

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date: October 7, 2014

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Galena Park was held at City Hall in the Council Chambers, Tuesday evening at 6:00 P.M. on October 7, 2014.

Present were:	Esmeralda Moya	Mayor
	Danny Simms	Commissioner
	Lois Killough	Commissioner
	Maricela Serna	Commissioner
	Juan Flores	Commissioner
	Mayra Gonzales	City Secretary
	Robert Pruett	City Administrator
	Jim DeFoyd	City Attorney

Mayor Moya called the meeting to order.

Mayor Moya called on Ms. Nelia Garcia and Ms. Cheli Ledford for the invocation.

Mayor called for comments from the audience.

Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, stated that for the last 45 years he has been able to rent the community building on Keene St. on Thanksgiving. Mr. Clowers stated he was told about a week or so ago that this year he would not be able to rent it out. He stated that he was told that the City Administrator made the decision that he cannot use the building and he would like to know why. Mr. Clowers stated that he has used the building for 45 years. Mayor Moya called on Mr. Robert Pruett, City Administrator. Mr. Pruett stated that when Mr. Clowers was on the commission he had a key to the building, because he was Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Mr. Pruett stated that Mr. Clowers had his Thanksgiving there every Thanksgiving. He stated Mr. Clowers had use of the building because he had control of the building for being a City Commissioner. Mr. Pruett stated it did not cost the city anything for him to have his event there, but now he is John Q citizen just like every citizen and in order for them to open up on a holiday they go into double time for the employee. Mr. Pruett stated they normally do not rent the building out on city holidays for that reason and Thanksgiving is a city holiday. Mr. Pruett stated Mr. Clowers had it all the time because he was on the commission and had keys to the building and could lock and secure the building on his own. Mr. Pruett stated that now they would have to pay double time to rent the building out and for the city employees to stand guard and take care of the building on a holiday. Mr. Pruett stated that if the Mayor and the commission wish to do that. Commissioner Simms asked Mr. Clowers how many people they are talking about. Mr. Clowers stated usually he has about 125 people there, but last year he had 65 people. Mr. Clowers stated what he doesn't understand is that he has used that building for 45 years, he has not been on the council for 45 years. Mr. Clowers stated for the last 25 years he would go by on Wednesday evening and pick up the key and he would go to the building Thursday morning and use and clean it up and leave it clean or cleaner than when he got there, then Monday morning take the key back. Mr. Clowers stated that for the last eight or nine years he was on the council and he did have access to it. Mr. Clowers stated he has done it there for 45 years and he has people coming in from Washington, D.C., New Mexico, and Washington State. Mr. Clowers stated he went to the community building and reserved it like he always does in January with no problem. Mr. Clowers stated that if they weren't going to let him use the building they should have told him then. Mr. Clowers stated that there had never been a city employee that opened the building

