

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Ochoa, Diaz, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Maner, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala reminded everyone of National Night Out, October 4, 2011; stating that we had nine locations and that flyers were available with the addresses. He encourage everyone to come out and meet the neighbors, that many residents had helped them with information to solve crime in the city.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that the sidewalk project on Wiggins and Burman was almost complete and the contractor was doing a good job. He commented on the number of water leak we are having and that on Saturday night we had to shut down the entire city to repair a 14" water line, explaining how difficult it was to repair this size line. He thanked T-Construction for helping them and advised this was the second time the line had broken and it took them some time to get parts. He explained why they had to open the fire hydrants, that we are very conservative that we don't open them unless we have too. Mr. Reed stated the drought was expected to continue into next year and we are caught up with the leaks at the present time; he explained that we had to contract some of this out because our people were worn out.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation Director stated that she lives in the City of Houston and commented on how long it took for them to repair leaks. Ms. Bellotte advised that we have a contract with our local library for story time and computer classes and it is all going well. She also advised that we have a new Zumba teacher and will be having two classes a week starting on October 3rd, and she would be handing out flyers on the Pumpkin Festival which was scheduled for October 29th.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, Stated that thanks to Council Member Diaz the seniors were able to take a tour of Sam's on Tuesday and really enjoyed it. She advised they would have their monthly breakfast on September 29th and also Site Council and on Friday they had their birthday party and that the calendar is on the website.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library, advised they were moving slow on the library remodel right now, still in the construction stage where they are tearing everything down, she advised that South Houston Library would be closing on October 3rd, that she was still at the Crosby Library and to call if they needed anything.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez commented on the Meet and Greet with Commissioner Morman , stating that we had a good crowd, went over some of the people attending and thanked Joyce, Kathy, Cindy and everyone for their help. She advised that we have a lot of upcoming events and we all need to work together. Mayor Nunez thanked the employees and citizens for making her job easy.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated that he, along with the Mayor, had talked with Commissioner Morman and Jack Rodriguez and they had both assured them that they were going to do everything they could to help us and we were very fortunate to have people like this to work with.

City Manager Maner commented on the water bill we had paid City of Houston, stating that it was about ten thousand dollars over our normal payment due to the number of water leaks that we are having and that Public Works was doing a good job repairing the leaks as quickly as possible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The following bids were received on the sale of surplus vehicles:

2001 Ford C/V- Minimum bid \$1,000.00

Sylvester Gamez \$1,100.00

A motion was made by Council Member Diaz and seconded by Council Member Garcia to award the bid on the 2001 Ford C/V to Sylvester Gamez for \$1,100.00. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

1999 Ford Taurus – Minimum Bid \$1,000.00

Ezeucial Torres \$1,300.00

A motion was made by Council Member Ochoa and Seconded by Council Member Garcia to award the bid on the 1999 Ford Taurus to Ezequial Torres For \$1,300.00. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

1999 McCoy Miller Ambulance – Minimum Bid \$15,000.00

Jose Renteria \$7,000.00

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to reject the bid received on the ambulance because it didn't meet the Minimum bid. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. City Manager Maner stated that the Variance Board had met on September 14, 2011 to hear the request by Mr. Juan Robledo for a variance to build a metal structure closer to the rear property line at 11301 Market Street than is allowed by the building code and that the Board voted to allow Mr. Robledo to build the structure 7' 9" from the property line with fire walls to protect the neighbors.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Diaz to approve the recommendation by the Board to allow Mr. Robledo to build the structure. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mr. Robledo was in the audience and thanked them for allowing him to build the structure, stating that they wanted clean up around their property and help keep the city clean.

Mayor Nunez advised that Mr. Wooten was the only member of the board present and thanked him for his services.

2. A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to approve Resolution 2011-12R setting the 2011 tax rate for Jacinto City at 0.795926 per \$100.00 valuation.

City Manager Maner stated this was the effective tax rate which would generate the same revenue on the same amount of property as last year.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to approve Resolution 2011-12R setting the tax rate for 2011 at 0.795926 per
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\$100.00 valuation. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. City Attorney DeFoyd stated that he had review the contract with Election Services and Software for election services and equipment for the May 2012 city election and recommended that it be approved by the city council.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Diaz to Approve the contract with Election Services and Software for equipment and services for the May 2012 city election. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. City Attorney DeFoyd read a Proclamation proclaiming Tuesday, October 4, 2011 as National Night Out in Jacinto City.

Mayor Nunez encouraged everyone to come out and participate in this event.

5. Council Member Garcia thanked the Public Works Department for the good Service they provide to our community, that they continued to provide the best service possible to our residents and businesses by taking care of any issue as quickly as possible but depending on the case, it is sometimes difficult to do. She call attention to Saturday, September 10th when a main water line on Market Street needed to be fixed and this particular problem affected the entire city. She stated that she, along with other members On council, received calls from residents wondering why we had no water, by then she had learned of the problem and was able to explain to the residents and assure them that public Works was taking care of the problem. She stated that on Saturday, September 17th, she received a call from Kyle Reed, asking her to notify the council and people she knew that we would have the water shut down at midnight that Sunday to work on the main water line. Ms. Garcia stated that she appreciated that he informed the city officials about this ahead of time so they were able to relay this information to people they knew and ask them to pass it along.

Council Member Garcia stated that she understood that leaks are unplanned, however, many of our citizens and business owners would like to have been informed ahead of time before the water was shut off or when any emergency situation arises, giving them a substantial amount of time, if possible, to work out something where their daily activity would not be interrupted and she would like to propose some type of emergency situation notification protocol, whether it be a water leak or some other emergency situation and she would like to propose that Jacinto City implement an automated phone program that would dial the home phone of people that could be affected by a disruption in their water service or any other emergency. She stated that she knew there were things that would

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have to be considered, such as cell phones being accepted, busy signals or no answer situations and would phone numbers be kept private. She advised that she had spoken with

some other cities at a recent HCMC meeting and they had e-mailed her some information on how they handle the situation.

Mayor Nunez stated that she would like to wait until Lon Squyres was back to discuss this because he would be familiar with this.

City Manager Maner advised that we would need to look into the different methods available.

Mayor Nunez advised that in regard to the water being turned off of Saturday, she had called people she knew and ask them to advise the friends and neighbors and she had gone around to some of the businesses and advised them as well.

Council Member Ochoa stated that he had made calls and also ask them to pass the message along.

City Manager Maner advised that it could be looked up on the website.

Chief Ayala stated that they advise the dispatchers so they will be able to inform citizens that call.

Mr. Paul Dailey stated that he got a text message and passed it along to everyone else.

There was general discussion as to the many different ways citizens were advised of the issue.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that she did get phone calls and went around her block and advised her neighbors and she was glad that it was at midnight which had helped a lot. She announced that the Seniors were raffling off the basket she had and the drawing would be October 31st at their Halloween Costume party. Ms. Daily advised that if they were 60 and not participating at Heritage Hall, they were missing a lot and she went over some of the upcoming events they have planned.

Paul Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that when he and Donna first got together, she said she lived in the best city ever and went over some of the things that made he agree with her.

Larry Schion stated that he lived in Crosby and Council Member Ochoa called him about the water and he called his daughter-in-law, who now lived in the house, and advised her.

Mr. Schion commented on an incident about an elderly lady that the police department stopped, and he was riding in the back seat with her, and just gave her a warning and had been very courteous and he just wanted to thank Chief Ayala because it hadn't always been that way.

Council Member Garcia encourage everyone to go out and enjoy National Night Out.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Raines
City Secretary