

## COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on December 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Ochoa, Diaz, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

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 submitted. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Captain Demont reported that all was going well and that Chief Ayala was on vacation and that the Christmas Parade was on Saturday and we would have some of the streets blocked off and ask that everyone control their speed and drive safely that there would be a lot of children out there.

Chief Squyres reported that he didn't know about the fire department, that he had been to busy writing grants but with this cold weather we were always concerned about fires and cautioned everyone to be extra careful.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that this past Tuesday they had their mandatory pre bid meeting on the water line and fire protection project in the 300 and 400 blocks across the tracks and hope we hope that they will be back next council meeting we will get started after the first of the year, that we had a lot of work going on and that was good, that we were getting a lot of free money.

Kim Bellotte, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that we were getting ready for the parade and would have some vendors down at Town Center, the tree lighting and that the preschool classes were going to win all the awards this year, that they had four different floats. She reported that the 4 year old class went to the senior center and they taught them how to paint ceramics and Cindy played games with them.

Mayor Nunez advised Kyle that everyone had good things to say about all the lights, that everything looked very nice and to please thank his staff that they had done a tremendous job on them.

Kim stated that the Jacinto City Library staff was not here but that she had gotten with them and the Mayor reading the Night Before Christmas story to the kids would be at the gym December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m..

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that tomorrow the kids from preschool were coming to sing, they were going to practice on them so they would be ready for Saturday. She stated that the seniors had been very busy with all the Christmas parties and their Heritage Hall party was December 20<sup>th</sup>, they would be helping stuff stockings on December 13<sup>th</sup> and would be busy right on into January. She stated they were growing that they had a number of new seniors.

Mayor Nunez stated that she was glad to hear that, we needed to get our seniors involved at Heritage Hall.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez stated she would like to welcome former Council Members Damus Garey and Wayne Nichols and Marque McMillan from J. Simmons Group.

She called attention to the sidewalks on Holland, stating they were working on them now and advised City Manager Maner that she would like either him or Lon and Kyle to meet with Mr. Rodriguez, from Commissioner Morman's office, that she had seen Commissioner Morman today, at his Christmas Party, which she and Council Member Lee had attended and he said that if we need anything to just give him a call and he would try to do whatever he could for us and she was very grateful to him for that. He sent Holiday wishes to each and everyone one of them. She stated that the Mayor from Galena Park and herself attended an Economic Alliance meeting in Deer Park, along with Lon Squyres who represents both cities, in regards to the flares the chemical plants has and ask Lon if he would mind relating what they told us, that it related to our health also.

Chief Squyres advised that there had been a lot of change in how people look at flaring. That flaring, basically in industrial plants, was used to get rid of bad things, either processed gases or waste gases or if something goes wrong in the plant and they have to empty it of all liquids, etc., they send it all through the flare and typically what they were talking about with the day to day flaring, you look at flame and don't see any smoke and you think that is great and now they have come up with new testing procedures and sampling and they have actually figured out that if you can't see anything coming out of that flare, it is probably bad stuff coming out but if it is a darker flame and a little smoke, it is pretty safe but it is getting good destruction of the bad materials. He advised that the TCEQ was going to be writing some new rules and helping plants work with their flaring system. He stated they showed them some numbers and images on it and it was scary to see what was coming off of some of them, not to far from us actually.

Mayor Nunez announced that we had a special guest, Dale and it was good to see him here tonight. She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Castillo for what they were doing for this young man and they would continue being VIP's to this city.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Maner stated that everything was going well as they could hear from the reports, that it was a busy time of the year, that we had already mentioned the parade this week end and he knew that the Mayor hadn't yet mentioned that on December 17<sup>th</sup> was the Santa on the Fire Truck starting at 8:00 a.m. in the morning and to have the kids out early so no one would miss it. He advised that he had a call from the Head of the Harris County Library and she told him that the construction was going very well and their projected reopening date is December 27<sup>th</sup>. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday

Mayor Nunez stated that like Jack said, we would have our Christmas Parade on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. with refreshments, singing, award trophies and light the Christmas tree at the Town Center after the parade and invited everyone to come out and join us. She thanked Joyce, Kathy and everyone who helped with the Christmas Parade for all their hard work, that the city really appreciated it and Ana and her helpers were working on Toys for Tots and the Food Basket and ask when they would be giving those out.

Council Member Diaz advised that they would be delivering their food baskets on December 14<sup>th</sup> and they were feeding about 120 families.

Mayor Nunez stated that we need to support our merchants because they were the ones that give us money so that we can provide these programs, that she saw signs in Galena Park that said Santa Stop Here and we go down every street that we can with the fire truck North and South and it was a lot of work but we have our JROTC from Furr High School to help walk and pass out the stockings, that we didn't allow small children because of the liability, it is hard work but we all enjoy doing it and she thanks all the merchants and citizens that support all these projects.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. The following bids were received on the four GLO Hurricane Ike Infrastructure Projects:

Project: Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (MCC, Generator & Sludge Dewatering.

JTR Construction, Inc.

\$1,866,500.

R N Civil Construction	\$2,033,500.
R & B Group, Inc.	\$1,962,500.
T & C Construction, Ltd.	\$2,003,500.

