

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

Date: September 2, 2014

A Public Hearing of the City Commission of the City of Galena Park was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Tuesday evening at 5:00 P.M. on September 2, 2014.

Present were:

Esmeralda Moya  
Danny Simms  
Lois Killough  
Maricela Serna  
Juan Flores  
Mayra Gonzales  
Robert Pruettt  
Jim DeFoyd

Mayor  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
City Secretary  
City Administrator  
City Attorney

Mayor Moya called the meeting to order.

Mayor Moya stated she had a few questions and that the citizens are welcome to comment during the meeting. Mayor Moya stated that one of the things that stood out to her while reviewing the budget, and that she thinks they really do not need, was item 141816 the street sweeper. Mayor Moya stated that she thinks it is going to take more in maintenance, and the city is going to spend \$50,000 to purchase and then spend on maintenance. Commissioner Flores asked Mayor Moya if she had numbers to back that up and has she done research on how much contracting and what not would be. Mayor Moya stated that the city had one before. Commissioner Flores asked Mayor Moya if she had that information. Mayor Moya stated that she did not have that information but she did her research. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Pruettt when they had one in the past, what was the expense. Mr. Robert Pruettt, City Administrator, stated that they are expensive to maintain and operate, but to contract that service out would be astronomical. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Pruettt, what is the difference, when he says it is expensive, could he give them some numbers. Mr. Pruettt stated that the sweeper was gone before he got there and anything he would say would be off the top of his head, but the sweepers have a lot of mechanical parts on them and they involve quite a bit of maintenance depending on how old they are. Mr. Pruettt stated that a new sweeper would cost about \$150,000 and the \$50,000 one would be for a reconditioned one, new brushes and everything. He continued to state that it was kind of a trial and to see what they can do to clean up the gutters, they could clean them with a shovel, but they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars cleaning the gutters by hand to where a sweeper would do it three times as quick and a lot more cost effective, and they need to do something with the storm sewers because of all the backup. Mayor Moya asked how long would the rolls on the sweeper last after they go around the city maybe once. Mr. Pruettt answered that they would be worn out, but that any city equipment is going to be worn out in about 2 to 3 years anyways. Commissioner Simms asked what Mr. Pruettt thought on how much it would cost to contract a sweeper out per month. Mr. Pruettt stated that annually it would be well over \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year. Mayor Moya asked how many times a month they would be used, if it's going to be by contract and they pay as they come. Mr. Pruettt answered that with one sweeper it would stay busy 5 days a week, by the time it made all the rounds in the city it would have to start all over again. Commissioner Simms stated to Mr. Pruettt that would he also feel that with all the truck traffic they have that some of the businesses would actually hire the city to come in behind them. Mr. Pruettt stated that they were looking into how to offset some of the cost and maybe doing a partnership with Kinder Morgan where they call the city sweeper out and the city bills them to offset some of the cost, but we cannot even look at that until we have our own sweeper. Mayor Moya

asked if they provide their own sweepers for the mess they make. Mr. Pruett stated yes they pay someone to come out and clean. Mayor Moya stated that they have that covered, and that is something to think about. Commissioner Flores stated that when he was block walking the city, the residents were complaining about not having a sweeper and he knows that is very important for the city. Mayor Moya stated that she had the same conversations with the citizens and they think that their tax dollars should go into something more productive. Commissioner Flores stated that it is like when you rent a car or by a car it is something that is going to be used and is going to be yours, and it is going to be used very much well and it is something needed. He stated that businesses and residents told him that they would like to have the sweeper and they think it will be very helpful. Mayor Moya asked if he thought the sweepers were going to take care of the infrastructure. Commissioner Flores stated no it will prevent some of the destructions that happen. Mayor Moya stated it is something to think about, because she also spoke to the citizens and they would like their tax money spent in a different way, but again it is going to go on the table and they would decide and they do have to look at all options.

