

COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 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 Ochoa and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Nunez called upon the Department Heads for their reports:

Chief Ayala thanked everyone for participating in National Night Out, stating that all parties had a good crowd and it was a great success. He advised that we had a resident of the city pass away and that an individual had been arrested and was under investigation.

Chief Squyres stated that they had a lot going on and advised that if anyone had any Hazardous materials they need to get rid of, such as paint, tires, etc., bring it to the fire station on Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m and they would take care of it. He explained how they were able to do this with no cost to the city. He discussed the Gateway Project which should be completed in about a week.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director stated he was happy to announce tonight that the water Line project across the street in the 200 and 300 blocks was 16 blocks and was going to be voted on tonight by council was long waited on and he appreciated the citizens understanding, that everybody was having problems and we did a lot better than some, that our water leaks were current as we spoke. He stated that we had some major problems in the water system and we needed to address them and this was a start. Mr. Reed advised that we were having some major problems with some trees due to the drought and if anyone say one that was dead, please report it, they had two fall on Saturday. He stated they were also having street problems and would try to keep them safe but to resurface at the present time would be a waste.

Mayor Nunez commended public works on the removal of the trees that fell on Holland.

Rosemary, Jacinto City Library, had pictures available of the remodeling of the library.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that Heritage Hall had Turkey Door Hangers, raffle tickets and Fiesta Dinner tickets available, to please see her if they were interested. She announced that on November 11, 2011 Heritage Hall would have their Thanksgiving Dinner, that Bunco was sponsored this time by Tina's Resale.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation Director, advised they had been very busy with open play and getting ready for the Pumpkin Fest and this year they were adding a dog costume contest to the events. She advised that they would start at 5:00 p.m and there would be vendors, the movie at 7:00 p.m., hay rides, etc., she encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the fun.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez recognized former Council Member Jose Ramon, Detective B. J. Silva. She stated that National Night Out was a busy night and we all enjoyed it and she wanted to thank Mario and Clyde for helping her and she knew the other Council Members were busy as well and everyone had a good time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated that he was going to keep it nice and short, that everything was going well and we were very thankful for the rain we had.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chief Squyres stated this was a CDBG Grant or HUD Grant coming from the Federal Government, the design phase had already been done, a little larger project than we had been doing in the past and as Kyle keeps stressing, we need to be aggressive with our water line projects. He discussed the amount of the grant, approximately nine hundred thousand for the construction and plan to have the bids back on November 10, 2011.

Mayor Nunez ask Mr. Reed if his department would be involved in this project and he advised that they would be over the construction and Harris County would have their inspectors

City Manager Maner stated that he wanted to assure the public and the council that we actively seek all federal funding that we can and we will continue to do so, but he also wanted to remind them that the Federal Government doesn't have any money, they are not giving us their money, they are giving us some of our money back.

A motion was made by council member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to authorize to advertise for bids for water line and fire protection construction project with bids due back on November 10, 2011. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. City Manager Maner stated that we had discussed garage sale fees during budget workshops and this ordinance set the garage sale fee at \$20.00, the garage sale fee is currently \$15.00 and it was raised from \$10.00 to \$15.00 approximately five years ago. He thinks that everyone knows that we passed a very tight budget and actually had a very minor reduction in the tax rate, but he talked to council and the public about these at the meetings as an alternative for revenue was to look at all of our user fees and that user fees were things that affect only the people who use them. He stated that he recommended to the council that we make these changes.

Mayor Nunez ask how many days were they allowed to hold a garage sale and was advised three consecutive days and they could have a garage sale every 90 days.

City Attorney DeFoyd read the first reading of Ordinance 2011-5 setting the fee for garage sale permits.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Ordinance 2011-5 setting fee for garage sale permits on the first reading.

Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. City Manager Maner stated that at the time we occupied the new community building, we set the fees the same as we initially set for the old building and this was not putting any money in the coffer for electricity, attendant, etc., and that we wanted to keep it where the citizens could afford to rent the building. Mr. Maner went over the present rates and the proposed rates, stating that he thought they were reasonable and below anything in area and that only Jacinto City residents could rent the building.

City Attorney DeFoyd read Resolution 2011-13R setting fees for rental of Town Center.

Council Member Gonzales ask how it was handled if they have alcohol and City Manager Maner advised that if they were having alcohol, they were required to have two officers regardless of the number of people and if they didn't have alcohol, they were required to have one officer for each 100 people and they paid the officers direct.

Council Member Lee ask how often did we have to retain the security deposit and was advised that we very rarely ever had to keep the deposit.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Diaz to approve Resolution 2011-13R setting fees for the rental of town center.

Vote: 4 For 1 Against (Ochoa)

Larry Schion ask why Council Member Ochoa did not want to vote to raise the fees

On the rental of the community building.

Council Member Ochoa stated he didn't believe we needed to raise it at this time due to the economy and because it was a 35% increase.

Mr. H. G. Wooten stated they needed to consider the electric bill because it would be high down there and the city would not make much money. Mr. Wooten thanked Cindy and Heritage Hall for the Turkey Hat and that today he might be considered a member down there. He thanked the city employees and the department heads for doing a good job. He discussed a gas leak in front of his house and how dangerous it could be and the importance of notifying Center Point and getting it repaired. Mr. Wooten thanked the Mayor and Council for the good job they were doing.

