

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Ochoa, Diaz, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner and City Secretary Raines. City Attorney Defoyd absent.

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

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

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated that he just wanted to let everybody know that yesterday they met with the District Attorney's Office and she recognized the Jacinto City Police Department and the investigators that participated in that human traffic case, all a part of the Victims Crime Week and she thanked everyone for doing a very good job. He stated the department had their share of call but other than that, everything was going fine.

Chief Squyres stated that everything in his departments were going fine.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that Kyle Reed had ask her to give his report also and he wanted to report that he has been coming out here every day since he has been off, driving the street and checking on jobs to make sure everything is going well and he took her by to look at some things that he wanted her to keep an eye on as well And he wanted her to report that they had 4,920 feet of 6" pipe in the ground already and 1280 8" pipe and that was by McKinney Construction and he said they were doing a great job. He advised that they did all the surveys of the driveways and stuff before the job starts so that after they finish the job, the will go back over it and if any of the residents weren't happy they would go back and see if they needed to fix anything and Kyle said they were doing a kick butt job. She stated that they had also been spraying for mosquitoes, they couldn't do it tonight because of the wind but would be out Friday, Saturday and Sunday. She stated that he ask that if any of the citizens has problems with mosquitoes to please call it in.

Ms. Bellotte stated, that on the recreation side, things were going great, all the leagues were having a good time. She advised that they had been meeting about the Youth Memorial Monument and it was scheduled to be dedicated to the city on May 22nd and ask them to pencil that in on their calendars.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that they were going to have about 326 seniors invade them on Monday, that Senior Olympics would start at 8:30 on Monday

April 30th at the gym. She advised that Mayor Nunez would be there to say a few words and so would Council Member Diaz and that Council Member Lee would be there for the opening Prayer and if they didn't have anything to do, they were welcome to come out. She stated the May calendars was e-mailed today and the Mother's Day party would be coming up on the May 11th.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez advised that a young lady named Elsa Gonzales, of Girl Scout Troop 2346, would like to hold a lemonade sale on May 6th in front of the gym. She stated this was the day that Girl Scouts set up lemonade stands all over the US and Ms. Gonzales said that she had talked to Kim and Jack in regards to that and she would like to donate some of the funds to Helping Hands, which would mean that we let her use our city facilities and she in turn will make a donation to Helping Hands. Mayor Nunez ask the council if they had any questions or concerns about this, that she thought it was a good idea.

Mayor Nunez stated that the second thing on her report would be Mr. Ray Fernandez, who had served on the Dangerous Building Board for many years, one of our most loyal Committee members, has resigned, he felt that it was time that we put someone else on that committee, that she hated to see him go because he was very instrumental in making sure that these dangerous building meeting were very professional and advised council that they needed to be thinking about having someone as professional as Mr. Fernandez on that committee.

Mayor Nunez stated that she had gotten several phone calls, in fact she had gotten one just before she left to come here, in regards to our water rates, it seems like they are saying that we have increased the water rates and ask when the rates were last increased and was advised it was in 2007. Mayor Nunez stated that she knew that we had done it and she didn't think that any of the council members here had been instrumental in raising the water rates. She stated that we get the water from the City of Houston and they keep increasing their rates, eventually we will have to do something.

City Manager Maners advised that we would at some point, we haven't yet, but we would be forced to do something eventually.

Mayor Nunez stated that since we get the water from the City of Houston there would be no way we could prevent it but of course he would let us know and there would be some discussion on it.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maners stated that he did want to point out, for everybody's information, that it was election season and Monday was the first day of early voting and as he always said, they had heard the reports and things are going well in the city and he urged the citizens to let us know if they had a problem and we would do our best to take care of it.

Mayor Nunez stated that she wanted to ask Lon if he had gotten very many complaints from the citizens in regard to Commissioner Morman doing the street.

Lon stated no, that he hadn't heard city hall say anything about it.

City Manager Maners advised that we hadn't, that people were very appreciative.

Mayor Nunez advised that she had checked with the County and they had one or two complaints about it.

Lon stated that they were doing a lot more streets than we even ask them to, they are not scratching off the one that we wanted to substitute for another street, he thought they had gone a little paving mad out here, which was good for us.

Mayor Nunez stated that she thought they had gone out for themselves and seen that some of our streets really need the complete, not just part of that street but the whole area like Mercury from all the way to Holland.

Lon replied that maybe it was that or they don't know how to turn off the milling machine but we will take it.

Mayor Nunez ask Council Member Gonzales if that noise keep him awake since he worked night and he replied that it was a blessing to hear that noise.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Sam Harris with Galena Park Independent School District stated that on behalf of Superintendent Dr. Williams he would like to bring greetings to the Mayor and Council and to introduce everybody to a new program that Dr. Williams came up with. He stated that he was in charge of Fine Arts and Academic Enrichment for the school district. He stated this new program was their Senior Gold Card Program and they were offering it to any senior, 55 years or older, who lives in the Galena Park Independent School District and they would actually come and sign up. He advised that they had two sign up sites on

the north side at the Administration Building and the Athletic Office and Heritage Hall was going to be a sign up site here on the South side of the school district, so anyone that lives in the Galena Park School District could come and show that they are 55 or older and they will get an actual gold credit card and that will admit them free to any Galena Park athletic event, general admission, football, basketball, baseball, all performing arts events, all the plays, musicals, band concerts, elementary music, everything that they do. He stated that in addition to that, the Gold Card Members would be given, either through e-mail or mail, their monthly Fine Arts Newsletter and they were going to start a quarterly Athletics Newsletter with news about their athletic teams and athletic department and all the schedules of events. He stated that they had two Performing Arts Calendars that come out, one for Christmas and one for the end of the year and they have all of their athletic schedules that will be e-mailed or mailed to seniors in our community. He advised that Dr. Williams started talking to him about this quite a while back when she was an Assistant Superintendent and they thought this would be such a great program and as soon as she became superintendent she called him in and said she wanted to make this happen that they needed to reconnect the seniors in our community, who don't have kids in our schools anymore, back to our schools so they could come and see the great things that are going on and they all knew that when you turn on the television, you don't see wonderful things about public schools in Texas but there are tremendous and wonderful things happening in Galena Park ISD with our kids, they are great athletics, wonderful scholars and great artists and we want to show the community and connect them back to those kids because it was their tax dollars that was growing and supporting these wonderful kids.

Mayor Nunez ask Mr. Harris to let Superintendent Williams know that we appreciate him coming out and making this presentation and those of us who are seniors will really enroll, and please give her regards to Dr. Williams.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Dina Gonzales, 10502 Oswego, stated that she was here as part of Jacinto City Elementary, that she had come forth because they had ask her to. She stated this was probably for Chief Ayala, they have had a lot of parents complaining in regard to their street at Kerby and Wiggins, that the way they dismiss children is they have one line that always stand still because it goes bumper to bumper and then one that is always open and they were having a lot of issues at that corner with people maybe cutting or not doing what they are suppose to be doing and they didn't know if they were able to ask for a four way stop there or if an officer could be there to help us out and they knew the police was always there to help them out, they just didn't know what would be possible. She stated that since they had repaved it, they need to have some painted walkways because, believe it or not, they are not actually leaving a place for the children to cross the road and they

need that. She stated that these were a couple of issues the school wanted to bring forth but didn't know if this could be done, she knew the year was going to end but maybe we could do something before next year.

City Manager Maner ask if the intersection itself was the problem and was she talking about afternoon pickup and was advised that was correct that it was the afternoon pickup, not the morning.

City Manager Maner stated that Kerby didn't have a stop sign but Wiggins did and Ms. Gonzales advised that Burman and Kerby had one and it seem to work wonderfully there, they never have any problems with that four way stop and that was why they were suggesting maybe having another one there but didn't know if it could be done.

Chief Ayala advised, that starting tomorrow, he would have somebody there and ask if she was talking between the hours of 2:45 and 3:20 p.m. and Ms. Gonzales stated that she would say they started lining up about that time.

City Manager Maner advised that we would look into the possibility of the stop signs and just for clarification, the city is not able to just go out and put a stop sign anywhere we want to, we have to do a study but we will look into it and he suspected, at this time of year, if we find out we are able to do it, it would be sometime before school starts again.

Ms. Gonzales stated that if there was something they could do, like keep a record of the parent complaints and was advised the city would let them know.

Mayor Nunez thanked her for bringing this to our attention since it had something to do with the children.

Council Member Diaz stated that a couple of things that parents had brought up to her was that an officer used to be there in the mornings and a lot of the kids loved it when he would be there and open the door for them. She stated that she knew sometimes there were officers there but they sat in the car, they weren't outside greeting the kids. She complimented Officer Joel on what a good job he did, opening the door and greeting the kids, etc. and she was thinking about having another officer there.

