



City of Jacinto City

1301 MERCURY DRIVE • PHONE (713) 674-8424 • FAX (713) 820-9264
JACINTO CITY, TEXAS 77029
www.jacintocity-tx.gov

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MARIO GONZALES
CARMELA GARCIA
ALLEN LEE
JIMMY "JJ" RIVAS
GREGG ROBINSON

CITY MANAGER

LON D. SQUYRES

CITY SECRETARY

CHRISTAL RODRIGUEZ

CITY ATTORNEY

JIM DEFOYD

MAYOR
ANA DIAZ

Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on
Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the
Council Chamber at 10301 Market Street.

1. Call to Order: at 6:00 p.m.

a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Roll Call:

The following members were present:

Mayor Diaz; Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Garcia (6:27) and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, and City Secretary Rodriguez. Councilman Lee and City Attorney Defoyd were absent.

2. Mayor & Council Comments:

- Mayor Diaz reminded everyone that Jacinto City's Easter Egg Hunt will be this Saturday, and thanked Fist Baptist Church for donating the hot dogs this year for the event.
- Mayor & Council commented on the beautiful weather and wished everyone to enjoy their weekend.

3. Public Comments:

- *Eric Sanchez:*
Thanked Elizabeth, Heritage Hall Director, for assisting in providing a walker for his elderly friend. He also spoke on personal matters regarding activist Candice Matthews, whom he believes to be harassing him. Mr. Sanchez mentioned that he has spoken with City Manager Squyres & with Chief Ayala and that he is speaking tonight for the record. He expressed his thoughts on how PD should handle the situation and went over a few experiences with Ms. Matthews.

4. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson & Seconded by Council Member Gonzales to approve the minutes of the previous meetings as presented. Vote: **For: 3, Against: 0**

5. Reports/Announcements of City Departments:

City: City Manager Lon Squyres

- "If you've driven around the city lately, you've had to dodge bulldozers and backhoes and dump trucks and a little bit of everything. And especially if you're on this end of the city. So, Switzer, all up and down, especially towards the south, Kilroy, same way. I 10, right out here in front of City Hall, down the block, on Switzer, between the GLO projects, there's five of those, there's a HUD project going on. We've got millions and millions and millions of work taking place, and it's all converging at one time, it seems like. So it's good to see, that represents years of work, getting the money, getting it engineered, getting it ready to go to this point. So we're thrilled to death to see it. It doesn't come without headaches and a little hiccup here and there, but it's good to see nonetheless. So, the ones you don't see are the water treatment plant, the sewer plant, as would call it. There's two projects going on there simultaneously at one time. They started a large bypass today, in fact. That's another one of these \$5.3 million globe projects. So there's a lot going on"

Police: Chief Joe Ayala

- No report at this time.

Jacinto City Branch Library: Nyla Vela

- No report at this time.

Public Works: Thomas Rogers

- Keeping on top of the normal water and sewer maintenance.
- As Lon was saying, regarding the phase 4, of the water project. They have installed all the water lines. That's what they're doing right here in front and down Switzer They're doing their cleanup work now, which is the asphalt. They're pretty much wrapping that project up.
- They're still moving ahead on the storm drain. That's going to take quite some time. They installed a bypass pump at the treatment plant today. So, we're moving along with that as well. Of course, that's still, you know, several months projects. So, we're staying real busy, keeping up with the contractors and making sure they're doing what we're supposed to be doing, keeping stuff safe. Keeping debris out of the road for our residents.
- Mayor Diaz mentioned the importance of keeping up with high grass in order to keep the mosquitoes at bay. Thomas mentioned that a new mosquito machine was purchased and it's been calibrated so when we do kick off, we'll have one on the pickup truck and one on the side-by-side.
- Mayor Diaz also thanked Public Works and Parks & Rec. for installing the solar lights at the park so the residents could enjoy evening walks after dark. Lon mentioned that one of the reasons that they were able to install them as quickly and efficiently as they did is the fact that council approved in last year's budget the post-whole digger for the skid steer, which made the job so much easier. Mayor Diaz thanked the council for approving the budget for solar lights.

Fire: Interim Fire Chief Davis

- No report at this time.

