

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021. 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 13, 2021 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

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 approved the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND COMMITTEES:

Ivan Rojas, Parks & Recreation Director advised they plan to open the pool on May 29th and May 30th for Memorial Day weekend and on the weekend of June 5th & 6th and will open up on June 12th until school starts back and the splash pad is open now each day from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Council Member Rivas ask him how the pool looked and he advised great, they had been cleaning on it daily.

Elizabeth Flores. Heritage Hall Director, advised that she had received an e-mail today starting the summer program "Beat The Heat" and if they knew anyone that didn't have air conditioning they could apply for a portable air conditioner and where it used to be just for seniors it was now for families.

She was ask if anyone could apply and she stated she thought it was for Low income but they could apply, all they could do was turn them down. She discussed the program that a lot of our seniors were receiving for help on their electric bill or gas bill. She advised that the center would not open until September and they would continue to deliver meals.

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Mayor Diaz suggested that the seniors might like to meet in the park or maybe the gazabo for bingo or something and Elizabeth advised they didn't want to be in the heat.

Chief Ayala stated that the 75th Anniversary was tremendous job, he was thrilled to meet and talk with all the former officials and employees.

He advised the Mayor and Council that on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. here in the Council Chamber he would be recognizing two new sergeants, A. J. Seydler who had been with us for 8 years and Cynthia Nieto who had been with us for 14 years and they were welcomed to attend.

He advised that on Saturday, May 15th at 3:00 p.m. in front of the police station Mr. Allan Jamail would be taking pictures of the Officers in observance of National Police Week and they would be having cake & pinch and they were welcomed to stop by.

He advised they had received a call about elderly abuse and after check, It was in Galena Park so they had contacted the Chief there and it was being taken care of. He advised they were staying busy with traffic and other issues.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works, stated that they were staying busy.

Mayor Diaz advised that a student from Galena Park High School had created a web page and we would be adding it to Jacinto Cities web site and ask him to present information about his website.

He stated that he had been working on this for some time and it provided the help people needed in the Galena Park and Jacinto City communities such as covid resources, emergency and food distribution, health resources and basic needs.

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He stated that so many people were not aware these resources were available and the website address was tinyurl.com/gpjchelpcenter.

There was general discussion about things that could be added to the website that would benefit the communities.

Mayor Diaz ask Elizabeth from Heritage Hall to include this on her website for the seniors there was a lot of good information there.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Luisa Perez stated that she came here two years ago to get concession stand repairs and she is tired of going through Ivan so she was coming to them. She stated that someone went into the concession stand to day and turned off the air conditioner, that the air conditioner had to always be on, they have chocolates in there and that someone had been going in there and taking things. She ask where were we on grants for the concession stand.

City Manager Squyres advised that there were no grants out there for concession stands, that the city had been fortunate to get grants for infrastructure and the WWTP.

Ms. Perez stated that there were no lights at Smith Park so T-ball was playing at Wilkie Park because the lights were dangerous at Smith Park.

Council Member Robinson stated that he drive by Smith Park at night and the lights are always on and Luisa stated no they were not that there was a wire hanging down and it was dangerous.

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Luisa stated that nothing was done last year, that they didn't put anything in the park last year, they could have put something into her concession stand. She stated that it was a city building, she was a tax payer and she wanted something done that patching the old buildings was a waste of money, if they weren't doing their job maybe they needed to be replaced, plain and simple.

City Manager Squyres stated that the light problem at Smith Park had been brought to their attention and they had gotten two bids which came in very high and they had contacted JJ about this, and some were saying do we want to do that or wait until budget or wait and see about A bigger field to accommodate more sports. He stated that we have trouble getting 15 members of the board to agree, each one wants something different and the board changes every year, that the MOU they signed states that they go through their President, that we can't have 15 people coming to us with what they want done, they need to go through their president and he or she needs to contact the city.

Mr. Squyres stated that they had a small participation this year so wilkie Can handle T-ball as well.

Luisa ask Mr. Squyres could he show her how much they had spent on the parks and he replied that he would be happy to show her that he did not have the figures with him right now.

Luisa ask why the board had to come to them, it was a city building didn't the city inspect their own buildings.

Council Member Garcia stated that something like this takes time, that she had been requesting new water lines for the Northside for years and now we are getting them and if there were grant out there we would have applied for them, definitely that concession stands needs to be

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taken care of. She stated that it was put up by volunteers and there are no volunteers out there now, that we can't keep the air condition on 24/7 for chocolates; there must be something out there that they could substitute with that did not require 24/7 air conditioning.

Bernardo Perez stated that he hoped that she was implying that it was the public works staff that was taking something out of the concession stand.

There was discussion as to had keys to the concession stand.

Ms. Perez stated it was gone so somebody took it.

Council Member Rivas stated that they have air conditioning and are working on camera's. He stated that 2020 was a very bad year for everyone and ask City Manager Squyres what money was brought into the city last year.