Mayor Moya stated another thing she was looking at was the projects, and she knows they spoke about the projects in the past budget meeting, but they should know what projects they are going to invest in. She continued to state that she knows what projects the police department is going to invest in, but for the other departments she thinks they are entitled to an itemized statement of what \$25,000 are going to go into. Mr. Pruett asked what department she was talking about. Mayor Moya stated that he had them for both departments so she is talking about both. Mr. Pruett stated a lot of that is the park equipment, beams, additional equipment cost and it is hard to figure a budget with an exact figure, you just have to guesstimate from last year spending and what you project you will spend for the following year, and what the wishes or needs are of a particular department. Mr. Pruett continued to state this is a good educated guess on what some of the cost are going to be, because you just don't know until you approach them. Mayor Moya asked for the parks, she understands for the police department they need cars and they need other things, but she just would like to see where the money is going to go to. Mr. Pruett asked if they were talking parks and recreation. Mayor Moya stated yes that is one of them. Mr. Pruett answered what they would like to do and they are early in the feasibility study on a walking path, but he has heard thousands of times from citizens that we do not have a place where they could walk. The school district has shut off the track to the city because of liability reasons and a lot of the folks in the city would like to see a walking path. Commissioner Killough asked when the school did that. Mr. Pruett answered it is open in the mornings, but in the evenings when most people go to work and get off at 5:00 it is not accessible. Commissioner Killough stated they were using it for different things. Commissioner Serna stated no even during the summer it is not accessible. In the mornings it is only accessible for a few hours and only one person has the key and if that person is not available that person is not going to go open up, and the reason is they say is there is a lot of vandalism and people taking their dogs in. Mayor Moya stated that she notices that a lot of people walk around where the swimming pool is, and asked Mr. Pruett where he was think of putting the walking track. Mr. Pruett stated that he and the park and recreation commissioner have looked at that area as well. Mayor Moya asked if they have thought about maybe collaborating with the Port of Houston or someone. Mr. Pruett stated that the Port of Houston is its own entity and we could collaborate with them and talk to them about the use of their land, but again they are going to get their team of lawyers and look at the liability issue of it as well, they don't like a lot of people on their property as well. Mayor Moya stated that the reason being is cause she is setting up an appointment to see what they can do and that is why she wanted to bring that up. Commissioner Killough asked who controls the land on the high road if they wanted to put a place for people to walk. Mr. Pruett stated it was the Port of Houston. Commissioner Killough stated that it is very unsafe, she sees kids that miss the bus walking there and they need something along there. Commissioner Serna stated that they had a master plan for a walking path and that has been taken into consideration, the low road and the place behind the swimming pool, but it is going to require lighting and that is going to be expensive.

Mayor Moya stated the other thing she was looking at were the salaries, she did her comparisons as well and she would give the council a copy of what she found. What she found based on the information Mr. Pruett wrote on the letter for the 3%, according to his letter if he received a 3% increase on his salary it should be \$2,850.00. Mayor Moya continued to state according to his letter he is receiving a 9% increase and for the book keeper she would be getting a 9% increase, for the public works director he would be getting a 9% increase not a 3%, and the city secretary would be getting an 8% increase. Those are the numbers she came up with and she doesn't know where he got the 3% from, and she compared it to what he gets paid now. Mr. Pruett stated to the Mayor that is why she received a separate cover letter referring the city secretary's salary along with his, the bookkeeper, and the public works director. He also stated the 3% is for the employee. Mayor Moya stated that is not what he said on the letter and that is why she did the numbers. If you compare the hourly rate a person that is getting paid \$10.00 will get \$.30 per hour, which is \$2,080/ year. A person who gets \$13.00/hour gets an increase of \$.39/hour that is \$811.00/year. A person getting \$15.00/hour gets \$.45/hour which is \$936.00/year. A person getting paid \$18.00/hour gets \$.54/hour that is \$1,123.00 more a year. The comparisons are there and she did the numbers. Mr. Pruett stated there is a separate sheet that he gave her. Mayor Moya asked which one, because she did not receive it. Mr. Pruett stated it was the cover letter. Mayor Moya stated yes that is where she got the numbers from. Mr. Pruett stated that it is not a percentage he did that separately referring to himself, the city secretary, bookkeeper, and the public works director, because they started off thousands and thousands of dollars less than their predecessors started off because of the budgetary front. He stated that they took those jobs at far less money and they are still below what their sister city, Jacinto City, makes. Mayor Moya stated she did those comparisons too. Mr. Pruett stated that he provided a copy of the email that was sent over from the city secretary to the Mayor in the first file. Mayor Moya stated that she also called Joyce, and that Mr. Pruett is getting an incentive of \$750.00 a month for gas allowance and their city manager only gets \$538.00. Mr. Pruett stated that he would also like for the record to reflect that the Mayor stated during the last meeting that their city manager had a master's degree. Mayor Moya stated yet Mr. Pruett will be getting paid more than him. Mr. Pruett stated that was incorrect the city manager in Jacinto City does not have a degree at all and he makes \$99,000 a year starting off, and he would like the record to reflect that. He also stated, which is \$4,000 a year less than what he is asking for to be the city administrator of Galena Park. Mayor Moya stated that she is just going by what they told her and the numbers they gave her. Mr. Pruett asked if her numbers reflected \$99,000 a year for their city manager. Mayor Moya stated oh yeah she had them right there. She did the comparisons because he did the comparisons and she wanted to make sure they were on the same page. Mr. Pruett stated that the city secretary sent an email to our city secretary the exact same figures that she just quoted. Mayor Moya stated she also spoke to Joyce. Commissioner Simms stated to Mr. Pruett that the letter that he has there is actually saying two things; the 3% increase for full time employees that is the everyday... Commissioner Serna states not salary... Commissioner Simms continues and the other one is for... Mr. Pruett interrupts and states the others are listed separately and that he is specific in his request for the departments and 3% for the employees. Mayor Moya asks if Mr. Pruett would read the letter again. Mr. Pruett states no she may read it, because he knows what he wrote. Mayor Moya asks since he wrote it he could read it. Mr. Pruett reads.....Included in the budget proposal is a 3% pay increase for full time employees who have passed their 90 day probationary period. The City Bookkeeper/Treasurer will have an annual pay rate of \$58,000. The Director of Public Works will receive an annual salary of \$62,000. The City Secretary will receive an annual salary of \$62,000. She will also have her car allowance increased to \$300 monthly to match what her predecessor received. The City Administrator will receive an annual salary of \$95,000 with a \$750 monthly car allowance. The salary amount for the City Secretary is less than what her predecessor made over three years ago. Checking with comparable cities, including Jacinto City, still shows our city at a lower pay scale. Mayor Moya states that she still doesn't think she misunderstood Mr. Pruett's letter, those are the numbers that she got. Mr. Pruett stated to the Mayor if he would have done that he would have just put 3% for everybody and he wouldn't have spelled out the bookkeeper, public works director, city administrator or any of that, he would not have spelled it out on the cover letter if he