for him for the last 25 years and he has taken personal responsibility for the building. Mr. Pruett stated that he understands that, but it should apply to all citizens including Mr. Clowers. Mr. Pruett stated that Mr. Clowers has enjoyed special privileges that have not been extended to the rest of the town. Mr. Clowers stated that when he was not on the council he paid money for the rental, he did not get it free when he was not on the commission. Mr. Pruett stated that if the Mayor and Council wish to pay double time to city employees to secure the building, they cannot just arbitrarily give the citizens a key to a city owned building. Mr. Clowers asked that if his track record for the last 25-30 years..... Mr. Pruett stated to Mr. Clowers that he does not question his track record, but he questions the fact that if they do it for Mr. Clowers they must do it for all the citizens. Mr. Clowers stated that if the citizen rented the building for 45 years, he doesn't know why that they wouldn't be good enough. Mr. Clowers stated that there are citizens that have keys to the community building. Mr. Pruett stated not that he knows of. Mayor Moya asked how many employees Mr. Clowers had when he rented the building. Mr. Clowers answered none. Mr. Pruett stated that when Mr. Clowers was on the commission, being a city commissioner, he had use of the building and he had a key because he was Parks and Recreation Commissioner to the building. Mr. Pruett stated Mr. Clowers safe guarded it and was responsible. Mr. Pruett stated now if they change that, then any citizen can have a key to the building and say here it is your rental or we are going to have to pay a city employee on a city holiday to open and close the building and stay there. Mayor Moya stated that if the building is for rental then we can talk about it. Mr. Clowers stated for the last 25 years, and he was not on the commission for 25 years, there was no city employee at the building because it was a holiday. Mr. Pruett stated there should have been. Mr. Clowers stated that Baggett, John Cooper, nor Barrett had a problem with it, the only one that has a problem with it is Mr. Pruett. Commissioner Serna stated that as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner she would like to make a comment. Commissioner Serna stated that one of the main items on the Mayor's side is to get rid of all the old arbitraries that they have had in the past years and Mr. Clowers is talking about it. Commissioner Serna stated he has been doing that even though he knows it is not correct, and they are trying to correct everything. Commissioner Serna stated that she tells everyone the city is each and every one of them and they must change it, so if the building is not rented on a holiday then it is not rented. Commissioner Serna stated that if Mr. Clowers is willing to pay the extra time for the employees, then they can probably consider it and only consider it. Commissioner Serna stated that like the city administrator said if you want it and then someone else wants it on a holiday, then it is going to be the same thing. Commissioner Simms asked Mr. Clowers how many hours would he be using the building. Mr. Clowers stated they are usually out of there by 2:00 p.m. and they start about 7:00 a.m. Commissioner Simms asked Mr. Clowers if he would be willing to pay the employee that works and the rental. Commissioner Clowers stated yes. Mr. Pruett stated he would like the clarification if they do it for one then they need to do it for all. Commissioner Serna stated yes everybody. Mr. Pruett stated if they are going to start working employees on city holidays it would be double time, he doesn't have a problem with it, but you are almost in a position as a supervisor to order the city employee to do that if they don't want to open and close the building on a city holiday that the Mayor and Commission has given to the employee. Commissioner Serna stated that it was a religious holiday and each and every employee has a right. The citizens stated it was not a religious holiday. Commissioner Serna stated that everybody has a right to use that day. Mr. Pruett stated that his point is if you are going to do it for one you must do it for everybody. Mayor Moya stated that to Mr. Clowers that they were going to take that into consideration and if some employees want to work during the holidays they will give them the option.

Mr. McCracken, a citizen, stated that when Mayor Moya was running for Mayor she stated that she wanted to clean up Galena Park. Mr. McCracken stated that he has a house for sale in Galena Park and two real estate agents told him how dirty it looks coming into Galena Park, yards that are not edged and people running garages out of their homes. He asked when they are going to start cleaning up the city. Mr. McCracken stated that Raul can do a good job when they send him out, and under state law they can give him the right to issue citations. Mayor Moya asked who the Commissioner was over him. Commissioner Killough stated he falls under the Fire Department, it would be her. Mayor Moya stated that Mr. McCracken may want to address the question to Ms.

Killough. Commissioner Killough stated that she is a real stickler when it comes to people not mowing the yards and she is like him and wants to see the city cleaned up. Commissioner Killough stated that she could give him Raul's phone number and he could call him. Mr. McCracken stated that he had it, but the thing about it is that someone needs to get him to do his job instead of riding around or sitting at the Fire Station watching TV. Mr. McCracken offered to go riding with him free of charge and he has put 17 years of volunteering to Galena Park. Commissioner Killough asked where he lived. He stated he has two homes one on 2208 8th St and 1806 Pugh. He stated there is a home on Pugh and 10th St that has not been edged in two years. Mayor Moya asked for his address. He stated 1806 Pugh, he stated that it is by Panther Creek where the grass is high and the city is responsible for it. Mr. Pruettt stated the city is not responsible for it at Panther Creek the Drainage District is even though the city does go in from time to time to clean up some. Commissioner Killough asked Mr. Pruettt to call the Drainage District on it. Commissioner Killough stated she did not mind him riding with Raul. Mr. Pruettt stated that he has to disagree with that the city insurance does not cover that. Mr. Pruettt stated Raul is doing a good job he is just overwhelmed with so much of it. Mayor Moya stated that she would like to sit down and talk to him in terms of the situation. Mayor Moya stated that those are things that they need to know and she appreciates their comments and she encourages everyone to bring out their thoughts. A citizen stated they have vacant homes and high grass. Commissioner Killough asked for him to make a list of the ones he is personally concerned about and she will make sure Raul gets on them. Mayor Moya stated that in the mean time she is supposed to meet with Harris County to see what they can do about the infrastructure.

