

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Ochoa, Diaz, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Maner, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Lee absent due to illness in family.

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: 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala reported that everything was going fine, that he had been in school this week.

Chief Squyres stated that he wanted to mention that Mayor Nunez's wrist was probably sore, that we had been talking for some time about the grant we had received, the 3.4 million dollars and the hang up on that had been the environmental review process, we got that back and there was about 100 places for her to sign, she did all that for us and we shipped all that back and it was now in a 30 day review process and then we should be able to go out for bids on them in about 30 days, so council can be ready to see two of those projects, the generator project and the pipe bursting project on their calendar sometime within the following month.

Mayor Nunez stated this was the 3.4 plus million and she had a lot of papers to sign.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that she also signed the contracts on the sidewalk project on Burman and Wiggins which should be starting on Monday and they wanted to have it completed before school started. He also advised that the forms had been placed for the Gateway Project and we are still in drought conditions and thanked everyone for working with them.

Mayor Nunez ask that he please let his guys know that we appreciate the good job they do out in that hot sun.

Kim Bellotte, Parks & Recreation Director, reported that they had the end of summer party today for their swim team and swimming lessons and had about 100 people attend and everything was going great.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, reported that all was going great and advised that their calendar was available on the table listing their upcoming events.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library, advised that August 13th would be the last day the library would be open before closing for renovations. She showed samples of what would be used in renovating the inside of the library and that they would be closed through March and if customers need a library, the North Channel Library on Wallisville would be the closest as the Galena Park Library would also be closing for renovations.

Mayor Nunez ask that everyone remember Council Member Lee's family in their Prayers.

Mayor Nunez recognized former Mayor Diaz, Former Council Members Garey, Nichols and Ramon.

Mayor Nunez advised that she received a call from Commissioner Morman on Tuesday morning letting her know that everything that had been put on the agenda for the Commissioners to approve, had been approved, and he again emphasized that he is willing and able to help us here in Jacinto city if there is anything he can help us with.

She recognized Troop 716 and their Troop Leader Mr. Raul Gonzales and stated the troop was here because they wanted to do a project and she was going to get with the Council to see what kind of project we might have for the Boy Scouts and assist them and we were happy to see them here. She ask each scout to introduce themselves.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner advised that beginning this year, Harris County Tax Office would be collecting Jacinto city taxes, you would not pay your taxes directly here. He stated that the company that took care of this for many years for us was going out of that business so we were contracting with the county to do it and it would really be a benefit for the citizens, first of all because it will save them some money, it was actually cheaper than us doing it ourselves and secondly, the citizens will be able to pay their taxes, if they choose to do so, on line, they can use a credit or debit card so he ask the citizens in the audience to let their neighbors know and we would be doing more to let people know and starting this year the taxes would be collected by the Harris County Tax Office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The Mayor and Council was advised that we had not received any bids on the surplus police vehicles or the ambulance.

Mayor Nunez ask where did we go from here and ask Chief Ayala to comment.

Chief Ayala stated that he would get with the City Attorney, the City Manager and Chief Squyres and they would discuss this and see what route they were going to take.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to amend general fund budget in the amount of \$5,000.00 for a one time data Conversion charge in accordance with the contract with Harris County for collection of ad Valorem taxes. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, stated that he was concerned about the library, that he understood that it was going to close August 13th and ask if anybody had thought about getting a book mobile to serve the community or leasing some space here in the city to provide some books, like a scale down version of the library. Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library advised that not that she knew of at this time, she could speak to someone in the head office but this was something they got a grant for. Mr. Hernandez stated that he was a long time patron of this library and he really liked what we have here and he hated to see it closed for such a long period of time. He ask if this had anything to do with the \$800,000.00 grant that previous Commissioner Garcia had mentioned during Town Meetings that Jacinto City was going to get. He stated that it had come to his attention that Jacinto City Library get \$1,500.00 from the city budget and was that correct.

City Manager Maner advised that the library was a county library, the county built the building, they own the building although it is on our property, we maintain the building, we provide telephone service, we provide electricity and that is the agreement we have with Harris County. He advised Mr. Hernandez that the \$800,000.00 he heard Commissioner Garcia mention was the total amount split up between Jacinto city, Galena Park and one other city.

Mrs. Flores, 10437 N. LaCrosse, stated that she lived on N. Lacrosse and she had picked up some signatures and the street there was damaged, it has sinkholes and she was here to see if they could just repair the street and put some bumps because the yellow busses pass by there speeding about 40 miles per hour, she was ask to clarify and she stated the yellow busses from the school. There was discussion on the location and she advised it was the whole street.

Mayor Nunez ask Mr. Reed to check on this for us.

Mr. Reed stated that we had several areas in the city due to the drought and he hated to blame everything on the drought but that is actually what is happening, the base under the street is shrinking and hopefully we will get some rain out of this system we have and we would be starting to repair some streets, he stated that he had looked over there and we had other areas that were worse, we were going to be repairing streets, if they are dangerous we don't want that and we will repairing those but until we get out of this drought, it was a waste of money unless it was dangerous. Ms. Flores ask him how about the bumps because of the yellow buses that keep speeding through there. Mr. Reed stated that he would get in contact with the Chief and the City Manager and Council, that he didn't make that decision.

Chief Squyres recommended that she call HISD and complain, that every bus had a number on it, get the number, what time it came by and what it was doing and call in on them and he felt sure she would see some slowing down on them.

City Manager Maner stated that Chief Ayala was here and he knew that he would be keeping an eye on that.

Council Member Garcia stated that she wanted to thank Kim Bellotte, Kyle Reed and Glenda Squyres for the presentations they had done in the last three days, all of them were very informational and they have over 30 parents coming to these classes and we have introduced them to the City Manager, the City Mayor, the City Director, who is who in the departments, who the liaisons, who their council people are and they keep covering different topics and the impression she gets from their faces is that they want more information. She stated that today they were talking about water conservation and they were able to give them some water drip containers, etc. where they can measure if they have a water leak in their home and so far they have had a good turn out as far as kids and parents and she just wanted to thank the directors for helping with it. That Detective Walker came out and gave a drug education class and the kids had ask for this and they were excited about the drug dog.

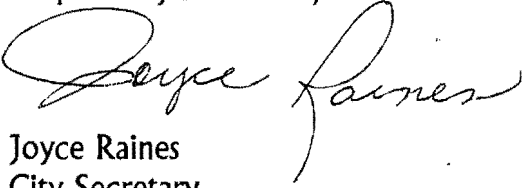
Councilman Ochoa stated that he had a letter that he had received from one of our citizens concerning the sidewalks on Holland Street and it was from Maria and Humberto Gonzales, that he wasn't going to read the whole letter and would give it to the city secretary, that basically, they wanted to thank Kyle and the city workers for repairing that section on Holland by the trailer parks but they were concerned about vehicles still parking there and in their letter they mentioned for us to get with the police chief and see if he could do something about that, they were real happy that they are able to walk on that sidewalk without fear of getting hurt because of the big holes that section had so they wanted to thank public works and it also said Mayor Rachel for fixing the sidewalks on Holland Street.

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Mayor Nunez stated those were the kind of letter that we like to get.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary