

COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 22, 2015 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 on vacation.

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: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Lt. Longrigg advised that Chief Ayala was on vacation and all was going good at the police station but he would like to caution everyone about putting boxes, etc. out in the trash, that was showing the bad guys what you received for Christmas .

Chief Meir ask everyone to be careful using heaters during the cold weather and reminded them there were no fireworks allowed in Jacinto City.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works, advised that all was well at Public works and wished Happy Holidays to all.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, thanked everyone for helping with the Senior's Christmas Pary, that they had a good crowd and everyone seem to enjoy it.

Mayor Diaz stated that it was a good party and she would get more comfortable as time passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Diaz wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked Ms. Joyce and Kathy, that Santa on the Fire Truck turned out very good and she didn't think we missed a street, that we received one complaint while we were driving, we responded back and they were happy. She thanked the Galena Park High School Gents, the Interactive Club and Furr JROTC for helping give out stockings. Ms. Diaz stated that we filled 4500 stockings and the way it worked was that the program was totally funded by donations, no money was spent by the city and we really appreciate all our local businesses, vendors and citizens for their contributions. She stated that she had people ask how much money we spent and she could tell them that we didn't spend any money, it was all donations and the seniors helped us out with stuffing some of the stockings.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres advised that in addition to what the Fire Chief said about it being illegal to pop fireworks, that meant any kind, including sparklers and not only was it illegal but we were going to give zero tolerance, particularly for the New Year's evening, that every patrol, every undercover car, marked or unmarked, will have an officer in it and when we say zero tolerance we mean no warnings will be given.

Mayor Diaz ask if everyone would be on duty and Mr. Squyres advised not every officer but every car that we had would be on the street and no warnings would be given, citations would be given to anyone popping fireworks or anyone firing a gun, that it was such a dangerous activity and he knew that we couldn't eliminate it but we were going to try to send the message loud and clear that it was not acceptable. He advised that we were going to get an article in the paper about it, put in on all city signs and on the website.

Mr. Squyres advised that we received a letter confirming our grant for next year, \$871,596 and it was a CDBG Grant and this was the next phase of waterlines and fire hydrants and went over the streets this phase would cover.

Ms. Flores, from Heritage Hall, ask if the little things they throw and pop was considered illegal Mr. Squyres advised that the were called poppers and they were not illegal, that anything you lit was considered fireworks.

Mayor Diaz stated that she didn't know if they noticed but going down Holland to Lane they were fixing the culvert in the drainage ditch where it was caved in.

Mr. Squyres said they advised him today that they were at least going to get on site with some equipment today.

Mr Squyres also advised that GLO force main project at Mercury and Lane would start on January 4th.

Mayor Diaz ask Mr. Squyres if he would like to explain the Christmas Decorations.

Mr. Squyres stated that because of the weather, they had just last night been able to get out and do the survey of the city for the decorations and Crystal at City Hall was doing that so we would have it on the next agenda but letters would still go out.

6. There was no unfinished business.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Squyres presented the Investment Report for FY 2014/2015

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to accept the Investment Report for Fy 2014-2015 as presented. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

2. A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council member Rivas to approve the City's Investment Policy. Vote: 5 For 0 Against
3. Discussion on restrooms at Smith Park.

Mayor Diaz let's get this done, that she didn't want a lot of discussion on these Restrooms, we knew it had to be done and we made an agreement that we were going to have it done by February 1st.

Council Member Robinson stated that what he agreed on was to have the Concession stand done by February 1st that we couldn't build the restrooms that fast.

Council Member Rivas stated that he didn't get the opportunity to sit through the meeting they had on the previous date but what he did do was meet with Ms. Garcia out there at the location and discussed a few different options of this so he would like to recommend that we give it one last look over.

Mayor Diaz ask him to explain to her what he wanted to look over because we had been tabling it for quite a while.

Mr. Rivas stated this was a single building but to look at the options of having the announcer,s booth and the restrooms all in one combined building would serve it's purpose a lot better than investing this amount of money into just one building.

Mayor Diaz ask where did he want to put the announcer's booth & restrooms.

Council Member Rivas stated it would sit right there where the old building was and Mayor Diaz ask what old building, where the little shack was at. She stated that we made a agreement already that we were going to have a concession stand made by February 1st., was he going to have all this done by February 1st.

Council Member Rivas stated that if it was JJ Rivas Construction doing this he would promise her that but he wouldn't be doing the building.

Mayor Diaz ask if he wanted to build a concession stand restroom and announcer's booth all together in that place right there and he replied yes. Mayor Diaz ask if there was room for it all right there. Mr. Rivas stated that from the measurements that he took today it was.

Council Member Garcia stated that there would have to be more concrete added to include the restrooms.

Mayor Diaz ask what was our budget on this and was advised by Council Member Robinson that it was \$125,000 and Mayor Diaz ask if this was going to cover what they were talking about. Council Member Robinson stated he didn't think so but that was just his opinion.

Council Member Garcia question the cost between prefab and building something.

City Manager Squyres stated that he was not a builder so he could not answer that other than to say he could tell them what they had looked at so far but what they were talking about could probably be built prefab as well and what they were seeing in in front of them was \$97,000 and the other one that Council Member Gonzales had shown them was an out of town company and came in at \$138,000 .

Council Member Robinson stated that he had a question, on the \$97,000 did he break down the concrete and Mr..Squyers stated it was one number.

There was discussion on whether there would be room to put it where they were talking about.

Mayor Diaz stated that she had talked with some of the parents and they like the restrooms where there were at because they could watch their kids go to the restroom, they are concerned with the safety of their children., they don't want them moved.

Council Member Rivas stated they took that into consideration also, the children being able to Go to the restroom and the parents being able to watch them ,they considered security as well into that . The police would be able to see these doors.

There was discussion about the parks being used twelve months out of the year and the ball fields only being used 2 or 3 months a year and only 2 nights a week and Ivan had brought this out in his comments.

Mayor Diaz stated so the restrooms were used more by the parks with the pavilion rentals which was almost every weekend and basketball and everyday park use.

Council Member Rivas said that something else they had talked about was bringing soccer teams in .

Mayor Diaz stated that we have had soccer before and we also have it during the summer where the YMCA comes and does the soccer and there was maybe 10 to 20 kids and her kid was one of them.

Council Member Garcia stated that the day she and JJ were out there, there was maybe 10 or so, all from Galena Park High playing and they stated that they had to go to North Channel to play so maybe in the future Jacinto city could have soccer here so they wouldn't have to go to North Channel. She stated that also thinking in terms of the future, JJ and she thought there where the current restrooms are in the future that could be knocked down and we could build a second pavilion bringing more income into the city and move the parking up where the current restroom is right now and that would allow cars to go in and out and park on both sides and again they were just thinking in terms of the future, you couldn't build something just for now, you had to think ahead as well. She stated that she thought the combo would be the best bet but she guessed we had to think of it in terms of cost, she stated that personally she like the building that was in the back, the kind of blocks that they used looked very sturdy, that she didn't like the tuff shed that was there right now, it was not very sturdy and she hoped that we did not get another tuff shed again. She stated that if we could get something constructed like the building in the back as a combo, we might not be able to use the existing slab, we might have to start all over again we were looking into something for the future., she knew they needed something now and this should have been discussed a long time ago, that honestly if we wanted it by baseball season, this should have been talked about way before budget time so we were not going to rush into something just because they need it now, this should have been talked about way before budget time.

There was discussion about how long we had been discussing this.

Council Member Garcia stated that all of this takes time to plan.

City Manager Squyres ask if he would make a suggestion/offer, He ask JJ if he could throw some kind of sketch together, that it didn't have to be detailed, he could maybe get some bids on prefab and if we were not content with that, we could do something else.

Mayor Diaz stated that we wanted to get that concession stand done by February because how long had it been since they have had a concession stand over there and then we gripe at them for putting a trailer there.

Council Member Rivas stated that we did not approve a trailer yet they it in and that was the gripe, that if the man had come to him and ask him to work on that with him he would have let the trailer in, that he thought that everyone here would under stand.

Mayor Diaz stated that it was not their problem, it was our problem, we had to provide for our citizens so how long had it been that we had been discussing having a concession stand there.

Council Member Rivas ask how many days did it take to build Rome

Someone spoke up and said that we had been discussing it two years.

Council Member Garcia stated that the announcer's booth that was there right now, as they had measured it today the perfect size for an announcer's booth would be 7 x 4, but all together the building itself would be a 39 x 20 and that was bathrooms, concessions, announcer's booth and a little space for the baseball to store their equipment.

Mr. Squyres stated that if they wanted to, he didn't know what everybody's schedules were, that this doesn't even require council action, it was on buy board and a budgeted item and if they wanted to do a workshop spread the work to stakeholders to put in an appearance to get their input we could do it before the next council meeting and they found something that they liked, we would not have to go out for bids by law and if we don't reach that consensus by the next council meeting we could put it on the agenda to go out for bids to actually construct it from the ground up, whatever they wanted to do.

Mayor Diaz stated that basically we were back down to zero again.

Council Member Robinson stated that even if we do that, there is no reason we can't put something temporary in for a concession stand, that was minimal cost. The restroom and all and he would say, that he still thought it belonged over there, he understood what everybody was saying but in talking to Ivan and he was our Parks and Recreation Director, he thought that was what we hired him for and he said the majority of the usage was at the park and it was only used two nights a week at the little league field and now as far as the slab you were probably going to have to take the whole slab up, redo it and get your plumbing over there for it and you were going to spend a lot more than \$125,000.

Council Member Garcia stated that it was not about the money.

Mayor Diaz stated that it was about the money.

Council Member Robinson stated that we have a budget to operate on, we approve a budget that we told the citizens we were going to run this city on and if every time we turn around we amend the budget just because we want to make changes how does that make us look.

Council Member Garcia stated that \$97,000 on a prefab with just two stall for the ladies and two stalls for the men, that is exactly what you have right now and that is too much and she thought we could get a better deal with a combination.

Council Member Robinson suggested that she call some contractor to come out there and meet with her.

Council Member Garcia stated that her thought was to get Ivan involved and contact a couple of companies.

Mayor Diaz stated that her thought was that Gregg and Mario had gotten some quotes already and Ivan had some quotes already and we were just like saying no, no. and starting all over again and you know what it was her time now to get quotes because everybody had already taken their time to get quotes and they weren't agreeing with it, so if she wanted to go ahead and do it her way it was her time to get quotes, it was like she was not appreciative of what others had done.

Council Member Garcia stated this should have been discussed months ago, not just right now.

Mayor Diaz stated that it had been discussed month ago.

Council Member Garcia stated that no it had not, that we just had a workshop recently.

Council Member Gonzales stated that at the workshop we had all agreed that the priority here was going to be the concession stand because they were going to need that by February and he kind of put his emphases on that himself, having been involved, that you bring in a lot of money with these concessions and they need it, that in his opinion, the best thing to do was give something temporary for the concession and then we have time to do a workshop or something on the combo building. He stated that you were also looking at the plumbing we have the plumbing already set there where the old building already is.

Council Member Garcia ask if this was where the concession would be and was advised that it was where the old restrooms were and there was plumbing where the concession stand was but it was only for a sink, it wouldn't work for a bathroom.

Mayor Diaz ask why would you want to break something or spend money on something that was already there, she could understand they were talking about the future but they were spending more tax payer's money, she stated they already had the slab there, the plumbing and electrical there, she understood tearing the restroom down and putting in a new one but not going somewhere else and putting in slab, plumbing and electrical and it was not in our budget we agreed on. She stated that from her understanding, two council meeting ago we had all agreed that February 1st we were going to have a concession stand , was she right or wrong.

Council Member Rivas stated that he would like to say that he didn't remember .

Council Member Robinson stated that JJ wasn't here.

Mayor Diaz stated that everybody agreed on it and now they were backing out, that we have already told some of them that they would have a concession stand by February, and now they were backing out we were looking bad.

Council Member Lee stated that we were all in agreement that we needed something there , we need a concession stand there by February and that was fine, he agreed with that as long as that didn't hinder us from making future plans for something better in the future, that other property was going to need to be developed and probably would be a soccer field and baseball field over there and so the restroom wouldn't be centered if it was right where it is now and if we have to spend money to run new lines and all that then we will do it if it is for the good of the people in Jacinto City and it gives them a better park. He stated that he thought it was a great idea to put something temporary in there for a concession stand because there was no way we were going to get this thing built by then and he was not against it at all , he thought it was a good idea but at the same time we did need to be looking toward the future and considering something there and he thought a one unit compound was a much better idea which was what most of the parks were doing now, it created a safe place where adults were there and everybody knows where the restrooms are and the concessions are. He stated that when we first began talking about this and it had been to long, we did look at some prefabs and he thought that we had discussed it and that was what we were going for and we were budgeting for that and he thought we had to budget for something like that originally and he was not sure what happened since then.

Mayor Diaz stated that it had been over a year since we discussed this and Council Member Lee stated that it had been two years, and Mayor Diaz stated that Council Member Garcia had said that we had never discussed it.

Council Member Lee stated that he thought we needed to do something that we needed to get a concession stand , something inexpensive and temporary , something that could maybe be used later, utilized in another way, but he was in favor of doing the combination unit, it looked like we were going to have start over on this but we shouldn't, we should have already taken care of it.

Council Member Rivas stated that when these parks first got put together, they weren't put together by a masterplan, this was probably thrown together by the good folks of Jacinto City who said these kids need a place to play so let's go ahead and set this stuff up and if you go look you will see it, it wasn't really though out to well and designed like it should have been but it is there and what he and Carmela discussed today was that we have a chance to correct some of the wrong , let's do it the right way this time. He stated that if we tear down that old bathroom that frees up a space, for like Carmela said, a pavilion could go there and the other pavilion could be torn down if we wanted to.

Mayor Diaz ask Mr. Rivas what he said and he replied that the other pavilion could be torn down and Mayor Diaz said that was a big one why would you want to tear it down for a smaller one. Council Member Rivas ask her to hear him out and ask her to go over there when it was raining heavy and see if you stayed dry. Mayor Diaz stated that she had seen people have parties when it was raining and they were all up under the pavilion. Mr. Rivas stated if that was be be torn down that would create a big space for other park equipment , that these parks had been the same way for a long time and ask if anyone was old enough here to tell them how long that swing set had been there and he was advised that it had been there seven years and he ask didn't they think a little update was necessary.

Council Member Robinson stated there were places for other equipment to go in there.

Council Member Rivas stated that was the only thing he was looking at today but if they wanted to proceed further and go with Plan A , someone could make a motion and they could go from there.

Council Member Robinson stated that he didn't care if we waited on the restrooms but were we going to try to put something for a concession stand by February 1st or what.

Mayor Diaz stated that they had already made an agreement and they had all voted that it was going to happen.

Council Member Gonzales stated yes.

Council Member Lee stated he thought we should move a building in there.

City Manager Squyres ask them to let him be sure he was getting this correct, a temporary building, which would probably be a type of building that could be used somewhere else.

Council Member Gonzales ask if it would be a wooden building and was advised by Mr. Squyres that it would be a temporary wooden structure that we would put it down there, put some counter space in it and get them through the season and in the off season we could put something more fitting down there.

Council Member Garcia stated as she understands, we are going forward with the temporary concession stand and putting off the bathrooms.

