notorious for her many years of providing coconut cake and banana pudding for hundreds of city functions over the 21 years that Damus served our city as a City Councilman. The past and present mayors and city officials along with the city employees and citizens are forever grateful for Jean's baking talents and many years of unselfishly volunteering for the citizens and community of Jacinto City.