A citizen stated that the Citizens of Galena Park turned in a petition on September 15, 2014 and she is wondering what the current status is on that since they have not seen anything on the agenda yet. Mayor Moya called on Mr. DeFoyd. Mr. DeFoyd stated it would be on the next agenda.

A citizen asked if anything was going on about the street lighting in Galena Park. Mayor Moya stated that as a matter of fact she met with someone last Friday which was very encouraging and she will get more information that she received via email and it is looking good. Commissioner Killough asked if they received the notice in the water bill that if the street light goes out there is a number on the pole that they give when they call it in to Center Point. The citizen stated that they did not receive the notice and they do not have a street light at all. Mayor Moya stated that is what she is meeting with this new agency about.

Item #4- Consider approving the minutes of public hearing September 16, 2014 and regular meeting September 16, 2014. Mayra Gonzales, City Secretary, asked that they table it for next meeting for the minutes were not completed. Commissioner Simms stated that they table the approval of the minutes for the next meeting. Commissioner Flores, 2nd... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, asked why the minutes were tabled. Ms. Gonzales stated that the minutes were not ready yet and she asked the council to table them.

Item #5- Consider ratifying accounts payable from September 12, 2014 through October 3, 2014. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the payables. Commissioner Flores, 2nd ...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #6- Consider approving the City's Investment Policy. Mr. DeFoyd stated that it is a requirement of the Texas Local Government Code and it is basically every year they set up to adopt an investment policy as required by law. The committee consist of Nanette Moreau, Danny Simms, and himself and every time they have an investment they put it before council and recommend that they approve. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the investment policy. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #7- Consider approving the 2014 UASI Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$105,236.16 for the purchase of Police/Fire radio equipment. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the grant in the amount of \$105,236.16. Commissioner Serna, 2nd. Commissioner Simms asked Chief Rader

what do him and Chief Gregory anticipate how much they are going to be able to do with this. Chief Rader stated it was quite a bit including purchase of handheld radios, mobile radios, and they have replaced the dispatch consoles and all of the police radios. Chief Rader stated that after this it is going to be a total of \$362,000 worth of radio equipment that they have purchased and it is 100% funded. Mr. Pruett stated it was all grant money. Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 8-Consider approving LJA Engineering to go out for bids for the water line rehabilitation project. Commissioner Flores moved to approve LJA Engineering to go out for bids. Commissioner Killough, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #9-Consider approving Resolution R14-2014- Designating a representative and an alternate for the HGAC 2015 General Assembly. Mr. DeFoyd stated that they need a representative and an alternate for the HGAC Board and they need to agree on who they want to choose. Mayor Moya stated for Mr. DeFoyd to read the resolution. Mr. DeFoyd read the resolution aloud. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the resolution as read. Commissioner Killough, 2nd... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #10- Consider approving the 2013-2014 budget amendments. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the budget amendments for the 2013-2014 year. Commissioner Serna, 2nd... Commissioner Simms asked if it was for the 2013-2014 year. Mr. Pruett stated yes. Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #11- Consider approving the full time employment of Tojuana Cooper- Water/Wastewater Superintendent. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the full time employment of Tojuana Cooper. Commissioner Killough, 2nd... Commissioner Killough asked Mr. Pruett to introduce Ms. Cooper. Mr. Pruett stated he would as soon as they hire her. Mayor Moya stated to Ms. Cooper she did not get a chance to sit and talk to her the day she came because she left before then, but she would still like to sit with her and talk about a few things and they can do that when she starts. Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Mr. Pruett introduced Ms. Cooper. Ms. Cooper thanked the Mayor and Council for their vote and she is really looking forward to serving the City of Galena Park, she sees a lot of opportunity there.

Item# 12- Consider approving the part time employment of Amy Delagarza- Humane Department. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the part time employment of Amy Delagarza. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Mr. Pruett introduced Amy Delagarza. Mayor Moya welcomed both of the employees. Mr. Pruett stated Amy had experience with the SPCA. Mayor Moya asked Amy if she had her license yet. Amy stated not yet, but she is working on it.

Item #13- Consider approving the part time employments of Tret Darr and Troy Mason- Firefighters. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the part time employments. Commissioner Simms, 2nd ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Chief Gregory introduce Firefighter Darr.

Item #14-Consider approving the resignation of Casey Alan Ward, Jr.-Fire Department. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the resignation. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Announcements.

Commissioner Simms announced that former City Administrator, Mr. John Cooper, has passed away from his battle with cancer. He stated Mr. Clowers, Mr. Thibodeaux, and himself worked with him closely and he was a good and honest man. Commissioner Simms stated that they want to keep his family in their prayers and he really cared about Jacinto City and Galena Park. He stated that he mentored under him and learned a lot from him and he was always honest and fair and always trying to help people to the best of his ability. Commissioner Simms also stated Ms. Dawn Fisher, School Board Member, was also there.

Commissioner Flores stated that they had their first annual movie night and they had over 100+ people show up. Commissioner Flores stated that they had great reviews, great food, and everybody really enjoyed it. Commissioner Flores stated that the movie was Beetlejuice and they are going to have a couple more through the year. It was a committee of city employees and city residents and they will work together to make it happen. If anybody is interested please let him know. Commissioner Flores also stated that they are having National Night Out at the Shafaii and Dairy Queen. He stated it is the 2nd annual Night Out that he and Mr. Cruz Hinojosa have put on and they got more people involved. He stated they have fire trucks, GPISD, moonwalks, credit union and face painting. He invited all to attend. He stated they are trying to fight crime in Galena Park and they need to get feedback so hopefully they can make it.

Commissioner Killough thanked Chief Rader for having coverage on all the different events that they have going on. She understands that sometimes the officers are stretched thin. She stated that the participation of the fire department and the police department in those events are very much appreciated.

Mayor Moya stated she had a report from Kathy Harvey, Parks and Recreation Director. Mayor Moya read that the pool is now closed for the winter season, they need to repair both pumps. The rain gutters at the library have been replaced and trees around the library have been trimmed. The BBQ pavilion on 16th St. is complete and being used. The merry go round in Galena Manor Park is complete. They are looking at putting a walking trail. When the sewer lines are complete they will look into putting restrooms in the park. A BBQ pavilion and new playground equipment will be in the works for the Woodland Acres Park. The Galena Park Rotary Club sponsored a community health fair at the Alvin Baggett Community Building on September 27th. Councilman Serna held a food fair at the basketball pavilion September 30th, it was well attended. The first Galena Park movie night was a success, food and snacks were great. Thanks Councilman Flores.

Chief Paul Gregory announced October is breast cancer awareness month and the guys will be wearing a shirt with a pink back. October 5th-11th is fire prevention week at the schools. Mayor Moya asked if they were going to be doing presentations at the school. Chief Gregory stated yes every year they go to the schools and talk about stop, drop, and roll. That day they were at Our Lady of Fatima, Thursday at MacArthur and Galena Park Friday. Mayor Moya stated she would like to attend those for Chief Gregory to contact her about when they are.

Commissioner Killough made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Flores, 2nd Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 6:40 P.M.


MAYRA GONZALES


APPROVED