

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Rivas, Council Members Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Attorney DeFoyd. Mayor Diaz absent to due to illness and City Secretary Raines 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 Gonzales to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

Mayor Pro Tem Rivas advised that due to the weather the Department Heads were not here today and were on call.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Squyres thanked Christal for volunteering to sit in for Joyce due to the weather. He stated that Friday would normally be a Holiday but due to the weather they would be open but no business except plumbing and water cut off and turn on would be handled, that Public Works and the three water clerks had volunteered and would be working from home in shifts answering the phones for plumbing problems and turn off/turn on request on their cell phones like they were in the office and the cell phones would roll over and he, Kyle, Thomas and Bernardo would have a spread sheet getting the address, and if it is a turn off or turn on and would also transfer calls to the police department and they have already had one call for a turnoff and they think they have got it where it will work well and we will repeat this on Saturday as well and we appreciate our employees stepping up to the plate. The real heroes of this will be the Public Works guys out there turning water on and off, the Police Department and the Fire and EMS guys will be out there day in and day out.

City Manager Squyres stated that we have had three meeting over the the tragedy that we had in the city in October, one with the school district trying to put rules in place regarding private van service paid to transporting children to schools. The next thing we did was contact the two legislative people over our city, State Representative Ana Hernandez and her Staff met with us and agreed to sponsor legislation and two days Senator Carol Alvarado and her staff agreed to help with the legislation and the bill would be called ISAAC's LAW.

City Manager Squyres stated they spent hours going over what they felt Should be required in legislation covering private vehicles transporting Children to schools, etc. for pay and went over what they felt should be included in the legislation and that Mayor Diaz had been very involved in this process, and that State Representative Hernandez advised that we want to be sure the bill was worded correctly, that it would cover the whole State of Texas and that as soon as the legislation was ready we would publish it locally to give everyone an opportunity to comment on it.

He stated they discussed when the day would come to get media coverage and that we would need to be present in Austin when the bill came up for vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Lorna Macal, 10630 Norvic, stated that she worked at the school and commented on how these vehicles are packed with children and also mentioned how the special needs busses needed an attendant.

City Manager advised that we had another lady comment on this at a council meeting and this had been addressed and reported that the schools have a special officer for this case and this had also been brought to Representative Hernandez's attention.

Ms. Jessica Quintanilla (Isaac's mother) 10530 Pillot stated that they hadn't heard from the city or the law and she wanted to clarify that it was not an accident, it was lack of paying attention an they were wondering about a memorial bench for Isaac offered by the school.

City Manager Squyres advised Ms. Quintanilla that she had a very good audience here tonight, that Council Member Gonzales' daughter had been Isaac's teacher and Council Member Garcia was a school counselor and spoke about why it was taking legislation so long and that we had not forgotten her or Isaac, that the police department gathered the evidence, submitted it to the District Attorney, they would submit it to the Grand Jury and it would be up to them what charges were filed and if no charges were filed she would be notified and the police department would be notified

Ms. Lorna Macal, 10630 Norvic, spoke about concerns with playground equipment cross walks that needed to be repainted and a big tree behind Jacinto City Elementary that had wires in it.

Council Member Garcia advised her that we would look into it and City Manager Squyres advise that we inspect the equipment and if there is a problem we pull it for repairs, that equipment is usually inspected in the Spring but if she sees anything to please let us know.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council to discuss, consider and select Administrative/Project Delivery Service Provider(s) to complete implementation for the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) Infrastructure Program administered and funded by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

City Manager Squyres advised this was a two million dollar grant through Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee, that we were working on several grants, that we had put out several RFP's for Administrative/ Project Delivery Service Provider(s) to complete implementation for the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) infrastructure program administered by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and we had only received one RFP from GrantsWorks and we recommended that the Council select them that we have worked with them on other projects.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Garcia to hire Grantworks as the Professional Service Provider for the STAG grant. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 2. Council to discuss, consider and select Engineering/Architecture Surveying Service Provider(s) to complete project related Engineering/Architecture services for the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) infrastructure program administered And funded by the U. S. Environmental Agency.**

City Manager Squyres advised that we received two proposals, one from KSA Engineering Services and one from LJA Engineering and the Scoring was done by Mayor Diaz, himself, Kyle Reed and Joyce Raines and KSA score was 346 and LJA was 379 and we recommended that they go with LJA Engineering.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to hire LJA Engineering as the Engineering/ Architecture Service firm for the STAG infrastructure program. Vote: 4 For 0 Against.

- 3. Council to consider Resolution 2022-11R authorizing the hiring of a project management firm for the (STAG) infrastructure project.**

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Resolution 2022-11R hiring Grantworks as Project Management Firm for the STAG infrastructure Project. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 4. Council to consider Resolution 2022-12R authorizing the hiring of an Engineering Firm for the (STAG) infrastructure project.**

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Resolution 2022-12R hiring LJA Engineering as the Engineering Firm for the STAG infrastructure project. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

- 5. Council to consider Resolution 2022-13R declaring a State of Emergency due to the pending freezing weather conditions.**

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve Resolution 2022-13R declaring a State of Emergency due to the pending freezing weather conditions. Vote 4 for 0 Against.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Robinson cautioned everyone to be safe, that we had some bad weather coming so be prepared and wished everyone a good Holiday season.

Council Member Lee's comments were not picked up by the sound system.

Council Member Garcia's comments were not picked up by the sound system.

Council Member Gonzales wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to be safe.

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Mayor Pro Tem Rivas wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to prepare for the freeze. He thanked Ms. Macal for her comments and expressed sympathy to Ms. Quintanilla for the loss of her son, that it was a very hard thing to go through and God Bless all.

Mayor Pro Tem Rivas adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**