

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. City Attorney DeFoyd out of State, Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call.

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: 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Ayala ask for a moment of silent prayer for the officer from San Jacinto County who was shot and killed yesterday. He stated that he had received calls asking if it was one of our officers and he had checked on all of our officers to be sure it was not, and we were very fortunate it was not one of ours. He stated that they have been very busy as well as the fire department and public works making sure our community stays safe and we appreciate them very much.

Mayor Diaz stated that it was very stressful and thanked him for keeping them informed.

Chief Mier had no report.

Elizabeth Flores. Heritage Hall Director, advised that they had been advised that the Senior Center would be opening on April 1st, which was a Friday. She stated they had discussed having them come in for bingo twice a week, one for American bingo and one for Mexican bingo and they would be taking them to the rodeo parade on Saturday.

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There was discussion about the weather and Elizabeth advised that they take their blankets and where they park they could stay on the bus and watch the parade and then they take them out to lunch.

Kyle Reed, Public Works Director had no report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres stated that they were trying to put a lot of stipulations on opening the center such as requiring them to wear masks, be vaccinated, keep charts on the seniors, etc. and we were not going to do that.

He stated that the Officer the Chief was talking about makes you see how quick things can happen, he discussed all the things that are going on during this time when they are working on the patient, it is a sad thing to happen and the person who shot the officer was shot and killed as well.

Mr. Squyres advised that the city had a lot of projects going on and we were staying busy.

COMMENTS FORM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Purcell, 11211 Munn, ask if he had to have a permit to put up a carport If it was not attached to his house.

Mr. Squyres advised him that he would have to have a permit for the carport and that he could speak with Mr. Spink if he had any questions about the location of the carport, etc.

Mr. Purcell ask what about the house next door to him that had a building behind the house and some one was living there and they keep Running over his water meter.

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Mr. Squyres advised that where he lived was zone for single family dwelling and he thought that the building official had already addressed this with the home owner and advised that they could live in the front house or the back house but could not have anyone living in both homes.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation on Variance Request at 1711 Kerby

City Manager Squyres stated that the Variance Board had met on Tuesday night and that Mr. Pablo Miranda had advised them that he was Requesting a variance on the set back lines for new construction for a home addition and a carport.

Mr. Spink, the building official, stated that he did not have a problem with this and the Variance Board did not have a problem with it and voted to approve the request by a vote of 5 For 0 Against.

Council Member Rivas stated that the need for the variance was that he wanted to save a porch on the front of the house so he was asking for the variance in the back.

Council Member Garcia ask if others had been allowed to do this and was advise yes they had.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and was seconded by Council member Rivas to accept the recommendation of the Variance Board and approve the variance. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz ask the Council what holiday was coming and ask if they wanted to go back to the Easter Egg hunt on the ball fields or do the drive through.

There was general discussion on the Easter egg hunt and it was the consensus of the Council to go back to the original egg hunt on the ball fields and have the hunt begin at Noon.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas advised Chief Ayala those were very nice words and he appreciated being kept up to date, we were hoping and praying for the best.

He stated that he was ready for the sunshine and we were not going to have an election, he thanked everyone for their confidence in them and was looking forward to another two years.

Council Member Robinson stated that he was looking forward to two more years to help continue improvements in the city. He cautioned everyone to be safe and have a good weekend.

Council Member Lee congratulated his fellow councilmen and looked forwarding to working with them for two more years and thinks we need to have an egg hunt, be safe and God Bless.

Council Member Garcia stated she knew they were busy yesterday and was so glad it turned out well for us. She ask Kyle if he was almost through with the waterlines on the North side. She congratulated the Council and thanked the Variance Board.

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Council Member Gonzales congratulated Council Members Rivas, Robinson and Lee on a hard fought campaign and like Chief Ayala commended our officers who put their lives on the line all the time and thanked them for their service.

Council Member Lee thanked the Miranda Family for taking care of the variance the right way.

Mayor Diaz stated that it was a pleasure to work with them.

City Manager Squyres stated it was a pleasure to work with a Council that worked well together and discussed problems that a number of cities were having that was in the news and that we worked together on behalf of the citizens.

Mr. Seydler stated that they were taking a bee exhibit to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and they get more people at their exhibit than most of the others.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**