

**COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 11, 2021 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call and City Attorney DeFoyd 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 Gonzales to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 4 For 0 Against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Chief Mier stated that in September they had approved hiring three full time employees for the fire Department and she would like to introduce Mike Bodak Our first full time, that he had worked as part time since 2015 and started on November 1<sup>st</sup> as full time.**

**Mayor Diaz ask Chief Mier to introduce each of the firemen present; Paul Landi, Moe Davis, Jared Jackson and Mike Bodak.**

**City Manager ask each of them What Fire Department they worked for and how many yeas as a fire fighter and stated that we have a lot of experience in our fire department.**

**Mayor Diaz welcomed Mr. Bodak and thanked the firemen for all they do for the city.**

**Mr. Israel Savela, Jacinto City Library, he provided some library and discussed a list of services the library provides. Mr. Savela stated that he had enjoyed the time he had spent at the Jacinto City Library but this would be his last council meeting, he was going to the City of Houston.**

**There was general discussion about the library.**

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**Mayor Diaz wished him the best and thanked him for doing the curb side service.**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, Call their attention to the new stripping on the streets, stating they were almost through and he hoped that it lasted longer than the last time, they had used a different paint. He advised that they had started a little early on the Christmas Decorations and they would all be up by Thanksgiving. He thanked Moe and Bodak with the fire department for taking care of one of his employees, and advised that the water line on the North Side was going good but the contractor was having a supply problem.**

**Chief Ayala stated that the first responders has always done a fine job and he thanked them. He advised that we did get some complaints about the traffic problems at Jacinto City Elementary, that we gave tickets to some and it seem to have settled down.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that she had gotten some calls about the traffic.**

**Chief Ayala thanked all the veterans and that he appreciated what they had done for us. He stated that we had a lot of traffic coming through the city and we have had some issues in the city, that three businesses had been broken into. He advised that Mr. Prater, a long time resident and a supporter of the police department had passed away and would be missed and expressed sympathy to the family. He stated they were there to help if needed.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that we had talked about all the grants we were getting and now is the time we start, the Mayor signed the contract on the first mitigation contract for 5.3 million yesterday and we had the start up meeting today , there was a lot of paper work to do, this was a three year project and we had 60 days to complete the paperwork.**

**We had completed the design phase for the first phase of the sewer plant and would be doing out for bids soon and this was a \$5.3 million project which was the TGLO Grant and would be starting on construction soon.**

**The Harvey mitigation grant for \$5.3 million would be for Phase 2 which would be the middle section of the sewer plant, and discussed the other grants we**

**were receiving and it was going to be a busy time at City Hall and the Public Works Department.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, thanked all the veterans for their services and thanked the fire department. She stated her husband passed away about 3 years ago and he was a large man and they came out and helped get him up when he fell when needed, that our response time is great, she didn't know what she would have done without them. She stated the city workers are great, it is a good place to live and we have a lot of pride in our city and it is one of the most family cities around.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1. 2<sup>ND</sup> and final reading of Ordinance 2021--5 Amending Chapter 3, Sec. 8, Signs of the code of Ordinances of Jacinto City, Texas.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve Ordinance 2021-5 on the second and final reding. Vote 4 For 1 Against (Rivas)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Council to consider Variance Board's recommendation on request at 11450 East Freeway for a billboard.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that Mr. Burkett had applied at another location Mercury at I-10 and they denied him because of the location, they felt the sign was to big for that location and they made a counter proposal on the other end of town and he has a coupon from TXDOT with a limited amount of time for another location.**

**Council Member Robinson ask if he said the sign was 14' x 48' and was advised that was right and he ask if that didn't exceed our ordinance requirements.**

**Mr. Burkett stated that 14' x 48' was the TXDOT standard and 60' was their standard for height and this would avoid blocking the Holiday Inn and Discount Tire signs and they would provide advertisement for the city.**

**Council Member Lee ask why we needed the ordinance, we had a sign ordinance.**

**City Manager Squyres explained the State required an Ordinance for digital signs and our ordinance did not include this, that the only thing that was amended was to include digital signs, everything else remained the same.**

