

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and city council met in regular session on February 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Members Rivas, Lee and City Attorney DeFoyd 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 Garcia to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Vote: 3 For 0 against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, stated he was glad to see the FFA here tonight, that he was in it when he was in school and his granddaughter was in it at Huffman, that it was a good program. He advised that on March 20<sup>th</sup> we would be starting Phase 2 of the water line replacement on the North Side. They are working on the sewer Plant but are having trouble getting supplies.**

**Chief Ayala passed on hie report.**

**Chief Mier advise that business was as usual in the Fire Department.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation, advised that opening day for the ball leagues was March 23<sup>th</sup> and that signups were going on now.**

**Mayor Diaz ask about girl's softball and Ivan stated that he didn't think we would have one this year, there was not enough participation.**

**Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, stated that the Center was having the Valentine Party for the seniors tomorrow night and they were**

**Page 2 – February 9, 2023**

**helping the Seniors sign up for help with their electric bills and if they did not use all of it in the summer they could carry it over to use on the bill during the winter and some people were getting help with windows.**

**Mayor Diaz thanked her for helping the seniors with this program.**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**City Manager Squyres stated that H.B. 1870 was introduced and it was called Isaac's Law, that everyone was aware of the death of the 9 year old child that had been run over by one of the private van here in the city and these private vans were not governed by any laws. He stated that Representative Ana Hernandez and Senator Alvarado had helped to get this bill introduced and that we would be testifying before the House and the Senate. He advised the Council that a copy of the draft of the bill was in their packet and that it did not have everything that we wanted in the bill but was written as the Department for Texas Education and Department of Texas Transportation bill and it was a start and went over some of the laws that were included in the Bill.**

**He advised that he had delivered a copy of the Bill to the mother of the child today.**

**He stated that another situation we were trying to do something about was trains blocking the crossings, that on February 23<sup>rd</sup> HGAC (Harris Galveston Area Council) was hosting a meeting with the Federal Rail Road Commission and he was going to address this issue, that he might be a little late for the Council Meeting but that Kathy would be sitting in for him until he get here.**

**He stated that the North Side grant project that was starting on March 20<sup>th</sup> for water line replacement was a 1.5 million CDGB project.**

**Page 3 – February 9, 2023**

**The 1.9 million EPA Project was also on the North Side and also would be for water line replacement.**

**That on the South Side we had Phase 1 of the wastewater treatment plant grant of 4.7 Million.**

**Phase 2 of the wastewater treatment plant Grant of 5.3 Million GLO (General Land Office) mitigation grant.**

**The GLO (General Land Office) mitigation grand of 5.3 Million for Drainage.**

**In total we had about 19.5 Million in grants, that we have a lot going on.**

**He stated that Thomas Rogers, Assistant Public Works Director, had just got his A water license which was the highest rating you could get for surface and well water.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Donna Dailey, 1701 Chazen, stated that Joseph House had been open on Thursday and Friday and were now going to be open on Monday, Thursday and Friday the second and fourth week of the month but that you could only pick up one time a month.**

**Ms. Dailey stated that she was on the Variance Board and they had met On the request for a bill board at 11201 Invierno and the vote of the Variance Board at been 2 For 1 Against and that she had voted against it and she was asking them to discuss this before they voted, that she did not think we needed any more bill boards in Jacinto City.**

**Robert Hernandez, 10721 Lane Street, stated that he wanted to tag along with Ms. Dailey and to discuss it and not rush into this, in the future we are going to be over run with signs, it was something to think about.**

**Page 4 – February 9, 2023**

**There was no Unfinished Business.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF February 18-25,  
As National FFA Week in Jacinto City.**

**A member of FFA Group came up and thanked Mayor Diaz and the Council for presenting them with the Proclamation.**

**Mayor Diaz ask them to come up for a picture with the proclamation.**

- 2. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation on request at  
11201 Invierno and 10703 Garber Lane**

**City Manager Squyres stated that Tammara Magee was renovating a home she had inherited from her father that had been there since 1940 and was asking to close in a small porch on the front to place an additional set of solid core double locking doors for an additional layer of safety.**

**City Manager Squyres stated the reason for the variance request was that the front set back line was not in compliance but they were not building out on the front porch just inclosing it and the Variance Board had recommended that the variance request be allowed and had voted 3 for 0 against.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve the porch to be enclosed. Vote 3 For 0 against.**

**Mr. Russell Reichle with Sign AD Outdoor, 10703 Garber Ln. had requested a variance to convert an existing digital billboard from 45 ft. 10' x 36' to 60' 14' x 48'.**

**Page 5 – February 9, 2023**

**City Manager stated that since the sign had been installed the State has allowed signs to be 60ft high and 14 ft x 48 ft. which is now TxDOT standards and the variance is requesting they be allowed to change the sign to 60 ft.**

**The Variance Board met and voted 2 to 1 to allow the request.**

**There was general discussion concerning the sign.**

**Mayor Diaz ask how many digital signs we had in the city and was advised the we had 3 large signs and 1 small sign.**

**City Manager Squyres showed pictures of what is there now and what they are proposing.**

**Mayor Diaz ask if it would impede traffic and was advised it would not, that the sign was already there they just wanted to raise the height and size.**

**There were questions as to what type of advertisement would be on the sign and Mr. Reichle stated there would not be any advertisement that was not TXDOT Compliant and they would like to partner with Jacinto City to advertise their events, etc.**

**Mr. Seydler, a member of the variance board stated that he had driven by the sign and had no problem with it.**

**Mr. Nichols. A Member of the Variance Board, stated they weren't asking for a new sign, the sign was already there, they just wanted to change the size.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the variance request on the sign.  
Vote: 3 For 0 Against**

**Page 6 – February 9, 2023**

**Mr. Nichols ask if they would put the picture of the FFA Group on the sign.**

**Mr. Reichle stated he was sure they could do that.**

**Mayor Diaz thanked Mr. Nichols for thinking of that, it was a great idea.**

**3. Resolution 2023-1R ordering the General City Election for May 6, 2023**

**City Manager Squyres read the Resolution Setting the General City Election for May 6, 2023.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Garcia to Approve Resolution 2023-1R setting the General City Election for May 6, 2023. Vote: 3 For 0 Against**

**4. Resolution 2023-2R creating Early Voting Ballot Board for May 6, 2023 Election**

**City Manager Read Resolution 2023-2R creating the Early Voting Ballot Board for the May 6, 2023 General City Election.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve Resolution 2023-2R creating the early voting ballot board for the May 6, 2023 General City Election. Vote: 3 For 0 Against.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Robinson welcomed the FFA to the meeting and wish everyone a good weekend.**

**Page 7 – February 9, 2023**

**Council Member Garcia Discussed fund raisers for the FFA, commended City Manager Squyres as the Grant Writer for the city and encouraged the FFA to get involved, that they could register to vote at 17 if it was 2 month before their 18 birthday, and today was National Pizza Day.**

**Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone for coming out and to not forget Valentine's day was coming up.**

**Mayor Diaz advised that Girl Scout Cookies were in the back.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines".

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**