

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 14, 2011 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 Woman Diaz and seconded by Councilman Gonzales to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Nunez ask for reports from the department heads.

Chief Ayala reported that they now have nine locations for National Night Out and if anyone is interested in hosting a party to please contact the police department. He ask that the residents in Jacinto Oaks please watch and report any unusual activities in the addition as they have had several home burglaries in the area.

Chief Squyres advised that we had received the contract for the \$800,000.00 plus water line grant so if you live in the 300 or 400 block of anything South of Market St. you were going to be getting new water lines and the whole project was like \$1.1 million and was a huge effort on the cities part. He referred to a program they had participated with the county in writing a grant which got them where the county all has the same accountability and explained how the system worked to be able to know where a fire fighter was at all time and if they were in any trouble or they can communicate the fire fighter if they need to, he discussed how much they cost and that we had received them at no charge.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, discussed the number of water leaks we were having and ask that you please notify them if you see a leak of any size. He stated that we had one leak run from Sunday morning until they finally found it on Monday around 2:00 p.m. and we lost almost ½ million gallons of water. He stated the only good thing about this drought was that it had run the mosquitoes off. He stated that Mayor Nunez had wanted to go around and see some of the spots and he took her out to Jacinto Oakes to about 15 of them and they had started pouring concrete back today where they had to tear up driveways. He reminded everyone that we were in phase one of the Drought Contingency Plan to water as little as they could and between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. in the morning and after 6:00 p.m. in the evening.

Mayor Nunez stated that she was amazed to see that they had to break the driveways to correct the water leaks and his men had really been working, that in Jacinto Oaks there were a lot of driveways that had to be repaired.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that she wanted to thank just about every citizen in here, the Mayor and Council, department heads and departments for all the support on the 4th of July. She stated that usually on the bicycle parade they had 15 to 20 kids to participate and this year she lost count and estimated between 50 to 75 for the bike parade this year and every one had a great time. She thanked the police department, fire department and public works for all their help. She stated that there was approximately 285 people at the pool party and there was no complaints from anyone. She advised at the movie we gave away 1000 hotdogs and estimated that we had over 1000 people at the movie, it was a great evening and everyone had good things to say. She stated that as she had mentioned before, our swimming lessons were booked for every session and we would be starting our last session on July 18th, she was bringing in more staff and she was also teaching herself and we were about \$5,000.00 over what we made in swimming lessons last year. She announced that for the first time ever, our swim team was going to a regional meet in Texas City and we had 23 people competing from Jacinto City, this would be at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning and everyone was welcome to come and they would be swimming against 1500 people. She announced that Baylor College of Medicine was doing a research study and they were asking for Latinos in certain zip codes for kids three to five to be in a research study, they were trying to see how much the community has influence on their physical activities, she discussed that they would have to do and the parents would be compensated for it and it would also help us understand how much the parks and recreation facilities are being used. She announced that the baseball league was doing a kick ball tournament to try to raise money that she did not have all the information yet.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, advised that everything was going great and Donna Daily would be talking about all the events they have going on.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library, discussed the summer reading program and other programs they have going on and stated that at this time the library was scheduled for closing in August for the renovations to the building.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez thanked Kim, Ana and all the volunteers who works so hard at the 4th of July event, that it was such a success and everything was free except for the vendors that were there. She reported that at the end of last month she and Chief Squyres went to the Economic Alliance meeting in Pasadena, Commissioner Morman was the speaker and they got in touch with him again and he said that anything he could do for Jacinto City he was there for us and was sure that we would be very well received when they visited at Commissioner's Court and they would be breaking ground today after the meeting for the Gateway Project.

Mayor Nunez acknowledged former Mayor Christopher Diaz, former Councilman Damus Garey and Dawn Harris, representing Commissioner Morman's office.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated that everyone was busy, that all was going well and to let us know if there were any problems.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

City Manager Maner read the following bids received on the sidewalk project on Burman and Wiggins:

T Construction LLC	\$123,815.00
W. A. Robbins Construction Inc.	\$110,312.48
G. W. Phillips Construction	\$120,720.00
Panorama Construction	\$148,137.00
Teamwork Construction	\$149,370.00

City Manager Maner stated that as was usual on these type of bids, what he would ask the council to do would be to allow the public works director, himself and the city attorney to review the bids and the council authorize awarding it to the lowest qualified bid.

A motion was made by Councilman Gonzales and seconded by Councilman Ochoa to have the bids reviewed by the city attorney, and award to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Councilman Gonzales stated that he had ask all the council members to come up with a nominee for this Charter Review Committee and he would like each member to make their nomination, get a second and vote on them individually.

