

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

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

Chief Mier had no report.

Elizabeth Flores. Heritage Hall Director, advised that they had a good turn out for exercise, that they were open for activities only, no meals and would be opening the center on April 4, 2022.

Chief Ayala advised that they had a lot of unclaimed property and would be listing it on face book and if they see anything that belong to them or someone they knew to call the police department.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, announced that the Little League Parade was on Saturday, March 26th at 9:00 a.m. and would start at Tinsel Town and come down Market to Oates and to the baseball fields and this was opening day for the leagues.

Mayor Diaz stated that everyone was ready, that it was nice to drive by the fields and see the kids practicing and ask Mr. Atchison if he would to tell everyone what they would be having that day.

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Mr. Atchison advised they would be having snow cones, hot dogs, corn, the snack bar, etc. , team pictures and games all day.

Mayor Diaz thanked him for doing all that he does.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works, stated that everything was going good, they were working to keep everything looking good.

Claudia Harrison, the new Jacinto City Librarian, discussed the things that were going on at the library, their hours of operation and that they had hot spots, there was no age limit, and everyone was welcome come out and use it, and they also have a tax service if you make \$55,000 or less.

Mayor Dias explained about hot spots and how it worked.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that when we accepted bids on the Waster Water Treatment Plant at the last meeting we had only received 1 bid and the County said we could not accept the bid and we would have to go back out for bids but the decision right now is with the war going on, contractors are lairy about being able to get materials and meet the rigid time line on the project and if we would we receive any bids, even though we receive the 5.3 million for the project we don't make the decisions, the funds come from HUD, through GLO and CDBG.

Mr. Squyres said they may have heard that there was something green in Turkey Run Gulley, it was nothing bad, a local company was testing some tanks for leaks and it was just a non-toxic dye but they should let us know, Harris County Haz Mat, TCEQ and Harris County Water Control were all out here.

Council Member Rivas ask if we do this on the waste water treatment

and we fail to meet compliance how will this affect us, would they take this into consideration.

City Manager Squyres thinks they may, that we don't look like we would be out of compliance, that we are re-permitting the waste water treatment plant and they may change the magnesium requirement which will help us as we spend about \$50,000 a year on magnesium. He Stated that we were hoping to not have to repair anything on the plant But we had a blower go out and had to replace it but we would not have to include that in the rehab.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that a lot of food has been going to residents and to heritage hall seniors and they qualify if they are disable, over 65 or veterans, she stated that she goes up and gets what she delivers and the city picks up what goes to Heritage Hall seniors. She explained that they get about 3 or 4 skids of food for the residents and the place is 8 miles away and it takes about 12 minutes to get there, they are going to give us enough food for one month and her SUV won't hold all of that.

She introduced 3 of her volunteers and that the city said they could not do anything, that if they did it for her they would have to do it for everyone so she was coming to the council, she needs their permission for the city truck to pickup the skids and deliver them to Heritage Hall .

Council Member Rivas ask if Heritage Hall would be inconvenienced.

Elizabeth replied not right now but maybe when they open back up.

Ms. Dailey stated that the city did not unload the pallets that they had volunteers that did that.

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There was general discussion about the city helping to unload and the use of a lift, the use of a trailer to pick up as opposed to the dump truck and if there would be a better place to do this besides Heritage Hall.

Ms. Dailey ask if she just tells Joseph's House no because council won't allow the city to help.

Mayor Diaz said no, we are not going to do this, she did not want her to stop.

Mr. Squyres explained that Kyle was short handed and they would have to take the left to unload the skids.

Ms. Dailey said they only needed them 2 or 4 times a month and only for 2 to 4 hours.

Mr. Squyres stated that he would get with Kyle and see what they could do.

He stated that the staff at Heritage Hall would be busy once they opened back up, that maybe they could get with some of the churches that might have a place to store the food.

Ms. Dailey stated they did not want to involve politics or religion, that they picked up on Wednesday and were done by Friday and the people that she takes care of picks up at her house the same day.

Ms. Dailey said she has to know for sure, the people need it, that Joseph's House has helped us a lot.

Mayor Diaz stated that we would work it out, that she appreciates the ladies and gentlemen for what they do.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2022-3 Declaring Unopposed candidates in the May 7, 2022 General city Election; Elected to office; cancelling the election; providing a Severability clause and providing an effective date.**

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve Ordinance 2022-3 on the second and final reading. Vote 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz advised that this would be our 8th year without an election and they thanked them for trusting and having confidence in them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council action on Variance Boards recommendation on Variance Request at 10518 La Crosse**

City Manager Squyres stated the Amolochitis were the original owners of this Property which had over 16,000 Sq. ft. and had three buildings on the lot Which had been grandfathered before the Zoning Ordinance was adopted and they wanted to remodel the second structure so the son could move in to be there for the mother. The remodel would not change the foot print of the build, they would be enclosing a porch to enlarge the living room, and increase kitchen space and move the water heater out of the kitchen area.

City Manager Squyres stated that the Variance Board recommended the variance be granted.

Council Member Rivas ask why the variance if there was no foot print change.

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City Manager Squyres explained the building official request for a variance.

Council Member Gonzales ask with that many square foot on the lot would they be able to build another structure on that property and Mr. Squyres stated no because they need 40 ft. of road frontage and the property didn't have this.

Ms. Dailey ask what if they sell the property grandfathered in and was advised that it would still have to be zoned as a single family dwelling and the owners had been advised of this.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales. Vote: 3 For 1 Against (Rivas)

**2. Council to consider a memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
With Galena Park Little League**

Sonia Mejia with the Galena Park Little League stated they were asking if they could bring 2 of their senior teams here to play, stating that they had no problem helping out, they just wanted the kids to be able to play.

Mayor Diaz ask why they were coming over here to play and she stated because their fields were not safe to play on.

Mayor Diaz ask if they would like to join in our parade on Saturday.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia Vote: 4 For 0 Against

City Manager Squyres said they already had everything worked out themselves, the City does not have to do anything, we do take care of the fields.

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Mayor Diaz stated that we have nothing to do with the leagues, we would see them Saturday.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he really didn't see the need for a variance when the foot print didn't change, that was why he was opposed to it. He was glad they were here and wanted to do this.

He stated that he was glad to see these ladies and gentlemen doing what they are doing, it is good to know there are people out there that are willing to volunteer their time'

Ms. Dailey said if we could come up with a building Joseph House would bring it over to us.

Council Member Rivas stated that with hurricane season coming up, there might be some faces in need.

Mayor Diaz stated that she thinks they have good dependable donors.

Council Member Robinson Thanked the volunteers for what they do, be safe and have a good weekend.

Council Member Garcia Thanked the Volunteers for all they do, and if anyone sees someone walking their dog without a lease to please call public works and report it, we have an ordinance covering this. She welcomed Ms. Harrison to our library and stated that like the Mayor said, We did not want the food distribution to go away.

Chris Diaz commended the police department for doing a fantastic job, that they were on the streets throughout the city.

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Council Member Garcia reminded everyone about the Market by Night on April 9th, to come out and enjoy and if they would like to be a part of the Market they could pick up an application at city hall.

Rebecca advised that they had about 20 vendors and would be having Crawfish and entertainment.

Council Member Gonzales thanked all the volunteers, that it was good to see baseball back in town and he was looking forward to the parade and welcomed Galena Park on board.

Mayor Diaz reminded everyone that the Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for April 9th at 1:00 p.m. and we would be using all three fields and ask that it be put on the marquees.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**