meant for everyone to get a 3% increase. He is asking to bring the salaries up and they are still below the predecessors. Commissioner Simms stated that it would have said a 3% increase across the board for all employee salaries. Mr. Pruett answered correct. Mayor Moya stated that is why she is recommending something else, the ones that are not getting paid enough like \$.30 or \$.39 are the hourly pay. Mayor Moya reads that on her letter she wrote.... As Mayor of Galena Park, I recommend that the employee raises should be \$1200.00 which is more equal across the board due to the fact that the salaried employees are progressing higher in wages versus the hourly employees who are performing their jobs in the field as well as the salaried employees. Hourly employees would see the same raise as the salaried employees with the same benefits, (i.e., T.M.R.S., Social Security and Medicare). Mayor Moya asked if the sounded better to them and is there any comments from the audience, or is it that she misunderstood the letter. Mr. Pruett stated that he thought his letter was clear if he was asking for 3% he wouldn't have spelled out bookkeeper or city secretary or city administrator, that in itself is separate and he is still at a lower rate than what his predecessor was in dollars from 3 years ago back when the city was in dire need of it and with his policies they brought the city back on board again and he knew he would have to go in at a lower salary because the city was in a crunch and he is asking that he is brought up to at least what his predecessor made, and still \$5,000 less than our sister city. Mayor Moya stated that her goal is to lower the tax rate and the water rate. Mr. Pruett stated that the water and sewer rates almost bankrupt the city, they did a study and if they lower the water and sewer rates they will go back down that road again. Mayor Moya stated that they can look into it again. Commissioner Killough stated wouldn't that be something for a future discussion that is not in the budget right now. Mr. Pruett stated that Mayor and Council have the budget beforehand now and it is something that needs to be addressed tonight. Commissioner Killough stated that she was talking about the water and sewer rate change. Ms. Elizabeth Silva, a citizen, stated that the water that they are paying now is the same rate that they are paying in the City of Houston. Commissioner Killough stated that they buy their water from the City of Houston. Ms. Silva stated that if the council doesn't stop and think about the older people that are on fixed income, it is not just one, two, or three people, she could tell them more that 10 people that their water bill has been half more higher than the City of Houston, she is talking \$200 or \$300. Commissioner Serna stated doesn't it make sense, you just said that is the rate of the City of Houston, and if they are buying from the City of Houston... Ms. Silva interrupts and states not that amount because remember those are older people. Commissioner Serna states no she is not talking about people she is talking about the rate. If they are buying from the City of Houston and that is the rate, are they supposed to buy at that rate and sell at a lower rate. Ms. Silva stated the water used to not be that amount, now it is outrageous, they act like if there is 50 people living in one home. For example her parents, it is only two of them, and her three and the water bill just doesn't make sense. Another citizen stated that his water bill for one month is \$670. Commissioner Serna stated that he probably had a leak. Ms. Silva stated that there they go again they are going to say what they are going to say like they tell every person out there. Commissioner Serna stated that she has had a water bill for \$700 and she had to pay it, but she had a leak. The citizen stated that he called a plumber and paid \$65.00 for the plumber to tell him nothing was wrong, he had no leak and the plumber told him the meter was so dirty he had to clean it to read it and he doesn't know how the city reads it. Mr. Barry Ponder stated to the Mayor that he isn't sure where she is coming up with the research as far as the mediums or the city managers go, he would be more than happy to make copies for everyone, but he has about 7 of them. The national average for the United States for the city manager and the medium is \$93,528 and that is with five years' experience, and the other thing that he thinks is a deciding factor is that none of them have less that a bachelor's degree and some of them had a bachelors, but they also required something in management, logistics, human resources to go along with their job. Mr. Ponder continued to state that he also called other cities like Deer Park and Pasadena and if they called around they could get an idea of what they are getting paid as well. He stated that if you go to California they are crazy, but one of their managers down there is doing something for 100,000 people so he is getting \$226,000 a year. Commissioner Killough stated at the same time she has talked to cities of 7,000 and they are paying more than what we are paying. Mayor Moya asked what city was that. Commissioner Killough stated that it