City Hall: Assistant City Manager & Finance Director Kathy Greiner

- Thrilled to say that we will have a Final Audit by tomorrow.

Heritage Hall: Director Elizabeth Flores

- No report at this time.

Parks & Recreation: Director Ivan Rojas

- Working on installing more solar lights at the park.
- The department is getting ready for Saturday; there will be high school students there to help.
- Mayor Diaz went over a few details regarding the easter egg hunt.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. None.

7. New Business:

- a. Crowe LLP to present the Audit for FY 2024-2025.

City Manager Squyres gave a brief synopsis.

No further action is needed.

"We anticipated or were nudging them to have that audit ready today. By state law, we have to have that audit to the city secretary by tomorrow, in order for city council to be able to pass a tax rate. And last year, they were late doing it, they gave the letter, which we did was fine, and you might remember, she apologized for that last year. So we've been pushing and pushing and pushing. I can't thank Kathy enough. It got down to the wire today where they were asking for a actuary report that is done by another auditing firm, and that auditing firm was having a employee day out in the town or something. We had to contact management and finally they got what they needed. And so the long and short of it is, while it's not available for review tonight, it's nice it was on the agenda to nudge them a little bit, but we were told clearly that we will have that tomorrow by 3 p.m., which meets state law. We've already seen a draft of it. It's an unmodified audit like we always get. Uh, so we were good there. It doesn't say if the state will accept the draft or not, though, so we want to get the final audit to give council approval to do what they want with taxes when that time of year rolls around. And that's really been a big, big chore is getting that audit done, the way it's structured, it's at least January by the time you can really close your books for the physical year and then get going and ready for an audit. They didn't start the audit till Kathy, what, mid-February thereabouts? And it's it's taken about 6 weeks and at a large firm and they do a lot more in looking at things than past audits have taken place when it was just Belt Harris. And that's been cumbersome at best. But it is going to be done. We were promised that by the auditors. In the near future, you'll see them on a council meeting so that you can ask them questions, they'll present that to you."

b. Mayor and Council to take action on Variance Board's Recommendation for Variance Request 2026-002.

Request ready by Mayor Diaz, who also invited applicant Zeinali to speak on his request.

Mr. Zeinali introduced himself and spoke on the type of work he specializes in. He presented his company plan, proper disposal & maintenance plan. A small question and answer discussion ensued with Council & Mr. Zeinali.

Vote in Favor of Variance Board's Recommendation to approve Variance Request 2026-002: 3/0

c. Mayor and Council to take action on Variance Board's Recommendation for Variance Request 2026-003.

Request read by Mayor Diaz, who also invited applicant Garcia to speak on his request. Mayor Diaz translated for Mr. Garcia as he is a Spanish speaker. City Manager Squyres explained the reason the variance request was necessary for the remodel that Mr. Garcia is wanting to do.

Vote in Favor of Variance Board's Recommendation to approve Variance Request 2026-003: 3/0

d. Mayor and Council to consider proposed Resolution 2026-6R Revising the City's Retiree Health Insurance Policy.

Synopsis provided by City Manger Squyres.

The actuary table presents an opportunity for the city to assess healthcare expenditures for employees. Historically, the city has provided medigap health insurance for retirees aged 65 and older. In 2000, a resolution mandated coverage for retirees with 20 years of service, regardless of age, allowing them to join the same health insurance policy as active full-time employees. However, this left the city vulnerable to early retirements, allowing younger employees to receive extended insurance coverage without contributing services to the city. The sustainability of this benefit has come into question due to rising health insurance costs, particularly after changes brought by Obamacare. As a result, the city is proposing to remove the provision of primary health care coverage for retirees who have only reached the 20-year milestone, while still ensuring supplemental coverage upon retirement.

A discussion ensued to process the proposal, review the financial feasibility of the current policy, and explore possibilities of the amendment affecting any current or former employee. City Manger Squyres assured Mayor and Council that the City does not have anyone on extended insurance by the current policy at this time.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-6R, made by: Councilmember Garcia.

Second made by: Councilmember Gonzales.

Favor: 3/1

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Rodriguez

Christal Rodriguez
City Secretary