Donna Dailey reported that she had enjoyed National Night Out, that things like this make you proud of our city. She advised that in her and her neighbors back yard there was a tree that looked like it was going to fall and she would like to have someone look at it. Ms. Dailey stated she was against an increase in the garage sale permit, that so many people had to sell their children's old cloths to buy them new ones and she would appreciate it if they would look at this again and possibly pro rating this cost. Ms. Dailey stated that she didn't have a problem with the increase in the community building rates, that if you could afford to have a party you could afford to pay the rates.

Jose Ramon, 10811 Munn, stated that he had a question on what percentage that was on the garage sale and was advised that it was 33%. He stated that 33% on the worst Recession he could remember, people out of work and he never would agree with Donna Dailey but he guessed it was what it was and people do these garage sales out of necessity most of the time and some of us are lucky, we have employment but a lot of people do it out of necessity to pay the bills and they want to increase. He stated that he agreed on the increase of the hall because that was a luxury, if you can afford a party, you have to pay the price but at a garage sale they don't make \$50.00 and he was disappointed in the city council for even thinking of that.

Wanda Dowlearn, 10337 Oswego, that two or three years ago, before almost a whole new group except for a few, she had ask for one thing to be done in this city, memorializing a park for the youth that had passed away in this city that have played on these parks. She stated that everybody said ok, the city council agreed with it, the former Mayor agreed with it. She ask Council Member Ochoa if he remembered this and wasn't his seat over Parks and Recreation and could we go ahead and get this into works. Council Member Ochoa stated that we could certainly talk about it and if city council wants to do something, they could. Ms. Dowlearn stated, for the new council members, her son was

one of the boys she knew for sure and also a former coach that passed away and all grew up playing on these fields. Ms. Dowlearn stated that we have a lot of these fields that we didn't even know who they were named after, and ask Kim if she knew the history behind the fields. There was general discussion on what was involved and what she was asking to be done. Ms. Dowlearn stated that whatever it takes, she wanted this plan that had been discussed before to be executed.

Council Member Ochoa suggested that along the sides of the community building there were some bricks that could be – Ms. Dowlearn stopped him and said no. Council Member Ochoa ask her where would she want these plaques. She stated one of these fields where the children grew up on, she didn't care which one. She stated that we have fields named after people we didn't even know who they were, they had tried to do the research and couldn't even find the families.

Mayor Nunez ask the city attorney if it was approved by council at that time that we do that, Wanda stated that it was voted on. City Attorney DeFoyd stated that he didn't think anyone had any plan. Council Member Lee ask her if she wanted to rename a field or put in a plaque. Wanda stated to rename a ball park memorial field, not one person's name, Jacinto city Memorial Field was fine with her, she stated they had already voted on going ahead and doing this and they had no problems with it, she knew the city had gone through a lot of different changes but it was voted on and should be on the minutes and she hated for Ms. Raines to have to go back and dig that out. Ms. Raines stated that she honestly did not remember it ever being voted on. Council Member Ochoa stated that he didn't think it was voted on, just discussed and Ms. Raines stated that it was discussed but there was never any action taken and City Attorney DeFoyd stated that he did not recall any action being taken, that he knew he didn't do a resolution. Ms. Dowlearn stated she knew nothing was ever done in concrete but she was just saying that when they initially ask everybody here if this was worth talking about or worth doing she believed everyone agreed. Council Member Ochoa stated that he guessed that we could put on the agenda to discuss. There was general discussion on what was wanted. Mayor Nunez advised that we would work on that; she thought it would be good to remember these children.

Mr. Schion advised them that he knew someone who make these plaques and he would take care of getting them and the installation once they decided what they were going to do.

Donna Dailey discussed why the parks were named what they are and suggested they might look at doing a plaque and putting it at the gym.

Mayor Nunez introduced Officer Becker, stating that he was a very good officer.

Nancy Gosney ask if the city had the ability to scan our pets, or when the dog catcher picks up our pets because a lot of her neighbors have the micro chip put in their animals and she would like to know if we had the ability to do that. Mr. Reed advised that we did not have the devise to scan it and Ms. Gosney ask what it would take to get the device, that people spend a lot of money getting these micro chips put in and we don't have the ability to scan it. Mr. Reed stated that we were trying to do this a couple of years ago and just never did but we could look into it, at that time it was pretty expensive but he could talk to the vet and see. Mr. Reed stated that we didn't pick up a whole lot the citizens dogs. Ms. Gosney stated that she wanted to give special thanks to Mr. Reed and his crews, that she had seen them out night and day and she appreciated the work they do. Ms. Gosney stated that she also wanted to add a special thanks to Officer Becker for the job he did in helping take care of a crime problem they were having in Jacinto Oaks.

Council Member Garcia stated this was just a reminder out to the residents, that she had run into several citizens that didn't know what to do when they had water or sewer complaints so she keeps telling them that if they can help us educate our community, that any time there is a water or sewer complaint during the weekend hours or after 5:00 p.m. to please call the police department and they have a schedule of employees over certain departments and they can contact these employees to take care of the problem.

Larry Schion stated that he agreed with Mr. Ramon about the garage sale fees and thinks they should just leave it like it is.

Mr. Raul Rodriguez, 1410 Jennifer, thanked everyone for their help with their LULAC BBQ for scholarships, that a lot of people came out and helped. He thanked the ex Mayor for his help.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines".

Joyce Raines
City Secretary