was one they met at the municipal league meeting. Mayor Moya stated she would love to talk to them. Mr. Ponder stated one of them he thought was kind of funny, because they were paying \$13.00 an hour and they had a bachelor's degree and he worked for that. Commissioner Killough asked if they had a job requirement or a job description that requires that; she didn't think they did. Commissioner Simms stated that his uncle is the Mayor for the City of Diboll for almost 40 years and when he told him he was getting \$200.00 a month he said he was moving to Galena Park, because he received absolutely nothing other than having his name on a building after serving 40 years. He continued to state the Mayor of Lufkin get \$75.00 if he shows up for the meeting and they have \$200.00 in the books since 1946 and he doesn't think there are any job requirements for Mr. Pruett's job that say he has to hold a degree. Commissioner Killough asked if Mr. Pruett's predecessor had a degree. Mayor Moya stated that the city administrator position is not in the charter and she looked into the resolution and the ordinance and it does not state that. Commissioner Serna stated that in the future they can well work a job description for whenever he is gone and that would solve the problem. Commissioner Killough stated that she does think they need to be competitive. Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, stated that back in 1946 when they voted the charter in, a strong Mayor, type charter the Mayor got \$150.00 a month and council received \$75.00 a month and they changed that in 1979 where the Mayor received \$300.00 and the council received \$200.00. Commissioner Serna stated that they could change it right then and make it \$1,000.00. Mayor Moya stated that personally she doesn't think that they should get paid because then you are going to get people who are going to run for the wrong reasons. Mayor Moya stated that if it was her chose she would choose not to get paid, because she wants to run for the right reasons not because she is going to get something out of it. Commissioner Killough stated they could all volunteer to give their checks back. Mayor Moya stated that they can and if they vote on it they will do it. The audience applauded. Commissioner Killough stated that they don't have to vote on it at all. Commissioner Serna stated that the previous Mayor would give it back. Mr. Pruett stated no. Mayor Moya stated that they can give it back and she has no problem with that. Commissioner Serna stated to the Mayor to give it back. Mayor Moya stated that they can give it back and do an Ordinance and they will take it out the books. Commissioner Flores stated that he is against what she is saying and they are working on trying to redo the charter which is all part of the process and trying to put in place where the citizens will have a part in the process and once they get the committee together all the stuff they are talking about the form of government they have and the salaries from 1979; they are about to address that as soon as they get the committee together and the citizens will be a part of it. Mr. Barry Ponder stated that when he was in the workshop there seemed to be some ruffled feathers over education and degrees. He is an educator and Ms. Killough is an educator for over 30 something years and what are the reasons why they tell their students that they should stay in school and not leave school after two or three years of high school. Experience is very valuable, but Dr. Leer used to tell him when he was at San Jack teaching, what are you going to do. Mr. Ponder stated that he wanted to get his master's degree, and he asked him why. Mr. Ponder stated because when you put master's degree behind your name people look at you. Dr. Leer told him son he has known people with master's degrees that didn't have enough common sense to walk across the street and not get hit by a car. Commissioner Killough stated she has known people with PHDs that were filled higher and deeper. Mr. Ponder stated that what he tells his students is that you need the cognitive experience and you need the skills proficiency to go with it. Mr. Ponder continued to state that if Mr. Pruett had taken some initiative of taking some classes for human resources, logistics, or something of that nature to go along with it. Mr. Pruett asked Mr. Ponder if he knows his background at all. Mr. Ponder stated he did sir. Mr. Pruett stated that he doesn't think he does. Mr. Ponder stated that he has known him since he started the emergency medical services in Galena Park. Mr. Pruett stated that he has served over 30 years in municipal government. Mr. Ponder stated that he would tell him what he did know about him, he knows he worked for Jacinto City and he left there, he then went to Galena Park and has left there about 2 or 3 times. Mr. Pruett stated that Mr. Ponder was incorrect. Mr. Ponder continued to state that Mr. Pruett is getting ready to leave again and he just doesn't see giving somebody money that is about to leave the city again, and he that is not personal, but when he brought his employees in

if they couldn't prove to him they deserved a raise he wouldn't give it to them. Mr. Ponder stated that Mr. Pruett is about to leave again, was he not? Mr. Pruett stated he had been there 21 years.... Mr. Ponder interrupted and asked Mr. Pruett if he was about to leave. Mr. Pruett stated he was not going to leave them again. Mr. Ponder asked Mr. Pruett if he was not running for another office. Mr. Pruett stated you have to win that office. Mr. Ponder stated but he was running for that office. Commissioner Serna stated that then it shouldn't be a problem if he is going to leave, they wouldn't have to pay \$95,000 anymore. Mayor Moya asked if there were any more comments.

Commissioner Killough asked if everyone had received a copy of the bank account comparisons as of the end of August comparing it from 2012-2014. Mayor Moya stated that reminds her have they heard what the update on the stolen money is. Mr. Pruett stated that it is under police investigation. Mayor Moya asked Commissioner Flores what he had said. Commissioner Flores stated he was trying to catch the comment she made. Mayor Moya stated that it reminded her, because someone asked her earlier and she meant to get together with Ms. Killough, because they had some other concerns that maybe she could address. Commissioner Killough asked if it would be more proper for Chief Rader to address them. Mayor Moya stated that it was nothing in his department and it was something that she wanted her to look into. Commissioner Killough stated that the money market increase from 2012-2014 is \$891,849.45, the general fund cd's went from \$802,568.15 to 1,302,755.10 that is a \$500,186.95 increase. The general fund went from \$25,387.31 to \$501,908.59 which is \$476,521.28 increase. The water fund cd's went from \$69,637.23 to \$70,236.32 a \$599.09 increase and the water fund went from \$26,485.66 to \$25,245.68 a \$1,239.98 decrease. Ms. Killough stated that over all because of the policies implemented by Mr. Pruett she would say they have had a considerable change in their financial status. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Pruett since when has he been City Administrator. Mr. Pruett stated for 2 ½ years. Mayor Moya stated which is 2012. Mr. Pruett stated that he would like to add that Ms. Elizabeth Silva made the comment about the water bills; the seniors' rates have gone up a little. He continued to state that people have to be careful with their usage if they go above 3,000 gallons, and most people don't especially seniors, that usage you pay a higher rate, because the water is a very high commodity now. Prior to this water rate increase the city was financing out of the general fund \$50,000 a month a quarter of a million dollars a year they were going in the hole because Mayor and Council did not want to raise the water rates, that is a fact. With the water rate study it went up in increments, it is going to go up within a period of 5 years, the City of Houston is going to hit us with a 3% increase annual, this year they only hit the city with a 2 % increase, we are still only breaking even and slowly starting to pay back the general fund. He continued to state that they were almost 3 million dollars in the hole and they stopped it at a million in a half. The previous Mayor and Council had to write off a million and a half dollar debt because of the water and sewer fund, they are now starting to pay that back slowly into the general fund, the same general fund that they by police cars out of and sweepers out of. That money was being bled off into the water fund and they cannot go back on that, they have to bite the bullet on the water, they have no control over the cost of it. Mayor Moya stated that she has been looking into that information herself and she may have something to stop the water increase, but she is still working with those numbers so as soon as she gets those numbers out she will share them with all of them. Mr. Pruett stated that if she could pull a rabbit out of her hat he would be tickled to death. Mayor Moya stated she did not say it was going to work, she said she is working on it, looking for solutions. Mr. Pruett stated that they spent \$12,000.00 for experts to do a water and sewer rate study for them that got them on the program that is slowly pulling them out of the hole. He stated he knows people are having hard times. Mayor Moya stated she is also working with an expert. Mr. Pruett stated that it is the Mayor, Council, and his job to make the city solvent. The credit rating dropped, they were able to hold it off, when the credit rating dropped their bond interest sky rocketed, and they able to stop that, but the water and sewer fund was bankrupting the city. Mayor Moya stated she was going to continue to do the research with the water credits and things like that and when she gets that information she will pass it down to the floor. Mayor Moya asked for any other discussions. Mr. Robert Clowers, citizen, asked if they had what they were going to have to pay for insurance, he thought last year was about \$10,000 per employee and about a million and a

half dollars. Mayor Moya asked for Nanette to answer that. Mr. Pruett stated that they did not have that cost in yet. Mayor Moya asked how much was it previously? Commissioner Serna asked what the allocation was. Commissioner Simms asked if that was projected. Mr. Pruett stated that it is projected to go up like everything, how much they don't know, for years the city did not go out for bids and the last couple of years they had gone out for bids, some insurance companies responded others didn't. Mayor Moya stated that we needed to advertise better, also when she was going thru the budget she noticed there were a lot of \$48,000, and when she pulled some of the reports it was more than \$48,000, so she thinks that new bids should be coming in for certain things. Mayor Moya asked what the attorney computer fees was, was it a computer or their services. Mr. Pruett stated that he is not sure what she means by attorney. Mayor Moya stated that there is a fee somewhere for attorneys and computer, she didn't know what it was, but wanted to ask. Mr. Clowers asked if he understood correctly that the health care a million and a half is not in the budget. Mayor Moya stated that he was correct. Mr. Clowers asked how they are going to vote a budget when they are a million and a half dollars short, how they are going to come up with that. Mayor Moya stated that was her question. Commissioner Serna stated Insurance 41280 is part of that. Mr. Pruett stated that it is in the budget, it is a projected cost. Commissioner Serna stated it is a 1,062,000. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Clowers if that was what he was talking about. Mr. Clowers stated that he understood Mr. Pruett to say that it was not in the budget. Commissioner Serna stated that it was on page 7 item 41280. Commissioner Simms stated it was \$1,062,000 for all departments. Mayor Moya asked if it was the health insurance. Mr. Pruett stated it is the projected cost, they don't have the actual cost yet. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Clowers if he found it. Mr. Clowers stated no, but if it was in there it was ok. Commissioner Simms asked the city secretary if in the future they could provide page numbers on the budget. Mayor Moya asked what are they going to do with the 8 and 9% pay increase to the response to the letter, it is not 3% from her calculations. Mayor Moya asked if they were going to think about that, it is not 3%, it is 8% and 9%. Mr. Joseph Thibodeaux, a citizen, asked if even with those percentages would it still keep them below the average of what a city this size would make. Commissioner Killough stated and below Jacinto City. Mayor Moya stated that the thing is that the letter states they were going to get a 3% raise not an 8 or 9% raise. Mayor Moya stated that Mr. Pruett was talking about the hourly and the other one is the salaries. Mayor Moya stated that is why she separated them so they could see the difference, and when you say 3 % for that entity it is not 3% it is actually 8% and 9%. If he was going to get a 3% it would be \$2,850.00 for \$95,000 a year instead it is \$8,480 more which makes it 9% not 3%. Mr. Barry Ponder asked when the last time they gave somebody a raise was. Mayor Moya stated she didn't know. Commissioner Killough asked if they got a raise last year. Commissioner Simms stated that pretty much every year he has been on council they have given raises, when they have had money to allow that. Mayor Moya asked 9% raises. Mr. Barry Ponder stated that if they could all agree that they are kind of on a presence of not having money in the city. According to what the city administrator said the other day the city will only have \$300,000 left if all the bills are paid in 2015, \$300,000 for a city that size is nothing. Mr. Ponder continued and asked how many people have been thru a hurricane there, and they would suck that in infrastructure damage in about 2 weeks. He is all for raises but maybe this isn't the time. Commissioner Killough asked Nanette how much money they anticipate they will be receiving from Kinder Morgan in taxes. Nanette Moreau, the Bookkeeper, stated that would be a question for the Tax Assessor/Collector. Sheila Hilton, Tax Assessor/Collector, stated this is from the new stuff not the old stuff, but it is a little over \$200,000 this year. Commissioner Killough asked if it would be another figure in January. Ms. Hilton stated every year until they get it completed, they have to render what they have already done and they will be taxed on that, but it should go up each year because it is a \$300 million dollar project. Commissioner Killough stated that at the CIP meetings that the city will be receiving about a million and a half a year in taxes to the city and the school district will be getting an additional two million. Mayor Moya stated that when we have that on paper, then maybe we can consider it but right now they are just saying. Mayor Moya stated her next question is what they think about her proposal on the bottom of the page. Commissioner Flores stated he had a question. Commissioner Flores stated that the Mayor said she was reading the memo that was given to them at the workshop stating that it was a 3% increase for full time workers

and then it has the individually set raises by name and position, her interpretation of that, to her it means that it is a 3% for everybody. Mayor Moya stated that it says 3% to all employees. Commissioner Flores states that he agrees with her on that, but if you go onto the next sentence where it has it all individually listed they are different than 3%. Commissioner Flores asked Mayor Moya if she was telling him that her interpretation of it was 3% for everybody. Mayor Moya states that what she is trying to make it across the board, not the 3% across the board. Mayor Moya stated that the people that are hourly are not benefiting from that. Mayor Moya asks Commissioner Flores if she gets what she is saying. Commissioner Flores states he will get to that part in a bit he is trying to figure out her interpretation of what she is saying. Mayor Moya asks Commissioner Flores if he is saying it is ok. Commissioner Simms states that what he thinks Commissioner Flores is saying is that if it would have been a 3% raise across the board you wouldn't have needed to put any of the other. Commissioner Flores states that he is trying to distinguish between the two different things that he agrees with the proposal and what it actually says on the paper. The paper says what it says and now she wants to implement what she researched, that is her recommendation. Mayor Moya states that her recommendation is on the paper she provided and it states about the 3%, it never said that the numbers within the letter, it never said I'm going to give the Public Works Director a 9%, the percentage was not on the letter. Commissioner Flores states that there is no percentage but if she read the numbers for what it says. Mayor Moya states if he reads the letter then he can make the numbers. Commissioner Flores states that by technicality you could say that there is a 3% pay increase for full time employees, but he can interpret it a different way also and say that those guys are listed at that pay rate and it is different than 3%, and you could assume that by them having that rate there that is what they are asking for on those positions. Mayor Moya asked why they don't just ask Mr. Pruettt what he meant with the letter. Mr. Pruettt stated that he would not have specifically pointed out these department heads, he would have just simply said 3%. His point is that the people he mentioned on there came in at a far lower pay rate to get the city up and running again, the city is physically headed down a good road now. The water and sewer rates are where they need to be, the tax revenue and the income is coming in, the general fund is not being bled dry again thru the water and sewer department so they can buy police cars and ambulances. They paid cash for an ambulance, when in the past they had to finance that ambulance for five years. Mayor Moya states that she agrees with him and that is why she thinks they should wait on the 8 and 9 %. Mr. Pruettt stated that what he is asking is still less then what comparable cities are paying their leaders, the people that are out there trying to do a good job and do the right thing. Mayor Moya stated that she is worried about her city. Ms. Elizabeth Silva, citizen, stated that not everyone gets a pay raise every year and they should stick to the 3% until they get out of the backup and all the problems. Commissioner Flores stated that he is still worried about all the stuff they have been thru with the news media and he has gone to other cities and they keep pointing out to him what are they doing in Galena Park with all the stuff in going on, that people tell him they would not want to work for the city, a lot of the workers there are stressed. A citizen asked what did that have to do with the budget. Commissioner Flores stated going back to what was said. The citizen stated that if he wants to go outside and make a circus then go outside and make one. Commissioner Flores stated that has already been done. Commissioner Flores stated that the question was about the salaries going up. Ms. Silva stated that not everybody gets a raise every year, they are not that lucky. Commissioner Flores stated just like anywhere else. Ms. Silva stated correct. Commissioner Flores stated that they have to make the hard decisions.... Ms. Silva stated for him not to talk over her. She continued to state that the ones that are suffering right now are the cities and the citizens. Commissioner Flores stated that they all live there, don't they. Mayor Moya stated no they do not all live there, they don't live here, we live here, and the citizens live there. Commissioner Flores stated that they still need to have experts to run those positions instead of having unqualified person to run that position. Even though he is that he doesn't have a degree and work experience means something. Mayor Moya stated that like Mr. Ponder stated it has to come with something. Commissioner Flores asked that if taking the city from near bankruptcy means nothing. Mayor Moya states to Commissioner Flores to stick with the budget. Commissioner Flores commented to the Mayor about steering away from the items also. Mayor Moya states that if

he really wants her to bring all the numbers, because they can have another workshop and then she will bring all the numbers, and they will get the independent audit done and then they will look into it. Commissioner Serna states and spending \$22,000. Mayor Moya states that if they agree on that then they will go ahead and set it up. Commissioner Killough stated that they are being audited right now. Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, asked Mayor Moya how much if they have over spent on the 2013-2014 budget. Mr. Pruett stated that they have stayed along the lines over the budget, if the over spent it was.... Mayor Moya states she thinks they are in the red somewhere. Mr. Pruett states that they are in the red in the water and sewer department. Mayor Moya states so they are in the red. Mr. Pruett states they have been in the red in the water and sewer department for years and they are starting to pull out of it now because they are collecting enough money now. Mr. Pruett stated that the city was paying The City of Houston \$45,000 to \$50,000 more than what the city was collecting. Commissioner Killough asked if they had done that for years. Mr. Pruett stated that it had gone on for years and that money had to come out of the general fund, and when it comes out of the general fund you can't buy police cars or give pay raises, they stopped that and now got it going in the right direction, if they don't go back. Mayor Moya stated if we are going in the right, like a citizen stated, maybe they should not give raises at the time. Mr. Pruett stated that those are small percentages and they are dealing with a 10 million dollar a year budget. Mayor Moya stated that if it is \$8,480 that Mr. Pruett is going to get, the 9%, that is not including the \$750.00 car allowance a month and then you add the \$4,218.00 plus the \$750.00 monthly car allowance, it adds up. Mr. Pruett stated that it is a proposed budget and Mayor and Council can choose to vote it up or down. Mayor Moya stated that they know what they are going to vote. Commissioner Simms stated that they have to action tonight, otherwise they will enter into another fiscal year. Mr. Pruett stated to let Mr. DeFoyd answer that. Mr. DeFoyd stated that you must have the budget done and passed by the end of the month. Commissioner Simms stated it was state law and city law. Mayor Moya stated that they can make the decision, but she hopes that they think about what is best for the city. Mr. Pruett stated that he has been thinking about what is best for the city for 21 years, he had lived in Galena Park for many years and worked for the city for many years. Mayor Moya asked why he no longer lives in the city. Mr. Pruett stated he likes living in the country, he can't have chickens in the city, but he can have them where he lives. A citizen stated that if they can give raises to some of the departments and not all of them. Mayor Moya stated that is what she is trying to do, make it across the board. Commissioner Killough asked how much would it cost on the budget if she gave everybody a \$1200.00 raise. Mayor Moya stated that it would cost a lot less than if they gave the 8 or 9%. Commissioner Killough asked if she had a dollar figure for all the city employees. Mayor Moya stated if you add \$1200.00 pay raise a year she could make those calculations, now if you do the \$8,480 plus the \$750.00 and the 4,218.00 plus \$300.00 and the 9,470.00 plus \$300.00 and the \$4,956.00 a year and then add them it would give you a much larger amount than what she is proposing. Commissioner Simms asked if the go with the \$1200.00 across the board would she still be for the car allowances for their positions. Mayor Moya asked what the citizens think. Mayor Moya stated she was going to tell him what she thinks, but she is going to ask the citizens for their input after all it is there money. Commissioner Killough stated and 12,000 other people's money. Mayor Moya stated right the citizens of Galena Park. Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, stated that he thinks everybody has a right if they want to live outside of Galena Park, but he doesn't think he should have to pay for it, it is a choice that they make. Commissioner Simms asked Mr. Ponder if he paid school district taxes. Mr. Ponder stated yes sir. Commissioner Simms stated that he works for the maintenance department and there is one supervisor out of seven, and they are paying for them to live out of the district. There is no criteria that states that they must live in the district, and he is paying for them to drive into the district. Mr. Ponder stated that unfortunately he does not have a say in what the state of Texas does on the school taxes he pays, but he has a say in Galena Park. Commissioner Simms stated yes he does when he votes for school board members. Commissioner Killough stated the school district gets car allowances even if they drive next door to the gas station. Ms. Killough also stated that people on the city council have got car allowances for driving from there house to city hall. Mr. Ponder stated if they can find him another city manager around Galena Park that gets a car allowance. Commissioner Killough stated Jacinto City. Mayor Moya stated he gets \$538.00. Mr. Pruett stated they either get a car or a car allowance. Mayor Moya stated she

checked with Joyce Raines, City Secretary of Jacinto City, and she stated that they have a choice between a vehicle or \$538.00 a month for car allowance. Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated they keep referring to different entities and what they are doing, that is not what they are there for, they are there to discuss the city of Galena Park. Mr. Brown stated he did not have a problem with car allowances if they are fair, but they should not have a car allowance to drive in from out of the city or country or wherever they might be. If indeed their job requires that they return to the city after hours, he doesn't mind paying them the mileage for that. All they would have to do is fill out a trip report stating the number of miles of when they got here and when they left, and they can pay them both ways. Ms. Thelma Ibarra, a citizen, stated that she thinks the city administrator should get a car allowance, but she doesn't think anybody else should be allowed a car allowance. They are not administrating the city and he is and he has a lot more responsibilities. She stated that she knows some of the employees from the warehouse get car allowances and she doesn't think they should get one. Mayor Moya stated they were going to take all the comments into consideration and they are very important. Ms. Shiela Hilton, a citizen, stated that she knows everyone is set on being against car allowances, but like Mayra Gonzales, city secretary, she has to go in her own car to recreation at times and other places for purpose for the city. She does not get paid to drive into the city to go to work, and she has seen Mr. Pruett drive around the city because things are going on. Car allowances are supposed to be for those purposes, but not to drive you to and from work. Mayor Moya stated that if Ms. Hilton is saying that they should pay the employee by mileage. If they are going to go for the city from site to site, they should pay the employee for that, she agrees, because they are using their personal vehicle and gas. That is how they did it at the county and she believes most employers are like that, paying by mileage not by month. Mr. Brown stated that he worked for AT&T for a number of years and he was an outside consultant traveling by air, car, or bus and he had to fill out travel allowances by the mile, he got paid by the mile. He did not get paid to travel to the office or out of the office, if he got called in on a weekend he got paid by the mile, which he does not have a problem with that. Mayor Moya asked if they were in agreement with that, the audience replied yes. Mayor Moya stated that they have to take that into consideration and asked the commissioners to take it under consideration. Commissioner Flores asked Mayor Moya if she was, and she answered yes that is why she asked them.

Commissioner Simms moved to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Killough, 2<sup>nd</sup>... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 6:00 P.M.

  
MAYRA GONZALES  
CITY SECRETARY

  
APPROVED