

## **COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY AUGUST 24, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 24, 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**

**Chief Ayala passed out flyers and advised that National Night Out would be on Tuesday September 26, 2023 at the Police Department from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He stated that anyone that would like to have a block party to please call the police Department and let them know.**

**Thomas Rogers, Public Works Director, reported that the water line project on the Northside was getting read to make the last tie in and Would begin working on driveways and clean up, he discussed the number of water leaks they have had this week and that all had been taken care of.**

**Council Member Rivas stated that with temperatures as high as they have been, he knew they were keeping the guys hydrated.**

**Mr. Rogers stated someone had brought them ice cream today.**

**Council Member Garcia ask about the paving that we had recently done, that she saw where it was cracking in places and would the**

**Page 2 – August 24, 2023**

**Contractor repair it.**

**Mr. Rogers advised that they had contracted the contractor and as soon as the weather cool some they would be back out and do the repairs, with the heat the way it is now it would not be a good idea to do the repairs.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that the pool would be open two more week provided they had enough lifeguards.**

**Council Member Gonzales ask how hot was it in the pool and Ivan stated in the 90,s.**

**Elizabeth Flores, Heritage Hall Director stated that they were keeping the seniors busy, they had received charity tickets to the Astros game this week and two weeks ago they had received tickets to Sugar Land Space Cowboys game.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that they discuss heat related injuries at the safety meeting and to date we have not had any heat related injuries. There was discussion about how dry everything as getting and City Manager Squyres advised that we have a sewer plant where the water is treated and we are using this to water the trees in the park, that the water is safe and some of our trees are very old and we didn't want to lose them. He stated that we try to work with our businesses, that the Beauty School didn't want their water cut off during business hours so Our contractor was going to do their tie in on a Saturday.**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Robert Hernandez, 10721 Lane, had a question about the budget and tax rate that we were working on.**

**Page 3 – August 24, 2023**

**City Manager Squyres advised that we have had two workshops on the proposed budget, we will have a public hearing on the budget and tax rate prior to their being adopted.**

**Mr. Hernandez questioned if we would have to amend the budget for repairs and was advised by Mr. Squyres that if the repairs were in the current budget and there was not money budgeted for the repairs, we would have to amend the budget in order to have a clean audit.**

**Counselor Melissa Trevino from Whittier Elementary introduced three visiting teachers that they had at their school and stated that she was responsible for living facilities, etc. for them and they were at the Jacinto City Palms apartments and were having problems with rats, the laundry room was not working and issues with mail and they didn't know what to do and wanted to see if the city could help them.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that Council Member Rivas had brought this to his attention and that the city did not have a housing authority. Mr. Squyres suggested they get their lease and see what it says and advised them to go to Small Claims court and file a claim and if they continue to have problems with the mail to go the police, that the mail would be a Federal issue.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that we did have some nice apartments in Jacinto City and the Judge would help them.**

**Donna Dailey ask if Jim could help them, that this was an embarrassment to the city.**

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

**Lusia Perez, 1506 Cheston, stated that her father had almost got run over, that he walks in the evening that it is dark in this area and the sidewalks need repair, that she knew the city was busy but she had**

**Page 4 – August 24, 2023**

**been asking about this for five years and where they built the new houses the sidewalks were covered up.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that we had talked about this that we have a grant for drainage in that area and are doing a study to see if the government will allow us to dump more water into Turkey Run Gulley and we were waiting on our engineers to see what street they are going down, we don't want to put in new sidewalks and then have to tear them up. He stated that we could request a street light if we need to, let them drive it and see if we need another light and explained that there might be a long wait on the light, the power company did not get in a hurry.**

**Council Member Garcia stated that she ask for waterlines on the north side and it took a long time but now we were getting them.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that everything we get in grants goes into infrastructure.**

**Council Member Rivas ask if we could look at Cheston from Munn to Market and see what we can do and that Big Bass had no sidewalks but we didn't own that, it belonged to the County.**

**Council Member Robinson stated that he and Lon had met with the County about eight months ago and were still waiting to hear from them.**

**Donna Dailey ask if you were putting in a new house could we make them put in a sidewalk.**

**Council Member Rivas stated that we couldn't make them.**

**City Manager Squyres stated only on sidewalks that we maintain.**

**There was no Unfinished Business.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Council to hold a record vote approving the Proposed Tax Rate.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that when S.B. 2 had passed it required a Record Vote Approving the proposed tax rate approved by the Mayor and Council prior to approval of the tax rate and explained that the voter-approved tax rate was the highest tax rate that we could adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval and that the tax rate proposed by the Mayor and Council was lower than voter approved tax rate and the city would not be required to hold an election.**

**Mayor Dias polled each member for their vote with 6 votes for and 0 votes against.**

- 2. Mayor and Council to discuss the use of ARPA funding to purchase and install smart water meters.**

**City Manager Squyres stated there were limitation on how you could spend this money and that the Engineers, Council and Public Works feel that the Smarts Meters will benefit the city and citizens and explain all the benefits of the meters and while installing we can also look at the type of line each house has which we have to report to comply with the law.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve using ARPA funding to purchase and install smart meters. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

- 3. Resolution 2023-6R approving submission of an application for the Texas Department of Transportation 2024 Texas Traffic Safety Egrant Service Selective Traffic Enforcement rogram (STEP) grant for the police department of Jacinto City, Texas.**

**Page 6 – August 24, 2023**

**The STEP Grant was for \$11, 998.38 with the city's match of \$3,028.79.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Rivas to approve Resolution No. 2023-6R submission of an Application for STEP Grant. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**4. Mayor and Council to consider amending Budget Code 16-6804 in the amount of \$30,000 to repair dispatch console system damaged by lighting strike. (Quote Attached)**

**City Manager Squyres stated that we hope this gets reimburse from insurance but we couldn't guarantee it.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve amending budget code 16-6804 In the amount of \$30,000 to repair dispatch console system damaged by lighting strike. Vote 5 For 0 Against**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Rivas ask about the quote and why had it taken this long.**

**City Manager Squyres advise that only certain companies worked on these systems and the one in our area was BearCom and they were supposed to meet with us today but didn't show up.**

**Council Member Rivas thanked everyone for coming out and told the Ladies from Whittier Elementary about some of the things we do in the city and about the Christmas parade.**

**Council Member Robinson stated he was thankful for the rain, what little it was and cautioned everyone to be careful and stay hydrated.**

**Page 7 – August 24, 2023**

**Council Member Lee advised the weather report stated rain for next week but he would have to see it and God Bless all**

**Council Member Garcia stated that we would love to have them participate in the parade and get the kids involved.**

**Council Member Gonzales welcome the ladies to our town and was sorry for the problems they were having.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**