**Council Member Garcia stated that she didn't see it getting in the way of any businesses.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that she did not see any things wrong with the sign.**

**Council Member Rivas ask Mr. Burkett that when he first wanted the sign and he knew it wasn't going to work and he moved it, why didn't he move it to the north side of the freeway in Houston.**

**Mr. Burkett stated that he preferred to work with smaller cities, it is in a commercial area and he would give free advertising for city functions.**

**Mayor Diaz ask Council Member Rivas what his concern was, that she didn't see a problem with it.**

**Council Member Rivas stated that he remembered a man that got up and left after he was denied the variance and didn't even thank us for our time or anything and if this sign goes up he hopes that he appreciates that.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the variance at 11450 East Freeway for the billboard.**

**Vote: 4 For 1 Against (Rivas)**

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**2. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation on variance at 10730 Wiggins.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that Ms. LaGloria Sephus had applied for a special use permit to have a day care center at the United Methodist Church on Wiggins and the Board had approved her request and gone to great lengths to advise her that she would have to meet all the State requirements and this was a old building and it would take a lot of work to meet the code requirements. Mr. Squyres advise that this was zoned for Church or residential and that was why they were asking for a special use permit and Ms. Sephus stated that she had the financial baking.**

**Ms. Sephus, 9701 Market, stated that The Texas Conference from the church had determined that there was no Day Care withing 2 ¼ miles of Jacinto City and there was a need for one and she had gone after the funding first, she stated that the church had an army of engineers, etc. willing to donate their services and the financing would be through the Moody Foundation for \$90,000 and also a promise of \$1,000,000, that she knew the church was 77 years old and she had her work cut out for her but there was a need for a day care in this area.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the Variance Board's recommendation for the Special Use Permit. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**3. Resolution 2021-9R Casting City's ballot for Mike Sullivan to the Board Of Directors of the Harris County Appraisal District.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that we had nominated Mike Sullivan at a previous meeting and there was no other nominations and this resolution was to cast our ballot for Mr. Sullivan.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve Resolution 2021-9R casting our vote for Mr. Sullivan. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**4. First Reading of Ordinance 2021-6 Amending Chapter 10 “Utilities” at Sec. 5E Garbage Collection Fees.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Ordinance 2021-6 Amending Garbage Collections fees on the first reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**5. Resolution 2021-10R Entering into an agreement through The Attorney General’s office entitled Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council and Settlement allocation**

**City Manager Squyres stated that they heard a lot about this at TML Conference, that for years the State had been trying to sue the big companies that promote this and had decided to file a class action suite and most cities, with exception of some of the bigger cities like Dallas, etc. but smaller cities don’t have the funds to do this but all cities will get allocations, initially Jacinto City would get \$14,000 but over the years cities would be able to apply for grants for certain things from the fund.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Rivas thanked Israel Savela from the Library for coming to Jacinto and happy trails, he had enjoyed conversations with him. He thanked Chief Ayala for the kind words for James Prater, he appreciated that, he had known him for 37 years, he wished everyone a good weekend and God Bless.**

**Council Member Robinson stated the Prater Family would be in our Prayers and thanked all the veterans for what they did and do for us. He ask Chief Mier to tell Mr. Bodak welcome.**

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**Council Member Lee stated that we would miss John Henry, that was what his**

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**wife called him. He commented on the Nut Crackers that the Fire Department made out of 65 gallon drums.**

**Council Member Garcia stated this was the Marines Birthday as well as veterans day. She stated it was nice to see all the Firemen out and commended the Police Department for the job they do. She stated that she had attended the HGAC Directors dinner yesterday and the new Director wants to come out and spend ½ day in each city to get to know everyone.**

**Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone that participated in the Halloween Drive through, there was a good turnout. He thanked all the veterans, that we all knew one or may live with one. He expressed condolence to the Prater Family.**

**Mayor Diaz thanked Kathy and Joyce for their help with the Halloween event, that we had a great turnout. She thanked Chief Ayala and his Officer and Kyle, Bernardo and Staff for putting up all the lights.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**