

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 26, 2021 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas arrived after roll call 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 5 For 0 Against.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated that the mosquitoes must be pretty much ok, that we had only received one complaint this week and We appreciated Harris County making a pass through our city with their mosquito truck. Mr. Reed advised that in the 100 and 200 blocks of five streets we were doing asphalt repairs and the asphalt plant was down so they would probably be there for the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Reed advised that our mechanic Kevin Friend had a family member with serious health issues and ask that everyone keep him in their prayers.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, did not have a report

Chief Ayala did not have a report.

Ivan Rojas, Parks & Recreation, did not have a report.

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Chief Mier advised that with the storm in the gulf, we might have some rain coming in so be aware and with school starting back to please watch out for the kids.

City Manager Squyres advised that he was supposed to be in Seabrook in a meeting with Harris County today to discuss flood control projects but Harris County was in full COVID mode so they did the meeting online and they didn't even show the project he had brought to their attention, to eliminate all the twist and turns on Hunting Bayou which would benefit Jacinto, Galena Park, Song wood, etc. so when the meeting was ending he ask about this and the gentleman in charge of the program and the Commissioner didn't know anything about it. Another gentleman who was there stated it was on the original plan and was approved by Commissioner's Court so we will be having a public meeting and we would probably host it and we would need a crowd, we were making progress.

There were no comments from the public.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS;

- 1. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation on request at 10346 Palestine.**

City Manager Squyres advised that Mr. Adrian Ocana had applied for a variance to have a tire shop at 10346 Palestine the Variance Board had met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 on the request and had voted 3 For – 0 Against Allowing the variance for a tire shop at this address.

A representative for Mr. Ocana introduced himself as Eric and stated that he worked for an Environmental Service Company and they hired

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him to monitor the facility. He stated that they would spruce up the building and make it look better and they were experienced with EPA regulations. He stated that no tires would be outside, it was a small operation and everything would be inside.

There was general discussion as to why the Variance Board voted against the variance and Mr. Wayne Nichols, a member of the Variance Board stated that the Board's main objection was that there were already two tire store in the city that stayed neat and the rest of them were junkie.

Council Member Garcia ask if the other tire shops had someone like him to be sure they complied with EPA regulations.

City Manager Squyres advised that the property taxes were behind and the school District would be filing on the property. There was discussion about the property being a partnership.

Mr. Ocana, Jr. advised that his dad was out of town but they were aware of the taxes.

Council Member Rivas stated his concern was the location and condition of the property and they are sharing with Alaniz and he won't get his cleaned up, that he says he will clean up and nothing happens, he thinks the idea of improving anything would be beneficial to the city.

Council Member Robinson stated that he didn't see them getting Mr. Alaniz to agree.

Council Member Garcia ask if we had talked with Mr. Alaniz.

She was advised that that he had been issued many citations and does nothing.

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City Manager Squyres stated that they were going to be applying for their business license, which expires on August 31st and we will require inspections.

Mrs. Reyna's daughter stated that she and her brother had talked with Mr. Alaniz about helping to pay the taxes and cleaning up and told him that he has to help with this.

Mr. Squyres ask her if Mr. Alaniz had an interest in the property and she advised that it was a partnership.

Council Member Robinson stated that he would like to speak with the variance board.

Mayor Diaz advised the Council they could table the vote until they discussed it more.

Council Member Lee made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Garcia to table this for more discussion. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. Council Approval to auction of Public Works vehicles: 1999 Chevrolet Pickup Vin. 5850, 2002 Ford Pickup, Vin: 1999 and 2002 Ford Pickup, Vin: 8074

Council Member Rivas stated that the 1999 Chevrolet had 239 miles on it.

Kyle stated that all three were junk.

Council Member Garcia stated that she had ask Lon about getting rid of some of the old equipment that was not used.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council

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**Member Garcia to approve auctioning of the vehicles listed. Vote 5 for
0 Against**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked the Variance Board for their service but things come up and that was what we needed to discuss. He discussed the storm and ask everyone to pray for the people in Louisiana and to call if they had a problem with mosquitoes.

Council Member Robinson cautioned everyone to be safe and watch the weather.

Council Member Lee stated he things we are very fortunate and that someone is watching over us.

Council Member Garcia advised that we had started budget workshops and everyone is welcome to join us to see what the city anticipating for the new budget year and the next workshop was Tuesday, August 31th.

Council Member Gonzales ask if all tire shops were located in industrial areas.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce Raines".

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**