

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2011/2012, AUGUST 25, 2011, 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Special Session on Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2011/2012 with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Ochoa, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Maner and City Secretary Raines. Council Members Diaz, Council Member Garcia and City Attorney DeFoyd absent.

City Manager Maner stated that the council has had a couple of workshops on the budget and at the last workshop he presented this proposed budget to the council and they were well aware of it and he would just like to make a couple of statements in this public hearing for the records. He stated that the budget he had proposed for the coming year was the best one we could have under the current economic conditions and that will allow the city to maintain the current level of services that we provide to the citizens, that there would be no cuts in the services, there are no layoffs, no city employees will be terminated. He stated there were a few unfilled positions that wouldn't be filled and the proposed budget provides a 2% raise for city employees with one exception and it anticipates the city council setting the tax rate at the effective tax rate which under state law was defined as the rate that would produce the same amount of income on the same properties as the previous year. He stated there was no water or sewer rate increase anticipated, although, he would state again publically that at some point in the future that was inevitable with the continuing raises we are seeing from the City of Houston. He stated those were what he considered the good points and there were some bad points that he wanted the public to know about, that it contains almost no capital improvement, in other words, it was almost a maintenance budget to maintain the status quo. He advised that we did have some grant funded projects going on such as water line project. He stated that something he didn't like, but felt it was a necessity, was that it contained a 2% raise for full time employees and did not provide a raise for part time employees and he would also recommend, probably at the next council meeting, a couple of raises in a few user fees and he thought we needed to study other user fees but he would specifically present to the council a proposal to raise the user fees for the rental of the Town Center and garage sale permits and he thinks we will find others.

City Manager Maner went over the Budget Summary and advised there were copies available if they would like to read along. He stated that he was just going to read the budget summary and we were not going to go through the budget as we did in detail at the workshop, however, he was open for any questions from council or the public.

He advised that for 2011/2012 the projected income from General Fund was \$5,146,120.00 and this was about \$134,000.00 less than last year and the projected expenditures for General Fund were \$5,137,620.00 which included the \$520,970.00 Debt service which pays the certificates of obligations.

He went over each of the departments, stating that if they would look at the third column that could see the change from last year. He stated that the income less expenditures left a Surplus of \$8,500.00 and when you were talking about a five million dollar budget, that was raiser thin.

He advised that the projected income in the Water Fund was \$2,852,230.00, projected Expenditures of \$2,844,610.00 leaving a surplus of \$7,620.00 which again was very thin. He stated that was the summary and he was open for any questions.

There were no questions.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m..

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Ochoa, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Diaz and City Attorney DeFoyd absent.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala advised the Mayor, Council and public of a robbery and shooting on Saturday and that they were working on leads. He also reported that we have had several burglaries in Jacinto Oaks and they have three suspects in custody and ask the public please report any suspicious activity.

Chief Squyres reported that we had a lot of infrastructure going on the grant front.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, reported that we were keeping our water leaks repaired as soon as possible, that we were having trouble pouring concrete because of the drought conditions, that we were still in stage one, that the citizens had been very co-operative and ask that they continue to water sparingly.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation reminded everyone that preschool started on Monday and they had started a new program for the three year olds called the boo hoo program and explained what it was. She also stated that since the library had closed, Linda and Hugo were coming over to the gym and helping out with some programs and that the pools were now closed.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that the September calendar would be on the website tomorrow and thanked the city for the new television they had provided the seniors.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto city Library, reported that the library was now closed and the demolition was well underway, that if anyone need to return anything, they could do so at the Galena Park or Wallisville locations.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez introduced Dawn Harris from Commissioner Morman's office and called attention to a poster asking the citizens to join Galena Park and Jacinto City for a Meet and Greet with Commissioner Morman on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Jacinto City Town Center. She recognized Martha Salinas from the Variance Board, Ray Morlock from the Planning and Zoning Board and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith. Mayor Nunez stated that hurricane season was upon us and she felt sure we were prepared. Chief Squyres advised that we were well prepared and coordinate with the county and surrounding areas. Mayor Nunez advised that for some of the people who did not come in for the budget hearing, we had a summary hearing for the public and that City Manager Maner really worked hard on it and we appreciate it.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated everything was going well, as you could hear from the department heads but he would like to add to something that was mentioned and that was everything you hear these department heads talk about, city events, etc., they are all posted on the city's website. It is new, we have only had it up a few months but it was excellent and you could get a lot of information, not only on events but such things as building permits, etc. it was very helpful and thinks it will answer a lot of questions.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. City Manager Maner read the first reading of Ordinance 2011-3 Adopting a budget for FY 2011/2012.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to Approve Ordinance 2011-3 Adopting a Budget for FY 2011/2012 on the first reading. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

2. City Manager Maner advised that the City of Jacinto City had an official Investment Policy and the law requires that it be approved yearly. He stated the policy that we have had for many years is a standard policy that we adopted from the Texas Municipal League forms and our auditors had pointed out that we probably needed to make one proposed amendment to it and the amendment was in number 11.0, he read the current provision and the proposed amendment and stated the title was called Diversification.

Mayor Nunez stated that she had talked with the City Manager and he explained thoroughly what good this proposed amendment would be for the city and she was asking the council to approved the Investment Policy along with the proposed amendment.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approved the Jacinto city Investment Policy along with the proposed amendment to Section 11.0. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

3. Mayor Nunez advised that for the past several years, Mr. Ed Heathcott, who was also President of Harris County Mayors and Council's Association, Councilman in the City of Jersey Village, had served as our representative on the board and he had ask Council to approve him to serve another term on the Board of Directors of the Harris County Appraisal District. She stated he was a true friend to Jacinto City, was a good person and keeps us up to date on the appraisal district.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to approve Resolution 2011-10R nominating Mr. Ed Heathcott for a position on the Board of Directors of the Harris County Appraisal District. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

4. City Manager Maner reported that the Dangerous Building Board had met last night to consider the four addresses that had been through the process, of which there were many steps, and that all the legal requirements had been met and the Board voted to recommend to council to have all four structures demolished.

Chief Squyres presented a power point presentation on the four structures, stating that if the council voted to remove the structures, the owners would have 30 days to protest.

There were general questions and discussion concerning the structures.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to accept the Dangerous Building Board's recommendation and remove the structures at 10337 Lane, 10926 Muscatine, 10238 Wiggins and 11210 Oswego. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

5. Chief Ayala advised that we had advertised these vehicles in the paper before and had received no bids and he would like to ask the council to authorize advertising the vehicles again, lowering the minimum bids to \$1,000.00 each on the cars and \$15,000.00 on the ambulance.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Ochoa to re-advertise to sell the surplus police vehicles with a minimum bid of \$1,000.00 each vehicle and the ambulance with a minimum bid of \$15,000.00 with bids due back on September 22, 2011. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

There were no comments from the public.

Council Member Lee stated that he would like to commend our Police and Fire Department, that all of our departments do a fine job but they had both been real busy lately and he would just like to say that he appreciated them.

Council Member Gonzales stated that the ongoing sidewalk project at the elementary was probably an inconvenience for a lot of people picking up their children but it was going to be well worth it once it is finished and Kyle had advised him that it would probably be finished within two weeks.

Council Member Ochoa wished everyone a safe and happy Labor Day.

Council Member Garcia commended the Public Works Department on doing a good job, stating that they were out there at all hours of the day and night and she appreciated everyone of them.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Raines, City Secretary