

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nunez, Council Members Claudio Ochoa, Ana Diaz, Allen Lee, Carmela Garcia and Mario Gonzales; City Manager Maner and city Secretary Raines. City Attorney DeFoyd absent.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Diaz and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the minutes for council meetings dated May 20th and May 26th with a correction on Page 4, Item 3. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated that he just wanted to say that the report concerning the 10200 block of Palestine on the traffic enforcement and speed bumps did not encounter any major problems at all since the last council meeting except a couple of violations that were not speed related.

Chief Squyres advised that there was no way that we could have the fireworks this year due to the dry weather we have had, there was no way we could do it safely, but the good news was now that we had declared this we would probably have a monsoon season. He stated that we had looked at the safety factors, talked with the Port, the County Fire Marshal office, Galena Park, everybody agreed that it was not safe to do it, it was too great of a liability. He stated that he understood there were other things in the works to make up for it. Chief Squyres discussed the ISO rating, explaining that they were an organization that comes out and grades fire departments, he explained how departments were rated, stating that we are now rated 5.0 and we were very happy with that, stating that all the improvement to our water department, additional fire hydrants, etc. contributed to our good rating.

Chief Squyres stated that a lot of people had been asking about the Gateway monuments that we were putting up on Holland and Mercury, he stated that council awarded it and it didn't seem to go anywhere. He stated the contractor put in the plans to the county for approval because it was partially in the county right-a-way and someone at the county said one of monument was in the TXDOT right-a-way so he sent it TXDOT and TXDOT said they were both in their right-a-way and the feds have brand new guidelines for gateway projects and our's doesn't pass so the only solution we have and we sent the council the revision on it, is to move the Gateway and we could get out of their 50 ft. right-a-way by moving each Gateway Project 25 ft. to the South, he called attention to a drawing of what

it would take to move the gateways, if anyone was interested. He stated that they would be in the same plot and the only real impact would be that the small monument and flag pole at Mercury Dr. project was going to have to be move, we would have to find a new site for those two things but we were ready to move on with that and he just really wanted to let council know that was really their only choice, that they had already approved them on virtually the same site and we were ready to move forward.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, reported that they picked up 385 tires during the tire roundup. He stated that they were having numerous water leaks and ask that the citizens let us know if you see a leak of any size, that they work 24/7 and will respond as soon as possible.

Kim Bellotte, Parks and Recreation Director, She commented on the number of pool rental they have had and we had a lot of good compliments about our pool and lifeguards. She stated that the girls softball league had their awards ceremony this past Monday and she wanted to thank the council and citizens that came out for the award, that the girls really work hard and they appreciate the support and the girls gave an award to Kyle' guys for doing such a good job on the fields. Kim announced that there was an All Stars game starting tonight at 6:15 p.m. and everyone was welcomed at the softball field. She stated they voted in their new board after the awards ceremony. She advised that we had swimming lessons going on and the night classes had been closed out because we had so many kids, the first morning session was closed and they had a few spaces in the 9:45 Class. She stated that Debbie was doing a good job with the swim team and volunteers her time every morning at 8.00 a.m for the swim team. The stated they had almost 50 seniors in the pool this morning for water aerobics and they had a 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. session for seniors only.

Cindy Miller, Heritage Hall Director, reported that the water aerobics and swim time had been a great success. She stated that Dora Wamsley would be back on Monday after being out for six week for emergency surgery. She announced that William Busker, one of their seniors had passed away on Sunday. She stated that Chief Ayala had called her Tuesday and he had gone and checked on one of her seniors, Mary Castro, just a well check because of the heat and things like that and today they had made a list of seniors that were on their homebound list for Jacinto city and Galena Park and she wanted the citizens to know that if you had an elderly neighbor or family member that needs to be checked on to get with Chief Ayala or call her, that this was very important because sometimes they don't realize that it is a 100 degrees in their house and our homebound meal delivery driver goes in and they would not believe some of the conditions that our senior citizens live in and they have no idea because they are on limited income so please be mindful and watchful.

Stephanie Orr, Jacinto City Library advised that they had started the summer reading programs, today they had their first children's program with Ronald McDonald and they probably had about 20 to 25 kids. She encourage everyone to come by and enjoy the programs.

Kim Bellotte stated that she was sorry but she would be in trouble if she didn't mention the props class, they made her a bracelet today and if anyone wants a bracelet let them know. Mayor Nunez asked how much and she stated they did it for a hug. Kim stated the props class was going well but they needed more people and it was only \$30.00 per month, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Nunez advised that last Friday, Lon, Chief Ayala, Councilman Lee, Councilman Gonzales and she had attended Chamber of Commerce's luncheon and Judge Ed Emmett was the speaker and he started talking about hurricane season and being prepared and that there were some cities that were not prepared to deal with the problems if there was a disaster and then he said Mayor I'm not talking about Jacinto city and she thanked Lon stating that meant he had been attending all of those meetings and they know that we are prepared and she knows that all of our people are prepared but we got acknowledged by Judge Emmett because we are prepared and she thought that was very good. She advised Cindy that she had a letter from The City of Houston Department of Human Services complimenting her on how she handles the funds and how well she had done and she also had one from Area Agency on Aging on how she had met all the standards and how she had been doing a good job and she wanted to congratulate her.

She stated she would like to take time and introduce our past Mayor Christopher Diaz, past councilman Wayne Nichols and past Councilman Jose Ramon.

Mayor Nunez commended all the department head on doing a good job and the public works guys for being out there in the 100 Degree plus heat repairing all these water leaks and ask that Kyle thank them for all of us. She thanked Banda who was in the audience.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Maner stated that all was going well in the city, that he appreciated everybody's efforts.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

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1. Stephanie Harris with Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP presented the city audit for Fiscal

Year 2009/2010. Ms. Harris went over some of the highlights of the city's financial report for the fiscal year ending 2009/2010. She stated that she was very pleased to be able to tell them tonight that they were issuing a clean unqualified opinion on the cities financial statements and unqualified was what you wanted to hear from your auditor, it was the highest level of assurance they could provide that you financial statements were materially correct and all disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principals have been included. Mayor Nunez stated that means Jack is doing a good job with our money and Ms. Harris stated excellent, the entire management team and she went over item in the audit stating that we had an excellent ending fund balance, that ending fund balance in general fund alone was 7.6 million and a good rule of thumb was to maintain at least a three month or a third of your annual expenses and we were well in excess of that at the end of the year, stating that concluded her presentation and she would be more than happy to take any questions.

Mayor Nunez stated that we were stable weren't we and Ms. Harris replied absolutely.

Mayor Nunez stated that Belt Harris had been our auditors for a number of years and they have always spent two or three weeks with the people at city hall making sure that everything is done right and we thank them for the good report.

City Manager Maner said that he would just like to say that Belt Harris has always done us an excellent job, we pay them, but they are independent auditors, they do not work for us. City Manager Maner ask Ms. Harris how many city did they have in Harris County. Ms. Harris stated that in cities alone, she thought there were approximately 30 cities or so and they had somewhere around 20. Ms. Maner stated they were the major provider of audit services in Harris County and in other places now. We have always been satisfied with their work but they don't hesitate to tell us if have done something wrong and we have done some minor things wrong in the past and they have corrected them and brought them to our attention and that is what their job is and our job is to correct them. We are very happy with their services and their report because we want our citizens to know that we are doing our best to be good stewards with tax payer money.

Ms. Harris stated they appreciate the honor of serving as the city's auditor.

Mayor Nunez apologized to La Gloria for failing to acknowledge her and she also recognized Dawn Harris from Commissioner Morman's office.

2. A motion was made by Councilman Gonzales and seconded by Councilman Lee to appoint councilman Ochoa to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Vote: 3 For 2 Against (Diaz and Garcia against)

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COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen Dr., stated that she was here today as President of Heritage Hall and she would like to invite everyone to Heritage Hall on June 13th, the seniors were having a party honoring Mayor Rachel Nunez, they were honoring her for her new position as Mayor but really they wanted her to know how much they appreciated her as their councilwoman and also on June 18th at 7:30 is Heritage Hall night at Jacinto City Opry and she encourage everyone to come out. She advised that Monday, June 20th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. was game night at Heritage Hall and if you were 60 years old or older, bring a dish and come out and enjoy themselves.

Mayor Nunez ask Cindy how many seniors we have now, that she remembered when she first became a council person we did not have very many. Cindy replied that we have 87 on the roll with 40 to 50 active. Mayor Nunez stated this was due to all the programs they had for the seniors and thanked everyone who participated and volunteered.

Council Member Diaz stated that game night was a lot of fun and there were a lot of covered dishes, a lot of good food, you didn't go home hungry.

Robert Hernandez, 10245 Chadwick, stated that he wanted to report on an event we had in Jacinto City on May 28th, Operation hydration and what they did was the softball league got together with the USO and collected water for the troops and we collected over 500 cases of water and there were a lot of people here in this room that helped them and he thanked them very much.

Vernon Hagan, 10434 Burman, stated that he would just like to encourage the citizens to use the facilities we have here in the city, we have a cracker jack library and staff and he would also like to encourage everyone to utilize the web page, it has a lot of valuable information in it that you would never think that would be there.

Larry Schion, 506 Hare-Cooke Rd., discussed seeing Council Member Garcia out with the crews, learning and following the crews to see what they do, that he supported her and was glad that he did, that this was very important. Mr. Schion stated that when Position 1 sees things wrong, he get with people and he tries to get things fixed, sometimes he doesn't agree with everything he does but he does take care of business when it comes to the city and he just wanted to tell them how impressed he was seeing her down at the barn, in this environment, which was her position and she was right there learning and he was impressed.

Mayor Nunez adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m..

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Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Raines
City Secretary