

COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Lee, Garcia and Gonzales. City Manager Maner and City Secretary Raines on vacation. City Attorney DeFoyd arrived late.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia too approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Assistant City Manager Squyres ask that it be reflected in the minutes that Council Member Ochoa was present.

Assistant City Manager Squyres ask that the minutes reflect that Council Member Diaz Was present.

Mayor Nunez called upon the Department Heads for their reports:

Chief Ayala stated that he knew we were going to have a very busy month and he just wanted to say there was a lot going on out there now and you needed to be aware of your surroundings and he was sure they had heard about multiple shootings going on in the Houston area and we did have one yesterday, it was a robbery of a business at the Cell Phone place next to Tony's Seafood. They did cause injury but the person was in good condition and he again cautioned everyone to be aware where ever they went and reminded anyone leaving town to register with the police department for a vacation house check.

Jim Moore, Public Works Department, stated that he just wanted to report on all the Christmas lights they had up now and that everyone from Public Works would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that their breakfast was in the morning at 9:00 a.m. and their December calendar would be out tomorrow also and they were going to be very busy in the upcoming month.

Rosemary, Jacinto City Library, reported that the library was coming along and hopefully the staff could be back in to prepare the building by the middle of the month and hopefully Commissioner's Court would approve opening the building by the end of December or by the first of the year.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation Director, wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and stated that she had some very good news to report and she wanted to give the floor to the VIP Laurie Castillo and let her give them the information.

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Laurie Castillo and husband Victor stated they got news today that they were the ones that would be caring for Dale and they go to CPS to sign the papers tomorrow morning and then they would be picking him up from Texas Childrens and he would be staying with them.

Mayor Nunez stated they were very VIP.

Kim Bellotte stated that she would like to add that all she did was make one phone call after CPS called her and ask her if we had anybody in the city that would like to help them, that she made one phone call and it was taken care of. She stated that CPS wanted to honor the city, saying they had never seen a city pull behind a kid that was in need as much as our city had, so any help that we could give the Castillo's in any way would be greatly appreciated and they won't ask for it.

Mayor Nunez stated that was what she says, all of us working together makes the city a better place and she really appreciates what they are doing.

Council Member Ochoa ask for their address and was advised it was 10209 Burman.

There was discussion about a welcome home party for Dale.

Kim advised that our kids from Galena Park High School nominated and awarded Dale the Duke of his class for homecoming, they have had face book conversations about bullying, and no adult ask them to do this, they did it on their own and this just shows what kind of kids we have in this neighborhood.

There was discussion about the time of the party for Dale.

Mayor Nunez passed on her report, stating that she would like the City Manager to report on some of the grants we have.

#### City Manager's Report:

Lon stated that one thing he needed to report, not that he wanted to, but it was on our Gateway Project, that there were multiple problems with the contractor, the people who were supposed to build it went out of business and the parent company ended up taking it over and they just got over whelmed, they thought the bids was to low from the start and the city was going to be pulling the bond on that project, they had one chance to make it right and they actually went out and hired street labor to do it, they weren't actually

masons and it looks worse now than it did originally so we have notified everybody that we are going to pull the bond on it and we will actually demo the project and pull the facings Off of it and reapply, not from scratch because the underlying masonry work will still be there. He advised that we had also ask the architect to try to make it look a little more like what the original drawing that they approved looked like, a little bit more proportional and he stated they are going to try to work around that, that we can't afford to go back out and re-engineer it but perhaps we can make small modifications to it. He stated the good news was that the only thing we had paid for to date was the underlying masonry work and we were holding payment on everything else and once all the legal work was done, we would hopefully be coming back to council for approval to rebid the job.

He stated the other issue that he needed to talk to council about was the Round 2.2 GLO funding for Hurricane Ike disaster recovery and this was the same pool of money that we were drawing the big four projects that we would be receiving bids on at the next council meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. He Advised that we were originally scheduled to get money in Round 2.1 and there was a situation with the housing authorities and the current administration felt like they need to cave in to these housing advocates so they delayed us to Round 2.2, we had to jump through all kind of hoops for housing authorities and make sure that we were compliant and everything we do now for this or future CDBG Grant money will have to consider public housing in it, even if it has nothing to do with public housing, even if it is a pipe in the ground, we have to see how that applies to public housing in the city, even though we have very little public housing. He advised that the good news was that we went from the initial method of distribution plan, that was a draft being \$775,000.00, we protested that draft because it didn't accommodate cities well. In fact, those of us who did our fair housing workshops and our Fast Form, etc. by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September because we were told if we didn't do that we would not get Round 2.2 funding, well half of the cities in Harris County didn't get their Fast Form turned in, eleven of the twelve housing authorities in HGA region didn't get their Fast Forms turned in so after several of the cities did what they were supposed to do and nobody got penalized, because they extended the date to November 8<sup>th</sup> for everybody else but there was one or two, even with the extension, that didn't get their Fast Form in so that was just a way of saying that a little bit more money was in the pool and we got up at the public hearing and said at least give us that money, that those who got the Fast Form in on time deserved that extra money so in short the city will be getting \$20,000.00 extra dollars which brings the grand total of our grant to \$795,517.00 and we were looking at projects now guided by Kyle Reed and our engineers toward storm sewer projects, primarily down toward Jacinto Oaks and they might remember that we had one collapse during Ike and that was our justification, they are very tight justification, we would love to say we want to spend it on water lines or we want to spend it on streets but we can't do it, it has to be something that would be directly impacted by the hurricane or something severally underserved by the infrastructure during the hurricane so it will be very limited on what we can ask for but we

will have no trouble at all spending this three quarters of a million dollars. He stated that the problem in doing that was today they released the grant application form and one of the requirements that was new and nobody had heard of it until today, is that they want citizen input into the application process and the application is due the 9<sup>th</sup> of December so it was going to hard to get a lot of citizen input into that process by the 9<sup>th</sup> of December but they are dictating to us that we will have at least one public hearing on the application process and talk about what we are going to apply for at that public hearing and give citizens a chance to weigh in on it and he advised the Mayor that he was going to propose a public hearing to accommodate this on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting and that is the council meeting that we will be receiving all the bids back on the big project with the same pool of money. He stated it was a long way around it but we absolutely had to have a public hearing between now and the 9<sup>th</sup> of December or we will not qualify for this money and we certainly don't want to leave three quarters of a million dollars on the table.

Mayor Nunez advised that she would let the City Secretary know that we would hold a public hearing on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., Ms. Nunez stated now they knew why she passed the mike to the man who wore all different kind of hats.

Mayor Nunez stated there was no Unfinished Business and No New Business and ask for comments from members of the public and council.

Council Member Diaz thanked public works for the great job they did putting up the Christmas decorations and advised they would be working on the Christmas tree at the Town Center after Thanksgiving holidays.

Mayor Nunez wish each and everyone, from her house to their house, a safe and good Thanksgiving.

Council Member Lee Stated that he would like to say to each of the members at the council table and in the audience, God bless them and have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Diaz cautioned everyone to be careful shopping on black Friday because she would be out there.

City Attorney DeFoyd encouraged everyone to root for the University of Texas in their last game with Texas A&M.

Jacinto City Library advised that they were planning their annual Christmas Story Time with the Mayor and would advise the time and date.

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Cindy Miller advised that one of their seniors, Luther Miles from Galena Park, passed away.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 6:35 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