Ms. Gonzales stated that was a good point to bring up, that they have a crossing guard and she does a wonderful job right there by the school but it was the corner where they were having the problem.

There was general discussion concerning the problem and how it could be resolved.

Council Member Ochoa ask Jack if there was a possibility that we could put temporary signs during that hour.

City Manager Maner advised no, that we can't that, before we put any traffic control device we actually have to a study but the year is almost over and we will take care of it with personnel for now but we will do that study during the summer time and see if it is warranted under State Law and he had noticed that she was right, that at Kerby and Burman they didn't seem to have that problem and we would do the best we could and the school would be a big help by logging the problems they were having.

Mayor Nunez advise that it was good PR with the police department for the kids to see a police officer, it brings them up to respect the law enforcement.

City Manager Maner stated that he agreed with Ana, that he dropped Alora off and Joel Montemayor did an excellent job.

Council Member Lee ask if most of the pickups took place on Wiggins and Ms. Gonzales explained their pickup routes and times.

Jean Garret, 9701 Market Street at the Big Bass stated the last time she was here was on February 22nd and she had brought up the point of having street lights in front of their building and since that time, they have had their doors unlocked, that they have about nine door and the fire department had unlocked all the doors because he said it was against the law to have the doors locked and they had stayed unlocked about two months and during that time, people have been slipping into the building, sleeping behind couches, etc. from that dark street and since then a car had run into the lake and with people walking the street it is so dark, it could hit somebody. She stated that she would like to know if anything was happening to get their street light.

City Manager Maner advised that somebody was going to address it with their management about placing some more lights around.

Ms. Garret stated they said they were but nothing has happened since then.

Kim Bellotte stated that they met with the management over there, advised them how to get in touch with Center Point to get a security light up and she would go back over there and talk to them again tomorrow.

Mayor Nunez ask if the security light would help them.

Kim advised that it would, it was the same kind of security light that we were getting for the Parks; that she and Kyle met with the management and that is what they suggested and they would need to contact Center Point.

Ms. Garret ask if anyone had talked to Center Point about their building and was advised by Kim that they had and it had to go through their management, that she had talked to her Center Point contact he was just waiting for their management to get in touch with them and she would go talk with their management again tomorrow if she would like.

Council Member Lee stated that we did discuss this and he thought a good thing to do at this time was to talk to their management about them putting up their own security lights in front.

Ms. Garret ask Mayor Nunez if she had talked to the manager and she replied that she had been there several times and he was never there. She advised that Ms. Bellotte had made contact with Center Point and that was the big thing.

Ms. Garret stated that she just wanted to know if anything was happening.

Mayor Nunez advised her that we would continue working on it.

Council Member Gonzales ask Ms. Garret if they had any security there at the building and Area in regards to the doors that people are entering.

Ms. Garret replied that they had security but you have so many doors that they couldn't cover all the doors at one time.

Council Member Gonzales stated that they would get together and see if they couldn't make this right with Center Point and their management.

Chief Squyres stated that she said the fire department made Big Bass leave the doors open and that was not actually accurate, that the laws says that it actually has to be able to open from the inside out so if the building is on fire you will be able to get out and the law also says that they have to provide the fire department a way to get in and there was a cheap way to do it by leaving the doors unlocked, which is what they had chosen to do, or they could do other options and provide the fire department a key.

Ms. Garret stated that they had now taken care of it, they had a security box on the outside of the doors which has a key where the fire people can get in.

There was more discussion on the security and lighting issue and Kim advised that their management would have to take care of that.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, stated that we had an election coming up on May 12th, it was a city election, he wanted to encourage the people to go out there and vote and also vote for the 29 amendments on the ballot for the City Charter and it was very important, that it was a six page ballot and to just have patience, do their civic duty and vote for all the amendments.

Ms. Osario, 10325 N. LaCrosse, stated that she came back to let them know that she wrote the letter and sent it certified, she had not received the green card and went to the post office today and they have not received it back and the post office said they would look for it today and if they don't get it they are going to try to research it by the number on it, they were going to let her know tomorrow and she would let them know the next meeting.

Larry Schion, 506 Hare Cook Road, talked about the lighting at the apartment complex and what type of locks they need on the doors and stated that the management is liable for anything that happens. He discussed Ms. Osario problem with her neighbor and the letter she had mailed, stating that he was going to be repairing her fence and when he started on the fence he was going to have to knock the boards off of it and he was going to need Joe's help there to keep the peace because he wasn't a very friendly guy.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce Raines".

Joyce Raines
City Secretary