

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016, 6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, Council Members Robinson, Lee and Garcia; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas arrived after roll call and Mayor Diaz absent.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the minutes as presented: Vote 3 For 0 Against

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Chief Ayala advised that they had been extremely busy, he stated that today we had an individual come down Market Street doing 80 miles an hour and what had happened was that he was in another vehicle that he had stole, abandoned that vehicle and stole another man's vehicle at gun point, that it happened at 610 and 59 and he made it to Jacinto City, Officer David Reyes was in pursuit and he was taken into custody and just recently they also had another individual they were trying to pull over on a traffic stop at Mercury and I-10 and it turned out that he was wanted for a murder that happened about a year ago and he just wanted to let them know that our officers are doing extremely well and out on the street watching out for them.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales stated that we appreciate the job that they do.

Fire Chief Mier reported on a fire they responded to in the 10500 block of Flaxman, that our ambulance crew was out on an ambulance response at the same time that the fire came in so fortunately our City Manager was able to stop by and help pump on that fire and with the aid of Galena Park and Cloverleaf they were able to contain the fire. She reminded everyone that the time change was on March 13<sup>th</sup> and to also remember to change the batteries in their smoke alarms.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works Department, advise that Mr. Kyle Reed's father had passed away on Saturday. He stated that they had been preparing for and dealing with the rain all week.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation, announced that the baseball and softball leagues would have their parade on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and it would depend on the weather whether they could play on the fields. He reported that the new concession stand was in at Smith Park and ready for use.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised that they were looking for participants to compete in events at the Senior Olympics which were scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup> and if they knew of anyone that was interested in participating, they could contact them at Heritage Hall and well as the city's website under Upcoming Events. She also reminded everyone that day light saving time would start on Sunday and to be sure and move their clocks ahead one hour.

Sue Ellen, Jacinto City Library, reported that they had a good turnout for their Dr. Seuss's birthday party, that they would be having a free class to help people learn how to use their smartphones and went over a number of events they had scheduled and advised that they could contact the library for dates and times. She also advised that the Library would be closed on Easter weekend.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales commended all the Department Heads for the good job they do.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Squyres stated there were just a few things he would like to add on the fire, that it had been quite a while since he had pumped a fire in a suite but he was on his way to a meeting . He stated that Chief Mier mention that the ambulance was out at the time of the call but she didn't tell you that it was a CPR call and they saved a man's life on it, that they were a little understaffed on the fire but it was well worth it because a life was saved in that process. He stated that was the first time, in a long time, that they had tapped one of those fire mains and this was a brand new water main that we had just put in so it was nice to see it used and that it worked right.

He stated that he did want to update Council on one thing directly related to city management, we know that it is the time that we do a warrant roundup every year and in years passed this city and this body had to forgive millions of dollars worth of warrants because of things that happened year and years ago and over the last five years we had fixed many of those things , all of them actually, thanks to this council's actions we now allow them to pay with credit cards, we have a better warrant system now, they can make on-line payments and that on-line payment system, in the last week alone, had taken over \$29,000 Dollars and cleared 72 warrants in one week so their action had been very successful and it was nice to see and he could tell them, with a high degree of certainty, that we would never ask City Council to dismiss warrants again.

**THERE WAS NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation on variance request at 10245 Chadwick.

City Manager Squyres advised that the Variance Board has met on Tuesday to hear Mr. Hernandez's request and he would like to ask the Council to table this item for further review.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to table action of the request for further review. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

2. First reading of Ordinance 2016-2 declaring unopposed candidates in the May 7, 2016 City election elected to office and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Jim DeFoyd read the Ordinance stating that the following candidates were unopposed in the May 7, 2016 general city election and are declared elected to office, and shall be issued certificates of election following the time the election would have been canvassed: The Ordinance also stated that the election on May 7, 2016 also included a proposition to adopt a sales and use tax in Jacinto City and that would be on the ballot for voting on.

Jimmie "JJ" Rivas, Council Member Position No. 1  
Gregg Robinson, Council Member Position No. 2  
Allen Lee, Council Member Position No. 3

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Ordinance 2016-2 on the first reading. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

3. Mr. Allan Jamail addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the upcoming Keep Jacinto City Clean Week and other issues.

Mr. Jamail stated that he wanted to say that he was appreciative that we have a smooth election and was glad to see all the same familiar faces back up there and he really appreciated the job the Mayor and Council, City Attorney, City Manager and City Secretary does as well as all the department heads we have and he was very appreciative to the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief. They have an awesome responsibility protecting the life and safety of so many people and that was not to take anything away from public works and the other departments, that all of those departments provide good healthy activities for our community.

