

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY AUGUST 12, 2021. 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 12, 2021 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, and Garcia; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Members Lee and Gonzales ill and City Attorney Defoyd out of state.

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: 3 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala advised that Detective B. J. Silva had officially retired and they would have a retirement party for her and would get back to them with a date. He stated that she did a great job and he wanted to commend her for it. He reported that they have had a lot of traffic accidents and one police unit but no one was hurt and they were also busy with unhealthy conditions.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that he was sorry that he missed the presentation yesterday but he sure did like the amount of money. He advised that TCEQ did an inspection of the sewer plant, the first one in six years and they did it by Zoom and the phone and that no violations had been alleged, that we had not had a lot of reports about mosquitoes but we probably would after this rain and they were ready to go.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and recreation Director, advised that the pool would be closed now during the week but would open on the weekend through August due to school starting back.

Mayor Diaz ask if the splash pad would be closed and he advised that it would be open daily from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m..

Chief Mier had no report.

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Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated that at the last meeting she had advised that the Senior Center would open on August 2nd but sadly this did not happen, that due to the increase in Covid cases the center would stay closed 8 more weeks. She advised that on Monday Texas Health and Humane Services would be at the center from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. to sign up anyone 50 and over for the free tablet.

City Manager Squyres advised that it was not our decision to delay bringing the senior back to the center, it was the State office.

He commented on the retirement of Detective Silva, stating that she handled cases involving children and saw things that most of us would never see and she was very good at it but that is very stressful.

City Manager Squyres stated that someone on social media said the city was too lazy to go out for grants and went over some of the grants that we have recently received; the present TGLO grant of 5.3+ million grant that we are working on now at the sewer plant, the 5.3 million mitigation grant that will help finish the sewer plant, a 5.3+ million grant for drainage throughout the city, the 3.4 million phase 2 North Side Project which the CDBG just notified us that they will be picking up the leverage on it, the 2.28 million Covid grant and the 1.950 Million grant we just received for water lines, fire hydrants, etc. on the North Side and over the next two years we will be handling over 20 Million in grants.

Mayor Diaz commended him on writing these grants.

City Manager Squyres stated that it wasn't just him that our staff does a great job, they do them right, they get done on time and this is recognized by the people providing the grants.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Hernandez. 10721 Lane Street, stated that the citizens that make these comments don't understand all of this, they need to come to the council meeting and find out what is going on in the city before they make comments.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Mr. Purcell to address Mayor & Council concerning Permits.**

Mr. Purcell stated that he did not understand what he needed to get a permit for, that he wanted to put white rock in his yard and Rick told him he can't do that, then he saw where he had put culverts in the ditch and covered them with dirt and he wanted to know if he got a permit for that, did he need a permit to put dirt on the culverts. He said he told Rick that the house next door had rock in their yard and they said did not have to get a permit because it was grandfathered. He stated that Rick posted a stop work order on their job but that house was for sale.

City Manager Squyres advised him that the city put the culverts in for him to be sure they were done right and that he paid for the culverts so he did not have to get a permit for that. He advised him that if he put the white rock from the property line back toward his house and the city did not have a problem with that because the water would go through the gravel into the ground and not run into the storm drain but from his property line to the street he had to pour concrete or asphalt.

He also explained to Mr. Purcell that that there would not be a grandfather clause on the other house that he referred because that once a house was sold Or changed owners that it lost the grandfather clause.

Mr. Purcell said that he wanted to put down white rock in his yard and Rick told him he could not.

City Manager Squyres advised that he would check into this with the building inspector and get back with him.

There was general discussion between the Mayor, Council and Mr. Purcell and Mr. Purcell stated that Rick told him that a grandfather clause was permanent.

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Council Member Rivas stated that he would like to see something in writing about the procedures for permits.

Mr. Purcell questioned where you posted the permits and was advised in the window where they could be seen.

Council Member Rivas stated that he had discussed at one time about putting a box in people's yard where the permit could be posted.

City Manager Squyres advised that the staff post on the city's web page each Friday all permits that have been issued by address and type of permit.

Mr. Purcell stated he would like to see if we could get the sidewalks that the pipeline company had torn up replaced so the kids walking to the bus stop did not have to walk in the street.

- 2. Council to issue RFP for miscellaneous water and sewer maintenance and repair items.**

City Manager Squyres explained this would allow Mr. Reed to have a pre-approved vendor list when dealing with sort notice or emergency repairs. In the past he had used companies that he felt gave us a good price and did a good job and this had worked but could put us in a position of violating State purchasing laws; if we call out a water line repair several times within the budget year, the total spent with that company could go over the \$50,000 threshold without us catching it and it could get a finding by the auditors. He stated that if we do the RFP's this would allow Mr. Reed to build a shopping list of work that is pre-bid with pricing that is good for the whole year which makes it competitive and legal.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve issuing the RFP for miscellaneous water and sewer maintenance and repair items. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

- 3. Council to issue RFP for paving, asphalt and/or concrete and sidewalk repairs.**

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Council Member Rivas stated this would serve the same purpose as Item 2, and was advised it would.

Council Member Rivas made a motion seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve issuing an RFP for Paving, asphalt and or concrete and sidewalk repairs. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

- 4. Council to consider amending budget for electrical modification to fire station budget code 24-6801 in the amount of \$14,661.00.**

City Manager Squyres explained that when we built on to the fire station the Contract did not do a good job on the generator, that it was not wired to cover all that needed to be covered and went over some of the essentials that were not covered by the generator. He advised they had hired a generator company to come out and determine what we needed to do to run the whole building and the generator was fine, we just needed to do some rewiring to accomplish this.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to amend Budget Code 24-6801 in the amount of \$14,661.00 for the electrical modification to the fire station. Vote: 3 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he loved music and we just lost a great bass player, ZZTOP, whose real name was Dusty Hill and he was from Galen Park and he grew up listening to him, Mr. Rivas wished everyone a good weekend. God Bless and he would see them at the next meeting.

Mayor Diaz and some of the Council stated that ZZTOP played at Galen Park.

Council Member Robinson wished everyone a great weekend and to be careful out there.

Council Member Garcia called attention to an article that has been in the paper about the crossing guard at Jacinto City Elementary being in the hospital with COVID, advising that she had passed away and ask that everyone keep the family in their Prayers.

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Ms. Garcia thanked City Manager Squyres for writing the grants, Joyce, Kathy and other staff that helped with them, that we had great employees that take care of our city and wished everyone a good weekend and stay safe.

Council Member Robinson stated that he appreciated Lon and all of the staff for getting these grants. He advised that Mary had a birthday tomorrow and everyone wished her a happy birthday.

Council Member Rivas stated that they sit up here at the table and we have a great staff and that was what was behind them.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines".

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**