

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 23, 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 Rivas to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented.

Vote: 4 For – 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, reported that Congress Woman Sheila Jackson Lee has donated 70 turkeys to the seniors at Heritage Hall and they had delivered them today and that another Organization, Mahesh Rege, Regional Service Coordinator for Sathya Sai Region 10 had donated pies for the seniors and another volunteer group was Yes Prep White Oak Secondary Humanitarian Society was there. She advised that each senior that received seniors home bound meals would receive a plate on Thanksgiving day.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works Department, advised that they were staying busy and the waterline project on the North side was going well and they were doing a good job.

Mayor Diaz stated that everyone liked the Christmas lights, she had gotten a lot of comments on them and thanked public works for all their work on them and everyone loved the Nut Crackers with the donuts at the Police Department. There was a discussion about lights at the Gateway entrances.

Chief Ayala advised that as of yesterday they had the robbery suspect that hit Chevron in custody. He stated there were a lot of people roaming the streets to keep an eye on your property and call them if you see anything suspicious.

Mayor Diaz stated that she has receive call from citizens saying they see officers on the streets and they are glad of that.

Mayor Diaz introduced Martina Dixon and stated that she was running for County Judge, and she was sorry we had such a small crowd but our meeting had been changed from Thursday due to Thanksgiving.

Ms. Dixon thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her to be here and stated that she grew up in this area, she discussed some of the changes that she would like to see happen and discussed her qualifications and that we needed to make some changes and would appreciate their support.

City Manager Squyres reported that we were making good progress on the North Side Project, that we had already signed the \$5.3 million Mitigation Contract on the drainage project and been notified today that the \$5.3 Million contract on the sewer plant was ready to be signed.

He stated that he had visited the new bakery in Tinsel Town Center and they would be opening in two weeks and this would be a great asset to the city.

Mayor Diaz stated that we needed to order something.

Mr. Squyres advised that he had entered an article about the cities 75 Anniversary in the TML Spirit Award, we did not get it but was asked about doing an article on the 75 Anniversary in our city and it would be in the TML Magazine.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Hernandez, 10721 Lane wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and that he and Donna didn't think they were a small crowd.

Donna Dailey stated that it looked like that we might be getting someone with common sense.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. 2nd and final reading of Ordinance 2021-6 Amending Chapter 10 "Utilities" at Sec. 5E Garbage Collection Fees.

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A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve Ordinance 2021-6 on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council to change December 23, 2021 Council Meeting to Tuesday, December 21, 2021 due to Christmas Holidays.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Lee to change the December 23rd Council Meeting to Tuesday, December 21st. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. First reading of Ordinance 2021-7 Authorizing & Allowing, under The Act Governing the Texas Municipal Retirement System, “Updated Service Credits” in said system on an annual basis.

City Manager Squyres Stated that this update credit would mean that the employees that now contribute 5% would be contributing 6% and the city would contribute 2 to 1 and this would be an incentive to keep employees from leaving.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve Ordinance 2021-7 on the first reading. Vote 5 For 0 against.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he had a question for Ms. Dixon but she left, he was advised that she would be right back. He wished everyone good Thanksgiving.

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Council Member Robinson wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the time with their family.

Council Member Lee wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and God Bless.

Council Member Garcia wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all, be safe and we would see them at the next meeting.

Council Member Gonzales wished all a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Rivas ask Ms. Dixon what about one of the issues she plan to address on her card, stop releasing violent criminals into our communities. That our officers do the best job they can, the criminals are released on bond, what was her plan on this.

Ms. Dixon stated this was a personal issue with her that a good friend had been shot and killed in his driveway while getting into his car by a person out on bond, he was arrested and out on bond again before the funeral, that our courts are backed up, we need to hire more prosecuting attorneys and look into what we allow bonds to be set for. She stated that cuts had been made in Constables budgets and she wanted to get this back, that crime had increased 35% in Harris County and changes needed to be made.

Council Member Rivas stated that he agreed with her.

Mayor Dias adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Raines, City Secretary