Mr. Jamail stated that the main reason why he wanted to come was regarding the resolution to had ask to be passed approximately a year ago designating the a week in April as keep Jacinto City clean week where we would do a special activity with the committee which he was involved in which was Keep Jacinto City Clean and in conjunction with the city and city officials to do a project out here in the city where the citizens could see that the city leaders were actually involved in keeping the city clean and maybe that would spark the incentive for them to do the same. He stated that he had also made them aware at that time that there was a project in the State of Texas called Keep Texas Beautiful and our City Manager took notes on that and did some research and ended up becoming very much involved in that project, which is a project that spreads through out communities . He stated that since that he and Lon had talked and Lon had some things planned for the week of Keep Jacinto City beautiful so he so no need for his committee to try to get out in front of the city and do the same things the city was doing but that being on record as saying that our committee was going to be involved, in doing something he didn't want the record to reflect that he was AWOL and his committee did not carry out it's end of it so in saying that, he was going to say that since the city has it's project now his people and his committee will assist the city in whatever way Lon, the Mayor and Council wanted them to, but he or his committee would not be taking the lead on that.

He stated the other thing he wanted to bring up was, and he passed out the photos. Of water Standing at Kirby and Palestine and the 1800 block of Palestine as well as water trapped by pallets and trach and he invited everyone that was here tonight to drive down that street from Kerby to Holland. He stated that he and the City Manager met there along that bad stretch and he was aware of the problem and it was a mosquito breeding pond and this city cites people and gives warnings for having much less water than that on their property so the city was actually negligent itself, so he was asking the city official sitting up here tonight to take care of this problem.

There was general discussion on how this could be taken care of and what part the railroad Would have some say over.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales thanked Mr. Jamail for showing an interest in wanting to keep Jacinto City clean and any help he could give us that day would be greatly appreciated.

Dina Gonzales, 10502 Oswego, stated that she just really wanted to come up about the bond election GPISD would be having in May and that if it passed Jacinto City would be profiting because Jacinto City Elementary would be getting a brand new school and their part of the bond would be \$34,000,000 and that was really exciting for them and someone like her that had worked there all her life and she just wanted to let them know that early voting would start April 25<sup>th</sup> and it would be at Galena Park Middle School or the General Administration building and it was on the website if any one would like to go on and see all the information.

There was discussion on the other schools that would be included and that Pyburn Elementary, Galena Park and Jacinto City would also be getting new schools on the South side.

Robert Hernandez ask about the Mosaic wall and would that be placed in the new school.

Ms. Gonzales advised that the architects had come through the school and had ask the principal if there were things in the school that they wanted to preserve and the mosaic was, of course, one of those things; she went on to discuss the history of the mosaic

Someone stated that we needed to vote yes for that bond and Ms. Gonzales stated she wasn't telling anyone how to vote, she was just telling them when they could vote. She advised that they were telling them the completion would be in 2019 so Galena Park would be first and we would probably be second.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council Member Rivas discussed the problem Mr. Jamail had brought up on Palestine and stated that action needed to be taken so whatever we need to do to fix that and he didn't know if the railroad would have any thing to say about what we could do or if they would help us with that

City Manager Squyres stated that he had already reached out to the railroad and had received a call from them while he was in another meeting today so he would be calling him back. He advised that the railroad's person that handles municipalities has changed and the gentleman that has it how used to work for the County Judge , we know him and have a relationship with him so maybe that will help.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works, advised that they continually pick up the pallets and trash but the people from the apartment have them out the next day so they can walk there to Sellers.

Council Member Rivas stated the people at the apartments needed to obey the law and go to the crosswalk to get to the other side of the street.

Council Member Robinson stated that part of what they do at their facilities is send the guys out there with pumps and pump out the water toward the drains and he knew that Bernardo said the drains were real far away but at least we would keep the water from standing but that was just a quick fix; the other think was to maybe put a drain in there to connect to one of drains and like JJ and everyone said, people do throw pallets, etc. across there and they should not be walking across there and it would be real nice if the railroad would put a fence across there then they couldn't do it and would have to go to the street but that probably wasn't going to happen. He wished everyone a good weekend and reminded everyone about

The Easter Egg Hunt on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m..

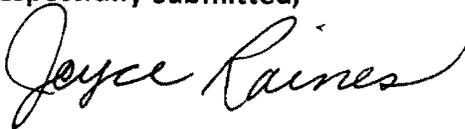
Council Member Lee stated that they were having the baseball and softball parade this Saturday and they were looking forward to that and hoped that everyone had a good time. He stated that he wanted to thank both of our Chief's for the work that they had done and we appreciate all of our department heads and they appreciated all of them for being there and Mr. Jamail for bringing that information to them, that it was a concern they need to do something about and they appreciated him for reminding them of that. He stated that there was something he wanted to mention, that he mentioned it to our Mayor Pro Tem, today was National Mario Day, he was not sure what that was but it had something to do with the Mario Brothers game but the reason it was Mario Day was that when you write the abbreviation for March with the 10 it looks like Mario so he just wanted everyone to know it was National Mario Day.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he also got to be Mayor for the Day.

Council Member Garcia stated that we really appreciate what every department does, what our citizens bring in, we have always said that it takes everybody to look at different issues or situations that we have in order to make a change so today we got some new information that we weren't aware of and now we can take this, look into it and definitely do something about it. She thanked Chief Ayala for keep them informed, that when she received the text this morning from he and Lon she was concerned that our officers were ok and they were so thanks for keeping them informed as always. Ms. Garcia ask that everyone please go out and vote, that her school, North Shore Elementary was one of the them that would be receiving a new school so please go out and spread the word about the bond election and the sales and use tax election in the city and help educate the people.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Raines  
City Secretary