

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, April 27, 2023 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 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: 5 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that at the last Council Meeting they had discussed the concrete pads they were pouring on Lane Street and now they had installed 8 benches. He also advised that they were hiring lifeguard for the pool.

Mayor Diaz advised that she was getting lots of compliments on the benches.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, advised they were keeping the seniors busy.

Chief Mier advised that two weeks ago they had worked with the seniors on the Stop the bleed program.

Thomas Rogers, Assistant Public Works Director, gave an update on the Northside Water Main and Fire Protection project, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and reminded everyone that the dog vaccination clinic would be Saturday at the public works facility from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m..

City Manager Squyres reminded everyone that garbage day would change starting on May 1st and would be on Monday and Thursday with heavy trash being on Thursday. He also advised that the benches on Lane street were paid for by a grant from the Port, and we were working on five grants with three more coming on and there was a lot of paper work involved with these grants.

Mayor Diaz moved Economic Alliance up on the agenda due to another meeting they had to make.

Chad Burke, President and CEO of Economic Alliance annual report covering their mission, economic development, Port Houston activities and record growth, improvements and workforce development.

He stated that they had a \$5,000 grant that cities could apply for to be sure and check into it and thanked the Mayor and Council for being a part of Economic Alliance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Francisco Aguilar, 10421 Fairfax, stated that he was trying to see what was going on with the Fire Department and EMS, that he sees a lot of mutual aid in the city and he goes by the fire station and most of the time it is closed.

City Manager Squyres explained that we had a small staff, that we could staff an ambulance to make a call and we had an automatic backup agreement with other cities, that on the first call we have about a 3 minute response but if that call takes us to the medical center of LBJ these calls take longer and longer and we call mutual aid to come in. He advised that we have a MIC Advanced Unit and Para medic staffed 24 hours. He advised that the other big problem is two facilities of elderly and this is a load on EMS and police and lately

We have had a lot of emergency call because of what is on the Other side of the freeway that drifts into our city and we have to check them out, most of them want to be transferred to the hospital and the hospital staff don't want to deal with them so our staff has to stay with them and we are attacking this, we have reached out to various agencies regarding this we want to reduce the number care to things like that and take care of our citizens.

Mr. Aguilar ask how many ambulances and para medics did we have and Mr. Squyres advised that we had two ambulances and one was the reserve ambulance and we were working on operating the reserve unit and trying to staff both ambulances and that at anytime we have 1 para medic and try to have 3.

He advised Mr. Aguilar to contact him or the fire chief anytime.

Mr. Aguilar stated he got what he came for and thanked him for the Information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Second and Final reading of Ordinance 2023-2 amending the code Of Ordinances of the City of Jacinto City at Chapter 10 entitled "Utilities" at Section 1C(2) Water Service Rates and Section 3E (1) (2) Sewer Service Rates inside city limits; repealing all ordinance In conflict herewith; establishing effective date**

City Manager Squyres went over the Ordinance and explained the fee structure and discussed the 9.72% rate we had received from City of Houston for the surface water we purchase from them.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by

Council Member Gonzales to approve Ordinance 2023-2 on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

Ana Maria Serna and Blanca Rodriguez address the Mayor and Council Concerning a project they were working on and their mission was to serve and provide an opportunity to battered or low income women that can't pay for their education so that in a near future they can stand up on their own two feet, acquire the cosmetology license, as well as creating a quality life for themselves and their families, they believed in God first, family second and career third and believed in treating others as we would like to be treated. They discussed the different organizations they had been involved with and what they had accomplished and with the help of community leaders, advocates and volunteers they had been able to bless others in need. She stated that what they needed was an available place to operate with an updated floor plan that meets State requirements and any advice to assist the start up process. They also needed donor funding to assist with school start-up, technology assistance and school supplies and ask if there would be any way the city could help them.

City Manager Squyres ask if they were a 501C and she advised they were trying to decide what would work best for them. Mr. Squyres ask If what they were primarily looking for was space and how much did they need.

She thanked them for taking their time to listen to their proposal.

City Manager Squyres ask if they were a 501C and she stated they were trying to decide what would work best for them.

City Manager Squyres ask here to meet with them after the meeting and we would see what could be done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Second and Final reading on Ordinance 2023-2 amending the code of Ordinances of the City of Jacinto City at Chapter 10 Entitled Section 1C(2) Water Service Rates and Section 3E(1)(2) Sewer Service Rates inside the city limits; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict herewith; Establishing effective date.**

City Manager Squyres advised that we buy surface water from the City of Houston and each year they raise their rates and we have absorbed the rates but this year they raised the rate 9.72% and we had not raised the base rate in years and it was catching up with us, he had a had a sheet showing what we would need to raise rates from 7% to 15% and that we had dug into our reserve to cover this as long as we could and could not do it any longer and on the first reading of the ordinance the Council voted to go with the 15% increase.

Mr. Jamail stated that he was not opposed to the rate increase, and ask with the new rate how much income would that produce. Mr. Squyres gave him figures and went over what it cost to operate the water fund.

Mr. Jamail stated that he thought the increase was justified.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve Ordinance 2023-2 on the second and final reading. Vote: 5 For 0 Against.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Receive and award bids on asphalt project on Lane, Switzer and Oats Road.**

City Manager Squyres stated that we had received three bids but one Of the bids was not the name signed up at the mandatory pre bid meeting that we would open bid at the end and see if was any indication that it was the company that signed in.