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to nominate Tammy Carter for the charter review committee and the motion was seconded by Councilman Lee. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Councilman Lee nominated Damus Garey to serve on the charter review committee and the motion was seconded by Councilman Ochoa. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Council Woman Diaz nominated Ray Fernandez to serve on the charter review committee and the motion was seconded by Council Woman Garcia. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Councilman Ochoa nominated Javier Hernandez to serve on the charter review committee and the motion was seconded by Councilman Gonzales. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Nunez apologized for passing Council Woman Garcia.

Council Woman Garcia nominated Robert Hernandez to serve on the charter review committee and the motion was seconded by Council Woman Diaz. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Nunez named the people appointed to the Charter Review Commission stating that she knew they would do a good job for the city and she thanked them for their willingness to volunteer their time.

2. Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, stated that for 27 years Harris County had provided food handling classes free of charge and they no longer do this so in order for us to be in compliance with our contract with Harris County Area Ageing, you have to be food management certified through the City of Houston and it is \$70.00 per person and a two day course that we have to go too.

Mayor Nunez called for a motion to amend the Heritage Hall budget in the amount of \$300.00 for these classes as it was something that had to be done regardless.

A motion was made by Council Woman Diaz and Seconded by Councilman Ochoa to amend Heritage Hall budget code 22-6863 in the amount of \$300.00 for food management training classes. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Mr. James Berry, Jr., 11009 Flaxman stated that he had a presentation to make and ask if it was proper to have the Mayor come up to the podium, he stated that he hatched this plan on election night and he had the materials in his truck and it took him a little while to get it all done but he figured her being the first lady mayor of the city that she needed a little bit of horse power so he had this made for her. Mr. Berry presented her with a gavel and advised that it was engraved Rachel Nunez, Mayor of Jacinto City, May 14, 2011 and the wood it was made from was grown right here in Jacinto City, it was a tree that fell in his back yard and he saved the wood.

Mayor Nunez thanked Mr. and Mrs. Berry for the gavel, that she appreciated it very much.

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen Dr., stating that she was the President of Heritage Hall and

she just wanted to keep them advised about what they were doing down there and thanks to their director, Cindy, they were always very active, they always had something going on, they were not just sitting home doing nothing, they always have something going on and they just wanted to let the citizens of Jacinto City, who might not be involved, know or maybe you have parents who are not involved know that we are there five days a week, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and it was also a good place to go if it was hot at your house, it was just a good place to go, they play games and have a good meal for \$1.00. She went over the Heritage Hall monthly calendar outlining all the activities and trips they have going on. She thanked Council Woman Diaz for arranging for them to go to Joe V's yesterday and that on July 19th they were having a cookie and coffee round table discussion with Council Woman Diaz and the suggestion box was full. She thanked Kim for arranging water aerobics and senior swim time for them. She stated that Jacinto City has a lot of things going on and we need to take advantage of them, she also advised that they would be starting a ceramic class if anyone was interested.

Mayor Nunez thanked Donna for all she does for Heritage Hall and the city.

Mr. H. G. Wooten, 11006 Munn, stated he would be 86 years old on Sunday and they were going to have a birthday party for him at the Opry on Saturday night and he would appreciate it if everybody came, they had the best band he knew of and they were going to have a special program for a little girl named Abby Goff, she was going to sing a song for him that she wrote and he would like everybody to come. Mr. Wooten stated that he was sure proud of our little Mayor, that she had a big gavel and he was going to be careful what he said.

Larry Schion, 506 Hare-Cooke Rd, Crosby Texas, stated he missed coming to these meetings that it used to give him something to do on Thursday nights, it was fun and we got a lot of stuff accomplished. He stated that he worked hard for all these people up here and this was the way our council used to run when he lived here, sometime there is a little heated discussion but in general right now it is running perfect, we don't have any complaints from the people and this was what he donated his time and money for and he was very proud of what they have up there, even the Mayor's big gavel. He stated that he had \$45.00 in his pocket and he wanted to give it to Heritage Hall to sponsor 15 plates for anyone who didn't have the \$3.00 for the senior breakfast. He stated that he had heard that Commissioner Morman's territory might get a little bigger and expand to Crosby and that would be good because he knew quite a few commissioners that help us and them as well, that he had met Commissioner Morman and he seem to be a nice guy and if this happened, he hoped that he would treat them the way he was treating Jacinto City. Mr. Schion stated that Mr. Wooten was one of the best friends that he had ever had and that was one of the things he missed when he moved, having old friends like that. He stated he wanted them to know they were doing a good job and he appreciated it.