Mr. Squyres advised there was no money from the swimming pool, the community building, no money from the court and no money from base ball and the sewer plant had been very expensive to operate during COVID-19.

Council Member Rivas ask Ms. Perez if they couldn't store the chocolate in the refrigerator and she advised no, that it turned white.

Mayor Diaz stated that we needed to move on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2021-2 setting salary for Mayor and Council.**

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A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve Ordinance 2021-2 setting salary for Mayor and Council on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation at 1313 Mercury Dr. and 11102 B East Freeway**

Mayor Diaz advised that 1313 Mercury Dr. had been cancelled

Mayor Diaz ask if Mr. Davwa was present and he was not.

City Manager Squyres stated that on May 11, 2021 the Variance Board had heard Mr. Asif Davwa's request for a variance at 11102 B East Freeway to open a smoke shop and voted 3 against and 0 For allowing the variance . He stated that He was the owner of Falcon Express #20 at the corner of Holland and I-10 and there was a empty store next to his business and he wanted to open a smoke shop, and when ask what he was going to sell, he said novelty items. He stated like in his other stores but did not give the name or address of the stores, that one was in Freeport, Texas so he drove down there to day so that he could give the Mayor and Council an actual description of the items. He advised this store was near the beach and had beach towels, flip flops, ect. And he didn't think that he would be selling that in Jacinto City.

Mr. Wayne Nichols, a member of the Variance Board stated that the man had skated around what he was going to sell when they ask him.

Council Member Garcia stated that the man did not follow up on his end and she would go with the Board's recommendation to not allow the variance.

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There was general discussion about the possibilities of what might be sold in the store.

Council Member Lee stated that he did not want it but would be willing to listen to other opinions

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas. Vote: 0 For 5 Against.

2. Donnie Evans to address the Mayor and Council to discuss COVID-19 vaccinations and testing.

Mr. Evans stated that he just wanted to offer the City of Jacinto City the Opportunity for COVID-19 vaccinations and testing, that he was a physician and had worked at Holland Avenue Medical Center in Jacinto City from 2006-2012 and wants to provide health care in areas where it is not readily available at no direct cost to the patients, it would be bill to the insurance company or to the Federal government. Mr. Evans stated that the company that he worked for offered telemedical service as well as other options and he had pamphlets that he would leave with them.

Council Member Rivas stated that with some of the stuff that was going on now with the vaccines were they able to answer the questions.

Mr. Evans stated there were and had a hot line set up to answer questions and stated that he was still looking for a location here in Jacinto City for a permanent location.

Mr. Evans stated they wanted to help people who had trouble getting help.

Mayor Diaz thanked him for coming out .

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He advised that their first visit here would be on May 22, 2021 in the parking lot at Town Center.

City Manager Squyres advised Mr. Evans that he want him to meet Elizabeth Flores. The Director of our Senior Center and the young man with the website.

Council Member Garcia thanked him for offering this service.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated the 75 Anniversary on Saturday was a wonderful event, that he enjoyed talking with the former officials and hearing their stories. That you get to be 75 only because the people are helping you all the way that we have made 75 and are trying for 25 more to make it a 100, it was great.

Council Member Rivas said the lady with all the issues about the park didn't realize that if the money wasn't there you couldn't hand it out, that we have to prioritize but eventually we will get there. He knew that Bernardo resented what she said and the season was only two months long.

Mr. Purcell stated that the President of the league was the one who should come here not her. He stated that he thought they keep it up really nice that when he played or coached they didn't have all that.

Ivan Rojas stated that he was a board member in Galena Park and they had to do all their maintenance, that Jacinto City did a lot.

Shelly Rivas stated that she told them that when she played they mowed the grass and took care of the fields.

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Council Member Robinson stated the 75th Anniversary was great, he got to see and talk with a lot of people, that everything was really nice and he thanked Lon, Joyce, Kathy, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Ivan and everyone involved.

Council Member Lee stated that the 75th Anniversary celebration was great and he had his mom here to enjoy it with him. He stated that he was a baseball fan and if they had the money he would love to improve it but they needed to do their part.

Council Member Garcia stated that Council Member Lee's mother was the one that drove the longest to get to the 75th Anniversary. She stated the city had to prioritize. She ask Chief Ayala to pass along Happy National Police Week to his department and thank the whole department for us, that every department does what needs to be done, that she was looking at the 50th and thought this was very good during the pandemic

Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone for all the hard work that was put in to make the 75th Anniversary a success.

Mayor Diaz thanked everyone for a fantastic 75th Anniversary.

Mayor Diaz ask City Attorney DeFoyd how many years he had been with the city and he advised 54 Years. Mayor Diaz presented Jim with a plaque honoring him for his 54 years of service to the city.

Jim stated that he didn't think there was a better job in the world that he appreciated the plaque and thanked them.

Council Member Robinson thanked Jody Seydler for all the pictures he took at the anniversary,

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**