Trinity Paving LLC	Lane St.	\$109,177.00
	Switzer St	\$ 71,050.00
	Oats Rd.	\$ 14,537.00
Total		\$202,764.00

Bid Bon was Attached

J. Rivas Construction LLC	Lane St.	\$121,363.00
	Switzer St.	\$ 78,466.00
	Oats Road	\$ 16,129.00
Total		\$215,958.00

No Bid Bond

Mr. Squyres stated that the contractor that signed in at the Mandatory Bid meeting war Rangel Construction LLC and the company that submitted the bid was RJ&M Utility Construction LLC and we could not accept the bid because they did not attend the Mandatory meeting and did not include a bid bond but their bid was:

RJ&M Utility Company	Lane St.	\$ 114,369.00
	Switzer St.	\$ 86,962.00
	Oats St.	\$ 17,321.00
Total		\$218,652.00

No Bid Bond

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City Manager Squyres advised that Trinity Paving was the low bidder and that we could not accept J. Rivas Construction bid because they did not have a bid bond.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to award the paving Contract to Trinity Paving as the low bidder. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

3. Council to consider authorizing the sale of the following items by public auction: (1) Dayton Air Compressor model #329994 (2) Marathon Electric – magna one generator (3) Onan Generator.

There was general discussion on the equipment.

A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Robinson to authorizing the sale of the used equipment. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. Council to confirm Arthur Luevanos as Jacinto City Police Officer.

Chief Ayala gave a gave a short bio on Mr. Luevanos and advised that he had previously worked for the department and he recommended that we hire him, that he was already familiar with the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Lee and seconded by Council Member Robinson to hire Arthur Luevanos as a Jacinto City Police Officer. Vote 5 For 0 Against

Mayor Diaz administerd the Oath of Office to Mr. Luevanos and presented him with his badge and welcomed him back to the city.

Council Member Garcia ask him what did he miss most about the city

and he stated the bonding with the other officer and the support of the support of the city.

Chief Ayala stated that they had a trying incident on Sunday and he felt these officers needed to be commended, that the dispatcher received a call from a citizen about a man banging on his front door and that when he confronted the man he started throwing punches at him, and she dispatched the complaint to Lt. Longrigg and Officers Barker, Benavides and Marin and said the suspect was last seen going toward Holland and the citizen gave them a good description of the suspect. When Lt. Longrigg spotted the suspect and began to investigate him he immediately became physically aggressive, he stated the man started throwing punches at him and then jumped into the patrol unit and was trying to put in gear but Lt. Longrigg prevented him from stealing the vehicle and while trying to get him out of the vehicle the suspect grabbed onto Lt. Longrigg sidearm trying to pull it out of his holster and they were struggling over the weapon and within minutes after the suspect attacked Lt. Longrigg officers Barker, Benavides and Marin arrived and jumped in to rescue him and this could have ended in several officers deaths had Lt. Longrigg not prevented the suspect from unholstering his gun. The suspect was charged with two felonies and later booked into the Harris County jail. Chief Ayala gave Officers Barker, Benavides and Marin Commendation Awards for their outstanding performance in the apprehension of a dangerous suspect.

Lt. Longrigg stated that had it not been for these officers he might not have been here today and he appreciated them.

Mayor Diaz stated that our officers are there in less than 3 minutes and thanked all the officers for what they do.

Chief Ayala stated that all of our officers are doing a good job and he appreciates them.

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City Manager Squyres stated that on this same call and we are talking about our Fire Department and EMS, a couple of the officers had to be checked out, that we have a drug where we can subdue them but you have to use it very carefully, our officers not only showed restraint so did our EMS.

Chief Ayala stated they could not do without Fire and EMS.

Council Member Garcia stated that we might be small but we were strong.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas welcomed Office Luevanos back and was thankful that on the incident that occurred everything turned out ok and we appreciated them. He stated that on the water rate and sewer rates we discussed we decided to go with the 15% and hoped that it would keep us in the black instead of going into the red. He stated that last week he had gotten invited to a breakfast at Whittier Elementary along with Lt. Longrigg and Chief Mier to thank them for what the city does and that the kids made the invitations. He announced that his daughter gave them a baby girl and they were very Proud and happy. He caution everyone to be safe and God Bless.

Council Member Robinson addressed Lt. Longrigg, stating he was glad all turned out well for him that he knew the job was rough. He welcomed Officer Luevanos back and thanked everyone for coming out.

Council Member Lee thank everyone for all they do, we appreciate them and his Church Prays for them all the time.

Council Member Garcia thanked all of our police officer and Departments. Welcomed Officer Luevanos back and stated that

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People say Our officer don't drive around the streets but they must be in the house or watching tv because they do drive the streets, She stated budgets would be coming up soon and she ask Ivan if we could look at updating the park across from the library. She reminded everyone that the School Board election was on Saturday, May 6th at Jacinto City Town Center to please go out and cast their vote.

Council Member Gonzales welcomed Officer Luevanos back and thanked all the officers for what they do.

Mayor Diaz reminded everyone of the vaccine Clinic for dogs on Saturday at the public works facility from 9:00 am to 3 pm.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**