Richard Gonzales, 11004 Inverino, he advised Mr. Schion that he spoke to early, that he did have a complaint, he stated that he mom and dad still lived in Jacinto City and they were getting up in age and his brothers and sister always go over there and they try to do it on Saturday or Sunday and the people across the street started throwing parties like every week on Saturday and Sunday, they were young kids and they were getting drunk and they started at like 12:00 until 10:00 at night and then they are getting in their cars. He stated that a couple of week ago they parked where we park to go to mom and dad's house and he ask them politely to move their cars that his family was coming over and they got mad and they were already drunk and then his other brother came and ask them to move and he thought they were going to get into a fight and it was about 20 of them to just him and his brother. He stated that he called the police and when he showed up, he told him that there was nothing he could do because that was a public street and now he was getting mad, he had been living here since 1959 and he felt like we were statesmen and were showing people how to live, that his brother was on city council and was a good guy and he knew he was going to make a good city councilman and it was just wrong, he thinks they have seniority and they should teach these guys what to do but they aren't listening . Mayor Nunez ask if he thought some of them might be underage and he replied no, they were young but not underage, that they were learning from their moms and dads and there had to be something we could do about this.

Mayor Nunez ask Chief Ayala to address this.

Chief Ayala stated that he would need to check into it and Mayor Nunez ask him if he would meet with Mr. Gonzales. Chief Ayala stated yes, let him check into it and see what the problem was and a lot of it had to do with respect and we would hope that would be the respect coming from everybody out there and at least give the courtesy to the residents that live there to leave their parking space but we come across these problems in other areas and if they are not causing a traffic hazard or blocking someone's driveway there was not really to much they could do but they would check into it to see if there was a disorderly situation there then they might be able to do something. City Manager Maner ask if that was the 200 block of Norvic and Mr. Gonzales stated that his parents lived at 10218 Norvic.

Mayor Nunez thanked him for bringing this to our attention, this is what they would like the citizens to do if they see a problem or have a problem.

Council Woman Garcia advised that we had our first budget workshop Tuesday, July 12th and Mr. Kyle Reed shared with the mayor and council that from the last part of April to the present, the city has repaired over 100 water leaks, with most of the problems occurring because of the serious drought conditions, however, a lot of the problems are due to the remainder of the water system being obsolete and in terrible shape.

Council Woman Garcia also advised that Mr. Kyle Reed stated that on all the new piping, which is approximately 25% of the city, there were no leaks, which means that we need to take action immediately. She stated that Councilman Ochoa wanted to be on the record that not only did he not want to raise taxes or water rates, he wanted to lower the taxes, and she agrees with Mr. Ochoa. She would not like water rates nor taxes to increase, however, immediate action needs to be taken by the council. She stated she understood at times we are faced with difficult decisions, but we cannot continue the path we are on which is not taking the bull by the horn and repairing the city, that we can't just sit and depend on grant money, we need to take responsibility for the good of our city.

Council Woman Garcia stated that she had been in contact with our city manager and there was a program that was about to start up the last week of July and there were flyers available and the name of the program was Zumba for Kids and Our Local Government and she ask that they please take one of the flyers when they leave and they would be at every door tomorrow, including the businesses. She advised that Zumba was a fitness class and she was trying to encourage the kids to stay in shape and the registration would be Monday July 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., the flyer was in Spanish and English and the classes would be held at the gym from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., it was free of charge and it was available only to the kids that live in Jacinto City between the ages of 5 through 17 but the child must present a birth certificate and the parent must present a current water bill or a current ID as proof of residency. She called attention to the letter on the back of the flyer concerning the education class on how our local government works. She stated that we would like for all our residents to be educated on how our city government work and went over the topics that would be discussed and the classes were completely free, they would be paid for by the local businesses. She stated it was important that we stay educated here in the community, that they need to know who to contact about whatever problem they have.

Mayor Nunez ask Ms. Garcia if she had discussed this with the council to get them involved and she stated that she had just gotten it approved two days ago by the fitness to be sure they were certified, etc. that you couldn't just take anybody and she had just gotten everything in place.

Mayor Nunez advised it would help if she let the other council members know what was involved and what they could do to help.

Council Woman Garcia stated that as soon as the business are completely fill on this chart, each of the council would get a copy of the schedule and she would like to see each of the council members come to each of the meetings but if not, at least just for the department because she would like for the residents in the community to know, not only, the city manager, the city mayor but our directors as well and the councilman for that department.

Dale Pollock, 10225 S. Oswego, addressed Kyle, that he was not complaining and he advised Kyle how he could repair the streets.

Mr. Reed stated that he appreciated his concern but the drought we are having is what is causing most every problem we are having and to go out there now and resurface the streets was not a good decision but when the budget is passed, he is going to talk to the council and see if they will give him enough money to do about five or six streets and we would see if we could get his.

Dale advised that he was having trouble getting Center Point Energy to trim the trees around the power line that they said they didn't need to be trimmed.

Mr. Reed advised that he would check into it but we didn't trim tree near the power lines because of the safety issue.

Councilman Ochoa thanked everyone for coming and to have a safe evening.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 7:15 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 printed name and title.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary