

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY AUGUST 11, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on August 11, 2022 with the following members in attendance: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Garcia arrived after roll call and Council Member Gonzales 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 Lee to approved the Minutes of the previous as presented. Vote 3 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Ayala had no report

Thomas Rogers, Public Works, advised that the asphalt project was 90% complete, there was still some clean to be done, they were working on stripping the streets and the contractor was starting on the sewer plant rehabilitation.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation had no report

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director had no report

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Squyres stated that we had received a lot of praise for the asphalt project and had attended the kickoff on two major projects and would be coming to Council about RFQ, etc. soon.

There were no comments from the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Council to amend Budget Code 19-6929 in the amount of \$51,341 for asphalt overlay of various streets in the city.**

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve amending Budget Code 19-6929 in the amount of \$51,341 for asphalt overlay for various streets in the city.

Vote: 4 For 0 Against

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Council appointment of Robert Swanson to Gulf Coast Authority Board**

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to not make an appointment. Vote 4 For 0 Against

- 2. Council to amend budget to petition for change in TCEQ permit for wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$28,000.**

City Manager Squyres explained that every two years we have to renew this permit with TCEQ and we all knew how it came into our plant but as it goes out into Hunting Bayou a 6.0 PH is required and TCEQ said that we had violated that and issued a 6.5 PH. We had used various chemicals to bring the PH down which cost approximately \$60,000 a year, TCEQ has Indicated that we would receive a 6.0, but when we received the permit it was still a 6.5 and they advised us that we could not do anything about it. We consulted with two different Engineering firms who said that we could petition this, which we have done and TCEQ was receptive, that it take a while for this, they hold public hearings and advertise and we were asking Council to approve the budget amendment of \$28,000 and he was on record that he was not going tell them it will go back to 6.0 and it was long process but would be worth it.

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A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$28,000. Vote 4 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Rivas ask if the Department Heads didn't have anything going on that they wanted to share with them.

Ivan, Parks and Recreation advise that if they could get enough kids to play they would be having a fall league.

Council Member Rivas stated that was good to hear.

He ask Chief Ayala if he had any comments on the recent car chase.

Chief Ayala advised that he spoke with the family of lady that was injured in the car chase and that she was in stable condition now. He stated that Galena Park had notified that the stolen vehicle was headed our way and that Sgt. Aguilar had spotted the vehicle the chase was on various street in Jacinto City down to Federal where it struck another vehicle, it was driven by a 15 year old and the county accepted charges as it was a probation violation and then advised us to release him to his parents, there were multiple injuries in the accident.

He stated that we had an auditor on Sex offenders come by to look at our records and we have 13 sex offenders in our city.

Council Member Rivas ask Chief Ayala if he drives around in a patrol car and he stated no that he does drive around and check on officers and when he sees them sitting in the car he calls them and tells them to step out of the car and be seen.

City Manager Squyres stated that several year ago our Council and City Attorney passed an Ordinance that sex offenders can't live within live

within a certain distance of where kids gather and when they move out, they can't move back into the city and he thinks this was one of the greatest things the council had ever passed, that at the time there were 27 sex offenders registered in the city and this has been cut way down.

City Manager Squyres advised that we were able to pass this Ordinance because we were a Home Rule City.

Mayor Diaz ask if all cities do this and Lon advised that only Home Rule cities could do this.

There was discussion about a sex offender that lived on Lane street.

Chief Ayala advised that they picked one up at Walgreen's that was wanted for aggravated assault, so you have to be careful.

Council Member Rivas ask if Officer Aguilar was the officer that had stopped a car on the feeder street and a drunk driver ran into the back of the police car, Chief Ayala was not sure.

Council Member Rivas said God bless this officer for having to see this.

Council Member Robinson reminded everyone to watch out for the kids and be careful.

Council Member Lee stated that if you have to pick up kids at Jacinto City Elementary the line is long so he parks at the apartments across the street and walk over and it saves a lot of time. He stated that when he got to the school he saw two of our officers, Seydler and Fisher out walking up and down the street asking the cars if they were going to the school and if not letting them out of the line of the traffic and he commended them for controlling the traffic.

Mayor Diaz talked about the traffic and like Council Member Lee said our officers are excellent.

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Council Member Garcia stated that was what they called car walkers at her school, she thanked the police Department, Public Works and all other departments . She ask Chief what about Whitter Elementary and he advised they had not started back to school yet.

She ask City Manager Squyres about the revised budget and he stated that all the item discussed at the budget workshop were included in the update, that they had talked about redoing the council room and had put in \$50,00 but that because we were going to have to repair the roof he had increased that to \$60,000 and that in Department 15 he had increased Special Projects to include things the council wanted to do such the employee appreciation, etc.

Council Member Garcia ask if we would have another budget workshop and City Manager Squyres stated not unless they wanted to call one.

Council Member Rivas ask if the pool roof was still leaking and City Manager Squyres advised that it had been taken care of.

Council Member Garcia ask about the lease with Joseph House.

Council Member Rivas advised Council Member Lee that Pastor Sterns Had been trying to call him and Councilman Lee ask him to tell him to email him.

City Manager Squyres advised that Council Member Rivas and he had a Meeting with Mr. Stern next week.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**

