

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023, 6:00 P. M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 11, 2023 with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

The meeting 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:

Chief Ayala had no report.

Thomas Rogers, Assistant Public Works Director, updated the progress on current projects advising that the Northside water mains & Fire Protection project was 90% complete, the Wastewater Treatment Plant was going slow due to all the rain and the asphalt project on Lane, Switzer and Oats Rd. was about 50% complete.

Chief Mier had no report.

Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director, had no report.

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that they were registering for swimming lessons.

Mayor Diaz ask how they were doing with hiring life guards and he advised they were good.

City Manager Squyres advised that he had a meeting with The General Land Office and Grantworks regarding the drainage grant and that GLO was happy with the progress.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Teresa Requena, 10345 Pillot, Stated that her neighbor at 10401 Pillot was operating a machine shop at his house and ask if any thing could be done about this.

City Manager Squyres stated that he had talked with her prior to the meeting.

Mayor Diaz ask Chief Ayala and City Manager Squyres to please look into this.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Administer Oaths of office to Unopposed Candidates elected by Ordinance 2023-1 on March 9, 2023**

The Oaths of Office were administered to Mayor Diaz, Council Member Garcia and Council Member Gonzales by City Secretary Raines.

Mayor Diaz congratulated Council Members Garcia and Gonzales, stating that she enjoyed working with them.

- 2. First reading of Ordinance 2023-3 setting salary for Mayor and Council Member.**

City Attorney DeFoyd read Ordinance 2023-3 setting salary and advised they would need to fill in the amounts.

Mayor Diaz stated they had discussed this and the salaries would stay the same with an increase in the car allowance to \$425 for each member.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve set the salary for the Mayor at \$400.00 per month with the car allowance at \$425.00 per month and Council Members salary at \$350.00 per month and car allowance at \$425.00 per month. Vote: 3 For 2 Against Robinson and Gonzales voting against

3. Council to Appoint Mayor Pro Tem.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Garcia to Appoint Council Member Robinson as Mayor Pro Tem. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

4. Amend Budget Code 19-6929 in the amount of \$2,765.00 for asphalt Repair on Lane, Switzer and Oats Rd.

City Manager Squyres advised that the bid came in over the \$200,000 that was budgeted and we need to amend the budget for the overage of \$2,765.00.

A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to amend budget code 19-6929 in the amount of \$2,765.00 for the asphalt repair. Vote: 5 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas thanked everyone for coming out, stating that he had been on council 10 years and was glad to have this opportunity and could see the progress they had made. He congratulated the Mayor and Council Members who had returned to office. He wished all the Mothers a Happy Mother's Day and God Bless.

Council Member Robinson congratulated Mayor Diaz, Council Member Garcia and Council Member Gonzales and stated that he enjoyed working with them. He stated that he did not feel like he could support the increase in the car allowance and wanted everyone to know why he voted the way he did.

Council Member Lee wished all the Mother a Happy Mother's Day, thanked everyone for coming and God Bless.

Council Member Garcia wished a Happy Mother's Day to all and reminded that school would be out soon and to please watch out for the kids. She thanked everyone for allowing her to serve the City.

Council Member Gonzales thanked everyone for supporting them and they do work well together but they couldn't do it with out the Department Heads and Staff and Happy Mothers Day.

City Manager Squyres congratulated the officials elected, that he had seen a lot of councils over they years and this council did not always agree but they worked together and he appreciated that.

He commented on an article in the paper regarding the increase on water rates, that we had not raised the minimum rate in many years and that the City of Houston increased their surface water rates each year and the city absorbed them but this year they raised the rate 9.72% and what we paid the City of Houston for surface water was the highest amount in the Water Fund budget and the subsidence District forced us to purchase surface water that we could only pump 25,000 gallons from our wells, he discussed the cost for sampling and chemicals, etc. and that we had gotten to the point that we could not absorb the increases any longer, that the council had been a good steward of the water bills.

Council Member Garcia stated that we had ben blessed with grants,

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that City Manager Squyres worked long hours on grants and Ms. Joyce and Kathy worked long hours on paper work along with the public Works. That everybody is kept busy with behind the scene things that people don't know about.

Council Member Lee stated that they all live here and pay water bills.

City Manager Squyres advised everyone that the dead line to file a protest on their property tax was Monday, May 17th, and they could do it on line or e-file or sign the form they received and send it in to the Harris County Appraisal District but it had to be post marked by Monday.

Mayor Diaz thanked everyone for allowing them to serve the city again and wished all a Happy Mother's Day.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**