Mr. Squyres stated that the way he understands we were not doing anything except the temporary concession stand for ball season. There was discussion about it being ready by February 1st he ask when was opening day and Mr. Squyres stated that he would get with them

and find out when opening day was and would do his best to have it by February 1st but we were on a pretty close time line.

Council Member Robinson stated that we have had since October 1st to do this and Mr. Squyres stated that we were shifting gears now but we could do it and he just needed the official notice to do it.

Council Member Garcia ask if the temporary concession stand could later be moved and used for something else and was advised that it could and ask if it would be through Tuff Shed again and was advised that not necessarily but it would be that type of building if you wanted to get something down there.

Council Member Lee stated that the Tuff Shed was in the condition it was because it had not been maintained and there wasn't anything stored in there.

Mayor Diaz stated that it would be a concession stand with a sink and the electrical and countertops, like a regular concession stand, was that correct.

City Manager Squyers stated yes, that was correct.

Council Member Garcia ask if it would be on that same slab that was there and Mr. Squyres advised yes and he thought they could still put in an area for the announcer, they were going to try to, and like Council Robinson this was promised by opening day and that really hadn't changed as long as we had that part of the direction clear he thought we could still do it.

Council Member Garcia stated that she was ok with the temporary concession stand, that seemed more of a priority.

Mayor Diaz stated that we would wait for the next council meeting for her quotes and plans.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dale Pollock, 10345 Oswego, stated the he just wanted to say what he had heard about the restrooms, he stated that he had been sent over there to umpire and for him the restrooms were good where they were, he could see when the kids went to the restroom. He stated that after the temporary concession went in he just want to see if they would consider having a works shop after the season was over that all of the citizens and city council could agree on what should go there because from what he had heard and like the Mayor said, we back at square zero and where the restroom are is a good place , that he can see that the kids had gone to the restroom and he could hold up the game a little while. He stated that for years they had been trying to fix Smith Park and he thought it was a good idea, it had been there for a long

time and it was time for a little upgrade but it has to be in the budget and everybody had to agree on it, the council, citizens, and tax payers .

Mayor Diaz stated that she agreed with him that she thought we needed to get input from our baseball parents, etc. so could we set up a workshop, talk to Isaac and ask him to get in touch with the parents from softball and baseball and include everybody, all the citizens and that way we could get the input from everybody of what they think we should do because it was going to be for them, they were tax payers, they were paying for it.

Council Member Rivas ask the Mayor to not forget that he was a tax payer to.

Mayor Diaz stated yes but he was on this side, she wanted to hear what the citizens had to say.

Council Member Rivas stated that he was on both sides and Mayor Diaz stated that we had heard what he had to say and now we wanted to hear what they had to say.

Council Member Lee stated that he worked for the citizens and he thought we should do what was right for them and he wouldn't even be making the suggestion if he didn't feel it was the best thing for them.

Mayor Diaz ask that we get their input and see what they think that she understood that he was a taxpayer but who was in the parks more than we were, the parents so let's see what they have to say. She ask that we set up a meeting sometime after Christmas, get with Isaac and let him notify baseball and softball and get the work and see what they have to say about the restrooms.

Mr. Cortez commented from the audience but the comments were not picked up by the sound system.

There was general discussion about when to hold the workshop; Mr. Squyers advised that the next council meeting was on January 14th and it was decided to schedule the workshop for January 7th at 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Squyres stated that we would spread the work every way we could.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that he was all talked out and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member Robinson thanked everyone who helped with the Toys for Tots and Food Baskets, that we had a good turn out and hoped that everyone had plenty of food to eat, we would be sending thank you letter out to the people that helped make this possible. He

Page 12 – December 22, 2015

thanked Elizabeth for making the Senior's Christmas party special and wished ever one a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council Member Lee stated thanks to everyone for all that they do , department heads, council and citizens, that we appreciated them and to have a wonderful Christmas and God bless them.

Council Member Garcia wished everyone a Merry Christmas, hoped that they enjoyed their family and friends .

Council Member Gonzales wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Joyce Raines
City Secretary