

COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2023 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City council met in regular session on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres and City Secretary Raines. Council Member 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: 4 For 0 Against

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that they would be having a movie at the pool tomorrow night starting around 8:00 p.m. and the summer program was going good, they had about 6 people and it was \$25.00 for residents and \$35.00 for nonresidents.

Mayor Diaz ask about putting on the signs and was advised that the Sign at Town Center was not working and City Manager Squyres advised that it was going to be replaced, that it was one of our oldest signs.

Chief Mier cautioned everyone to be aware of the heat and stay hydrated.

Thomas Rogers, Public Works Director, stated the North Side project was moving right along and the Waste Water Treatment was slow, that they received some materials in so maybe that help the progress and that they were working on the dog pound and trying to keep the guys hydrated.

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Chief Ayala passed out a copy of their June report, stating they had 232 calls for service, 31 arrests, issued 494 citations and 5 welfare concerns.

City Manager Squyres advised that Elizabeth from Heritage Hall wasn't here due to a minor medical emergency procedure and tomorrow the Mayor and Council was hosting a ice cream social at Heritage Hall for the seniors. He advised that we were budgeting to replace one sign at Town Center, that it was time consuming to change all the sign and they were going to install a new mother board in all the signs where multiple people would be able to change the signs.

He advised that a number of the calls received by the EMS, Fire Department and Police Department were coming from people across the freeway.

He advised that Shell was closing the Valero station on the corner of Mercury and the feeder street or operating it themselves and we had an application come in from TABC for an on premise permit to have alcohol on premise and we were not going to have that.

There was general discussion.

Council Member Rivas stated that Ralston's has tasting.

City Manager Squyres stated that we had a staff meeting to discuss the 4th of July fireworks, that was a lot of hard works and the heat was a factor for the people handling this.

Elizabeth Flores came in for the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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Robert Hernandez, 10346 Munn Street ask about the possibility of getting the parking area the swimming poolhis paved for parking for the ball fields.

City Manager Squyres advise that we had discussed this but if we were doing a large project it would be more economic if we did it at that time.

Anthony Gonzalez, 10827 Munn, addressed the Mayor and Council concerning a sewer line problem he had at his home stating that in 2003 the City started a project on Munn Street to replace the old sewer line and relocate it across the street. At that time the current owner was connected to the next door neighbor as it was legal to do 50 years ago. When the previous owner sold the property the new owner split the property in half. He purchased the property with the house from the new owner and that at time neither himself or nor the new owner was aware the sewer line crossed the empty lot and connected to the house next door. He stated that he had been at his house for 12 years and in that time he had never had an issue with his sewer drainage so he still was not aware he did not have a direct connection, that within the past 3-4 months he was notified that the new neighbor who purchased the empty lot was going to start building. He spoke to Billy, the neighbor, who he was connected to and he advised them that his sewer line ran right across the property and connected to him, so that way the line was not crushed or hit while digging and he called Kyle Reed at Public Works and he advised and assured me that was not true that because of the 2003 project everyone was to have their own line replaced direct to new pipe. When they pulled the city utility map for my street his house showed not to have a connection as it was missed, the City crew believed it was a mistake and I was connected , they then dug up to where they thought it was at and there was no connection. To be certain they went across the street Where current sewer drain is and fan a camera and it was confirmed I was not connected. With that mistake being

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caught at this time, all he was asking is for the city to recognize the mistake that happened and reconcile the mistake and correct it by placing a tap for my location for me to connect to. He read the sewer connection fee from the city ordinance.

Mr. Gonzales advised that in order for him to connect to the sewer line across the street it would cost him \$5000.00 and he felt this was something the city should have caught at the time.

Council Member Robinson ask if the contractor counted the number of houses on the street how could he miss one,

City Manager stated they charge by the tap not the houses.

Council Member Rivas ask why was he paying for sewer if he didn't have a connection.

City Manager Squyres explained that he was connected to the neighbors sewer line so he was getting sewer service that the line was running across the vacant lot and connecting to the neighbors that this was a pipe bursting project and explained how it worked.

Council Member Rivas ask if other businesses or residents might have this same problem how were we billing them for sewer.

City Manager Squyres explained that sewer charge was based on their water usage.

He stated that he would love to tell him that city would take care of this but he could not, that maybe he and the new house could split the Cost.

There was general discussion regarding the problem.

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Mr. Gonzalez stated that he could not wait for the owner to build the house that he was putting a 100 loads of dirt on the lot and what if they broke the sewer line he would not have a connection, that he felt like he was being punished because he lived on the wrong side of the street.

Mr. Gonzales advised that he had had talked with Kyle about this and he assured him that he had a connection but when they came out and Could not locate the connection they ran the camera through the line and found that he was connected to the neighbors line.

Council Member Garcia read a section for the sewer connection from the city Ordinance.

Council Member Robinson stated that he understood his position, that if we had caught it would have cost him \$200 and now it would cost him a lot more.

City Manager Squyres stated that we would research this.

City Manager Squyres recommended that the city could go ahead and put in the connection for both houses and he could pay his share and then when the other house was built the owner could pay his share.

Council Member Robinson stated that he would like to see all the research.

Council Member Rivas stated that when a contractor does a job we should have someone there to be sure it is done right, need someone to supervise the job.

City Manager Squyres stated that we need to get the engineer to give us an estimate as to what it would cost to run the line across the

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street and the home owner would be responsible for connecting to that line and if we can't resolve this by next council meeting we would put it on the agenda.

Council Member Robinson stated that if he put that much dirt on the lot he would flood everyone.

Mayor Diaz ask that we review this and see what we can do.

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation on request for variance at 1630 Jennifer and 10424 S. Oswego.**

City Manager Squyres stated that at 1630 Jennifer they did not get a permit and there were two sewer lines being dug going to a storage Building that had been turned into an illegal apartment. We told them they would have to evict the resident and the owner did not show up for the hearing and the Board recommended we not allow it.

A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to approve the Variance Board's recommendation and not allow the apartment. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

City Manager Squyres stated 10426 S. Oswego was the house behind the police station and they wanted to build a porch out about 2 ft beyond the setback line and the Variance Board recommended to allow it.

Council Member Garcia stated that she and Council Member Rivas had measured it and it would not be a problem.

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A motion was made by Council Member Gonzales and seconded by Council Member Garcia to approve the Variance Board's recommendation and allow the request. Vote: 4 For 0 Against

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Rivas stated that all of this comes about out in the heat and we try to make sure things are done right every time, this is a part of his job and he tries to do the right thing every time. He stated it was going to get hot, to be safe and have a good weekend,

Council Member Robinson cautioned everyone to be careful, stay safe and hydrated, he would see them tomorrow at the ice cream social and remember the 4th of July.

Council Member Garcia thanked Teresa for serving on the Variance Board and ask Ivan if we would have a vendor at the fire works and he advise the same one from last year would be there and she ask about the man that does the tacos and Lon stated that they plan to be there,

Council Member Gonzales ask what could we do about the building at 1630 Jennifer, could we make them tear it down and City Manager Squyres advise we would not make them tear it down but we could disconnect the water and sewer and they could just use it for storage.

Mayor Diaz ask if someone could use a generator all the time.

City Manager Squyres stated that he will check into it and get them the information.

Council Member Rivas stated that he didn't think they could.

Donna Dailey stated the Joseph House would have fresh vegetables Tomorrow and would not be able to keep them, that Heritage Hall needed to come by and pick up.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the phrase "Respectfully submitted,".

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**