

COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 25, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas Robinson, Lee and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. City Council Member Garcia and City Attorney DeFoyd arrived after roll call.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala stated that he didn't have anything at this time but he did want to congratulate the officials, Mr. Rivas, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Lee, as well as the rest of the Council, Mayor and City Manager on the good job they have been doing .

Chief Mier reminded everyone that time would change on March 13th and to be sure and change the batteries in their smoke alarms..

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that they were staying busy getting ready for Baseball and softball and opening day was March 12th and the parade was at 9:00 a. m. . He congratulated the council on being unopposed and looked forward to continue working with them.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director stated that everything was going well at Heritage Hall, that the seniors were looking forward to next week and stuffing the Easter Eggs on Tuesday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m..

Mayor Diaz stated that was election day and encourage her to get all the seniors to walk across the hall and vote.

Sue Ellen with Jacinto City Library stated they were almost finished rearranging the library and the teens would have their own section and they would be celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday and they were also having computer classes.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Squyres stated that we saw the final design plans on the restrooms for Smith Park and the Stated did approve them pretty much as they were designed; the concession stand should be here next week and they would have a little interior work to do to that and the only other thing he wanted to mention was that the Chief Mier's department had a save a couple of weeks ago and it was certainly worth mentioning and recognizing the medics, that we had a

three year old face down in the pool near death and they were able to save him, he had a full recovery and in 2 ½ day that child was playing , running and acting just like he was before and that was a wonderful experience to see that happen, the team was in place and everything worked just like it was supposed to and it was nice to watch.

Mayor Diaz stated that was good and she was so glad it worked out that way.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz stated that like she had mentioned, we do have elections going on, that we have early voting today and tomorrow was the last day for early voting ; she went over the early voting locations and encourage everyone to go out and vote. She congratulated the Council Member for being unopposed in the upcoming May 7th election , stating that she didn't know why they were worried, that she knew they would be back.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2016-1 regulating hazardous air pollutants emitted From engines of certain idling motor vehicles .

Council Member Rivas ask how we were going to enforce this ordinance.

Chief Ayala stated that he would get with his officers and work out a method of enforcing the ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Ordinance 2016-1 on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NO NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Christopher Diaz, 10826 Munn St., stated that he would like to congratulate the Council for doing a fantastic job and being unopposed this go around, that he knew what it felt like to be unopposed several times in a row but this time he was running opposed, he had been Harris Constable since 2012 , that it was a good race back then and he won the race by three votes but he wanted to win it by at least four this time so he ask that each and every one of them go out and vote and take their families and friends, he went over some of the things they had accomplished during the last four years and some things they hoped to accomplish in the future. He stated that he would like to thank the Mayor,

Council and Departments for supporting his office and him all of these years, that it was good to be a representative for each and every one of them and to be a hometown boy and he wanted to continue to be their Harris County Constable and to please consider him when they go down to the poles, let's keep the Constable north of the channel and in Jacinto City.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he had been very happy and proud with his time here and he just wanted to say that he was glad that he was able to do this again and he looked forward to doing more these next two years, that he was going to put his best foot forward and he just wanted to say that he lived the life of a resident but some people treated him like a President.

There was general discussion about who treated him like a President.

Council Member Robinson stated that he just wanted to thank ever body and he sure enjoyed serving them, he felt they had gotten a lot of things accomplished but there were a lot of things ahead of them in the future and he thanked each and every one of them.

Council Member Lee stated that he wanted to congratulate Council Member Robinson and President Rivas, that it was great to be part of the team and we had a lot of things going on in the city and a lot of exciting changes just over the horizon and we were really looking forward to it and he appreciated each and every one of them.

Council Member Garcia welcome the Council Member back, stating that they had a lot of work to do and keep moving forward with a lot of projects that they had in mind and stated that although we wouldn't be involved in an election with candidates, we still had the Sales Tax Election on the ballot and that was something to keep in mind, that we would rather keep the money here in Jacinto City than for it to be taken away by the County so this was something that we needed to be promoting. She thanked everybody for being here tonight.

Council Member Gonzales congratulated Mr. Rivas, Robinson and Lee and he was looking forward to working with them another year.

Donna Dailey ask a question about the sales tax election.

City Manager Squyres explained that it was a first come, first get basis, that in other words that somebody, either us or the county can go in and say we want to have an election and if the voters choose, they can say that the city of Jacinto City can get up to a full percent to go into the general fund or the county could, that he hadn't heard an interest in it yet, but they could do the same thing, they could say they were going to have an election and the county limit is half of that, they could take half of that 1% and to go into the county's general fund with it. so it was really a race, it was who get to the polls first and who passes it get to keep and use those funds forever. He advised that there was a real good chance, from what we were hearing, that could be overturned the next legislative session, it just sort of slipped by this time quietly and nobody knew it was being passed but if it gets overturned and it is already passed we keep it, if it is overturned and it is not passed, we will never have this opportunity again and that was basically what it is. , if we don't pass it and the county doesn't pass it, nobody get that extra penny and it stays 7.25%.

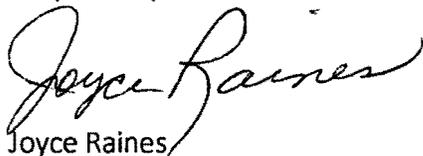
Mrs. Dailey ask a question from the audience which was not picked up by the sound system.

Mr. Ssqsyres stated that the State's maximum cap was 8.25% no matter what, that was why Houston's was 8.25% and virtually everyone was as well, that you could never go above that without State legislation raising it above that level. .He stated this amounts to ¾ of a million dollars so it was a significant amount of money.

He advised that the city opted out of the Metro tax years ago and because of that we were still at the 7.25%.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Raines
City Secretary