City Manager Maner stated that his recommendation on all the bids was to follow our usual procedure and that would be for the council to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder to be determined by our engineer, himself, city attorney and department of public works director, Kyle Reed.

A motion was made by Council Member Ochoa to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder after review by the engineer, city attorney, city manager and Lon Squyres have reviewed them. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gonzales. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PROJECT: Market Street Water Plant Rehabilitation

R N Civil Construction	\$ 746,000.
R & B Group, Inc.	\$ 677,700.
T & C Construction, Ltd.	\$ 605,700.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder after review by the engineer, city attorney, city manager, Kyle Reed and Lon Squyres. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PROJECT: Cynthia Square Sanitary Sewer Rehab

Horseshoe Construction Inc.	\$ 95,110.
P. M. Construction Inc.	\$ 118,850.
T- Construction	\$ 102,390.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder after review by the engineer, city attorney, City manager, Kyle Reed and Lon Squyres. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

PROJECT: Generators

McDonald Electric, Inc.	\$ 354,470.
Hi-Tech Electric, Inc.	\$ 376,230.
Gemini Contracting, Inc.	\$ 407,050.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Diaz to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder after review by the engineer, city attorney, city manager, Kyle Reed and Lon Squyres. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. City Attorney Defoyd explained the Inter-local Agreement with Local Government Purchasing Co-operative, stating that he had read it, it was the same agreement that Galena Park used and he recommended that we enter into the agreement.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to enter into the Inter-local Agreement with Local Purchasing Co-Operative. Vote: 4 For 1 Against (Council Member Ochoa voting against)

Council Member Ochoa stated that he had not had time to look over the agreement.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Ms. Carrion stated that her question was directed to Mr. Ochoa, that when Hurricane Ike hit, it damaged her garage and she went to FEMA and they couldn't help her because nobody was living in the garage, she went to her insurance and they told her the garage was not covered, only the house. She came to a council meeting and spoke to his son, Chris Ochoa and he told her not to worry about it, that he had put together an organization that would beautify Jacinto City and would help her tear down or fix her garage. He advised her that there were a lot of people on this list and he would put her name on the list and told her about some they had just finished. She stated that six months later she ask him about this list and he advised her that her name hadn't come up yet but she was on the list and to not worry. She stated that two months ago, one of the inspectors came and gave her a citation and she told him to not worry about it, she was on the list and he said what list.

Council Member Ochoa ask her who she told this.

Ms. Carrion replied the inspector, and she told him she knew the garage needed to come down and she had been asking for help, that she was on the list and he again ask her what list she was talking about and she advised him Mr. Ochoa's.

Council Member Ochoa stated Mr. Chris Ochoa's list. Ms. Carrion said yes but he said his whole family was involved. Council Member Ochoa ask her that when she said his whole

family, she was saying his grandpa, etc. Ms. Carrion stated she was saying Claudio and she was saying him. Council Member Ochoa stated that he could tell her that he didn't have anything to do with that organization. Ms. Carrion ask him if he knew anything about it. He stated that yes, he helped him every time he had a project and a lot of other volunteers helped. Ms. Carrion stated that since he knew something about it, she wanted him to ask him if her name was on the list because she was looking like an idiot telling everybody that she was on the list and nobody knows what list she is talking about. Council Member Ochoa stated that he hadn't seen any list either so he didn't know what list she was talking about. Council Member Ochoa advised the Mayor this was not city business but if she wanted to, after city council, he would sit down and talk with her and maybe go by her house.

Mayor Nunez advised Ms. Carrion that Council Member Ochoa had stated that he would meet with her after the meeting.

Council Member Ochoa stated that he would do everything in his power to help anyone anywhere they could go, that he didn't belong to Keep Jacinto City Beautiful, he just helps like he does any other organization, Toys for Tots, if he is invited, the Mayor has a project and he does things on his own, but he would check on this for her and he would help her as much as he could, as an individual, not a council member and not for her vote.

Dale Pollock, 10209 Burman, stated that it felt so good to be out of the hospital, that Ms. Kim came to see him and he even has meat on him now. He stated that it had been a while since he had been here and he missed everyone. He stated that one time Carmela and Robert came to see him and he wasn't trying to be mean, but they came real late, at 10:25 p.m. and he goes to bed at 11:00 p.m..

Mayor Nunez stated it was good to see him and he looked good, thanks to his parents right now, Mr. and Mrs. Castillo, who was taking good care of him.

Dale stated that he thanked them for that and ask how the chief was doing and did he know he was out.

Council Member Ochoa stated that he wanted to tell Dale that he really looked good and if there was anything he could do to let him know. Dale ask him to tell Chris that he said hi.

Dale thanked everyone.

Council Member Lee announced that Calvary Baptist Church was having a candle light service on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and would like to invite everyone to come out and joint them. He stated the second thing he was concerned about was that he just

found out recently that there was an online newspaper called Jacinto City News and they have a forum called J C Topics and someone is posting on there using a name he has used for years as a pastor when he sends out newsletters from the church and whoever that person is, his attitudes and opinions were completely different from his, he was very hateful, he was racist and he wanted everyone to know that it was not him, that whoever was using that name was completely at the other end of the spectrum from him.

Mayor Nunez advised him that he knew that those of us who know him, knows what kind of person he was.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 6:45 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.

Joyce Raines  
City Secretary