

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2012, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Ochoa, Diaz, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner, City Secretary Raines with City Attorney DeFoyd arriving after roll call.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Squyres reported that the burn ban had been lifted but advised that everyone still needed to be careful and to be very cautious with space heaters.

Mayor Nunez ask Chief Squyres to report on the status of the trailer park and he advised that they have until December 31st to remove the necessary trailers and if not, Mr. Hicks will be able to start legal action to remove the trailers and that Mr. Hicks also had things he had to do in order to be in compliance.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that while we had gotten some rain, we were still 25 inches behind so our drought contingency plan is still in effect and ask that everyone be careful with the use of water and be sure and report any leaks they see. He stated that we would be receiving bids tonight on water line improvements across the tracks. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that they had been working on several different Christmas projects and they all went well, she thanked the Mayor for helping out with the Library Project and there were a lot kids there that had a good time. She thanked Mr. Victor Castillo for filling in as Santa on short notice.

Mayor Nunez stated that they started with hardly any children, then all of a sudden they had about 50 children in there and there were some children who believe in Santa Claus and it was so much fun.

Kim thanked everyone who helped with the program and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and she was almost on vacation until the new year.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that if anyone was going over toward Fairmont Parkway, the traffic was very bad. She thanked everyone for coming and helping

with the senior's Christmas party, that the seniors had a great time and today they had a white elephant and Council Woman Ana and Council Woman Garcia came and it was really a lot of fun, they did get mean and a fight almost broke out and she is going on vacation. She advised that when she came back on that Tuesday, they were having an ugly sweater day and if you are over 60 years old and wear the ugliest sweater you were going to win \$50.00 and she needed some volunteers to be judges.

Captain Demont stated that everything was going ok at the police department, that Chief Ayala was on vacation. He thanked everyone who attended the police banquet, that they appreciated everyone's help and support throughout the year and just wanted to make everyone aware that they need to be aware of their surroundings and be careful.

Mayor Nunez ask if we had any problems going on in the city and was advised that we just had a robbery at the cell phone store again. Mayor Nunez ask if the officers were out on the street patrolling to make sure our citizens were taken care of and Captain Demont advised that we were going to have doubled up patrol.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez stated that we had so many things going on this month that it was unbelievable, that first we had the parade, thanks to Joyce, Cindy and the rest of the people who went out there and helped decorate the floats, that Joyce and Kathy decorate their float. Mayor Nunez announced the winning floats, No. 13, Lori's Dance Studio which was most beautiful, the most original entry, No. 8 Jacinto City Preschool, The Grinch who stole Christmas and it was really nice and the Best Marching Group was Scroggins Elementary Toe Tappers and Cheerleaders. She announced that the Mayor's Choice was Jacinto City Elementary. Ms. Nunez ask Council Member Diaz to report on the Christmas Baskets and Toys for Tots.

Council Member Diaz announced that they did about 120 food baskets, feeding approximately 400 people and provided toys for 175 children. The stated that they and an excellent turnout of businesses helping them this year and they were very grateful for that. She advised that she did meet some of the families at some of the school program and she had people come up and thank her and the city for they toys they received, that they were very good toys and if it had not been for the program, their kids would not have received toys this year and that each child had received two to three toys and stocking stuffers.

Mayor Nunez stated that we did Santa on the Fire Truck, stuffed 5000 stockings and the JROTC from Furr High School was helping hand out the stockings and she really appreciated everyone who helped with the program.

Mayor Nunez stated that last night was the reading of Night Before Christmas and she wanted to thank Council Member Garcia because at first we had very few children and then all of a sudden they started coming in with the parents and Ms. Garcia help the kids sit around herself, Santa and the Christmas tree and we gave them some stocking and some toys that Council Member Diaz had there and she read the Night Before Christmas and you could not hear a pin drop, everyone enjoyed it and a lot of credit went to Kim and ask who decorated the gym, that it was really beautiful and she really enjoyed it and if any one was to ask her what the best Christmas present she got, it would have been last night. She expressed her thanks to Mr. Castillo for being our Santa Clause and thanked the Council Members for donating cookies and punch, it was her first year doing it and she enjoyed it tremendously.

Mayor Nunez introduced former Mayor Christopher Diaz and former Council Member Damus Garey.

City Manager's Report:

City Manager Maner stated that things were going well for us and he wanted to remind everybody that right after the first of the year we would be starting the three million dollar infrastructure projects so you would be seeing some work going on around here so that was all good. He stated that he would also like to mention that yesterday at City Hall we always have a luncheon and all the city officials and city employees wonder by and in and out and Thane Harrison, who is our representative with Waste Management was there and he pulled him aside and said that he wanted to really commend us because of the way that we co-operated with each other and operate, that it was like a small town and he advised Mr. Harrison that it was a small town, even though we were surrounded by Houston, we all made a real effort to keep that atmosphere of a small town and that he thought we were pretty successful but it took everyone working at it because we want all of our citizens to feel a part of the community and he was proud of that and he commended everyone here for being a part of that.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The following bids were received on the Water Distribution and Fire Protection Project:

T-Construction, LLC	\$1,237,654.00
Reliance Construction	\$1,546,282.54
McKinney Construction	\$1,077,374.91
Metro City Construction	\$1,846,283.00
Horseshoe Construction	\$1,413,647.00
TRCU LTD.	\$2,192,239.62

City Manager Maner stated that what he would ask the Council to do and what he recommended was to allow Public Works Director Kyle Reed, himself and Lon Squyres to go over these bids and Council to award the bid to the lowest qualifying bid.

A Motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to award the bid to the lowest qualifying bidder after review by Kyle Reed, Lon Squyres and the City Manager. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve renewing the Energy Purchase Agreement with TXU Energy. Vote 5 For 0 Against

2. City Attorney read Resolution 2011-16R Amending the city's Personnel Policy concerning scheduling and carrying over of employee's vacation.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Diaz to approve Resolution 2011-16R amending the city's Personnel Policy concerning scheduling and carrying over of employee's vacation. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia to approve and accept the Amendments proposed by the Charter Review Commission and place them on the ballot for the May 2012 city election. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Nunez advised that it would be up to the citizens to vote on these amendments.

City Manager Maner stated that we had several people in the audience to night that were regular attendants at the council meeting. He went on to explain that the Charter Review Commission was appointed by the Council, which was composed of five citizens of the city and they met several times, held a public hearing and they came up with a list of proposals to change our City Charter which they gave to the City Council about a month ago, they worked very hard on it and they came up with the changes they felt would better help to run our city, the council had just approved it but the final step would be next year's election in May when these proposals would be on the ballot and the voters would have a chance to vote for or against it.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Joey Hanson, Captain of the Jacinto city/Galena Park Metro Go Texan Committee, advised they were getting ready for their cook-off this year and that he had brought invitations to the Mayor, Council and City Manager to please come out and join us, it was January 20th, 21st and 22nd and on Saturday the 21st they would be having an auction. He advised that we normally get four scholarships each year, two for Galena Park High School and two for North Shore High School but with our response and the activities we had last year we will be receiving a fifth scholarship this year so that means we will receive five \$16,000.00 scholarships. He explained how the scholarships and membership works.

Ms. Lori Castillo, 10209 Burman, stated that she and her husband had temporary custody of Dale Pollock and his birthday was Christmas Eve and they were throwing him a surprise party tomorrow and she would like to invite all of them to come by their house to celebrate his birthday and he would be 16 year old.

Mayor Nunez stated that he looked so good and commended Mr. & Mrs. Castillo for helping this young man.

Council Member Diaz advised Ms. Castillo that the seniors from Heritage Hall had ask her to give this to her and her family for Christmas and hoped this would help a little.

Ms. Castillo thanked them very much.

Ms. Gloria Parteea, a resident at Big Bass, said that she used to live in Houston and then she moved here and had been here three years, this was her first time here and her concern was the senior citizens at Heritage Hall and she would like to know about who provides for a new bus for Heritage Hall. She stated that she had a trip for the senior's a couple of months ago and they enjoyed it but most of them complained about the van so she was just wondering if we could get a new 30 seater.

City Manager Maner advised that our budget was very tight so it would not be this year but we would be looking into it.

Jean Garey stated that she had been selling raffle ticket for Debbie Samuel, who had been diagnosed with stage four cancer and she could no longer work and had lost her insurance and everything and she wanted to give the basket away tonight. Someone in the audience drew the ticket and the basket was won by Isarell Garza on Chadwick Ms. Garey thanked everyone for all their help.

Council Member Ochoa thanked Kyle and Kim for their gift and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council Member Diaz wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

City Secretary Raines advised that she was going on vacation and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe Holiday Season.

City Manager Maner wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year but he wanted to point out that the other day he was talking with Councilman Lee and he mentioned that he read somewhere that the average person gains five pounds over the holidays and I told him that we were not settling for average in Jacinto City, we were going for the gold.

City Attorney Jim DeFoyd wished everyone a very happy new year and that he would be on vacation too.

Council Member Lee stated that his wife and him moved here almost 16 years ago and were immediately impressed with the great things about this town, especially at Christmas time and now that he has gotten to know a lot of them and worked with them, he realizes how much hard work is in all of that, so he just wanted to thank all of them for the decorations, the Christmas Parade, banquets, luncheons, Santa on the Fire Truck and the concern that everyone has for the senior citizens and the needy children and the co-operation between the departments, it is a really impressive thing and he was proud of all of them, God bless them and have a great Christmas.

Council Member Garcia stated that she had mentioned to the public works department that usually you plant things in the spring time, this was the month to take that seed of love and make it grow, share it with your family, share it with your friends, we were given this millions of years ago so spread it around. Ms. Garcia stated that she brought everybody some peppermints for Christmas so stop by and grab some as you go.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he would just like to say that as the end of the year approaches, for the most part, we had a good year this year, he saw a lot of people work together and that is what this city does, everybody works together and he thinks we will continue that next year and Merry Christmas to all.

Mayor Nunez stated that first of all, she would like to thank the Council Members, the City Manager, City Secretary and everybody sitting at this table for really helping her get through the seven months of her new job here, of course they knew she was a Council Member for 11 years and without their support and without their help she didn't think she would have been able to do what she was doing right now and also the Department Heads.

Kim Bellotte stated that on behalf of all the Department Heads, they wanted to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Go Texans.

Mayor Nunez thanked all the citizens for their support, stating that she knew there were certain people out there who were going to keep her in line, she enjoys her job and will continue to serve Jacinto City in a professional way, that she loves all that we do and we are involved in so many projects and please support our businesses, they are the ones who give us the money to be able to have all this.

Council Member Diaz stated that we got a new business from Fidelity, a trucking company and they really stepped up a lot this year and this was the first year they participated and they said they would like to continue participating in the small town of Jacinto City. They gave us food and toys and said that if we needed something during the year to just give them a call.

Mayor Nunez advised that Chili's did the hot chocolate for the Christmas Parade and then did hamburgers for the volunteers that passed out stocking for Santa on The Fire Truck and this is people who continue to help us year after year so we need to support the businesses in our city and area, we appreciate what they do and each of us sitting here know that without their help we would not be able to do this and what she likes about this council is that we have communication, we help each other and that is what the city is all about. Ms. Nunez wished a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and everyone.

Council Member Diaz stated there was something that her son, Christopher, wanted her to thank Rachel for letting him walk with Santa on the Fire Truck, he had a blast, that he had been doing it for four or five years and Nicholas was a little mad because he didn't get to do it this year, maybe next year and that she also wanted to thank Dina and Jacinto City Elementary for helping with our can drive, they do a marvelous job.

Mayor Nunez stated that before she forgot, Capital Bank had a box of canned goods for Helping Hands, and that she was President of the Board of Directors for Helping Hands, and they were going to allow them to keep the box there until after the new year so if you banked with Capital Bank please go by and drop off a can, they were in need of some supplies there.

Vickie Lee stated that she wanted to say thank you for her little snowman that she won at the Heritage Hall Raffle. There was general discussion on the melting of a portion of the snowman.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Joyce Raines
City Secretary