

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date: December 16, 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 December 16, 2014.

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

Mayor Moya called the meeting to order.

Mayor Moya called on Commissioner Lois Killough for the invocation.

Mayor called for comments from the audience.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of December 2, 2014. Commissioner Killough asked if the Commissioners were included on the life insurance. Mayra Gonzales, City Secretary, stated they were. Commissioner Killough asked that she be removed from the life insurance. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2014. Commissioner Serna, 2nd ...Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 5- Consider ratifying accounts payable from November 26, 2014 through December 12, 2014. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the payables from November 26, 2014 through December 12, 2014. Commissioner Killough, 2nd Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #6- Consider awarding the bid to A Absolute Plumbing for the Waterline Rehabilitation Phase 1 in the amount of \$786,567.00. Commissioner Killough moved to approve awarding the bid to A Absolute Plumbing for the Waterline Rehabilitation Phase 1 in the amount of \$786,567.00. Commissioner Flores, 2nd. ...Vote: Mayor Moya asked for a discussion. Commissioner Serna asked if they always take the lowest bid and is the service the same for the lowest and for the highest. Mr. Robert Pruett, City Administrator, stated that a lot of the time they go with the recommendation of the engineering firm and LJA Engineering recommended A Absolute Plumbing for several reasons. One being they were the lowest bid and two they have been through the process with all the securities and certificates that they need. Mr. Pruett stated that it was LJA Engineering along with the Public Works Director and the Water and Sewer Superintendent who recommended A Absolute Plumbing. Mayor Moya asked Commissioner Serna if she needed the item to be tabled to reconsider. Commissioner Serna stated no, she just wanted to know what the process was when choosing a bidder. Mr. Pruett stated that Mayor and Council have awarded the higher bidder in the past, because they felt more comfortable with the company being in service longer or it being a larger company. Mayor Moya asked what exactly is the bid going to cover. Mr. Pruett called on Tojuana Cooper, Water and Sewer Superintendent. Ms. Cooper stated that the project was going to consist of replacing an existing 8 inch and 6 inch water line. Ms. Cooper stated that the 8 inch water line ran along Clinton Dr. from Graham to Galena Manor Drive and that is going to be replaced with

a 10 inch. Then from Galena Manor Drive all the way passed 8th St. they are going to replace a 6 inch water line with an 8 inch water line. Mayor Moya asked if this would alleviate some of the infrastructure problems that the city is having with the over flows. Ms. Cooper stated that this is the water lines that are being replaced and it is not related to the sanitary sewer overflows, but it is her understanding that a sample of the pipe was taken from Galena Manor and they found a lot of calcium build up in the pipe, which reduces the capacity of the pipe. Ms. Cooper stated that it is a necessary project for maintaining and improving the infrastructure. Commissioner Killough stated that people will have a lot better water pressure. Ms. Cooper stated not subjected to poor water quality because of buildup in the pipe as well as failures in a water line because the pipe is old. Mr. Pruett stated that this rehabilitation project started about 2-2 ½ years ago. Mr. Tim Wehmeyer, a citizen, asked how many phases the project consists of. Ms. Cooper stated that there is possibly going to be a phase two, but she is not familiar with that, so right now they are just addressing phase one which is passed 8th St. Mr. Pruett stated that they have received a grant for the project and the city is only paying 20% of the amount. Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, stated that he did not have a problem with the dollar amount, but on November 18th this item was tabled by Commissioner Simms. Mr. Ponder stated that his understanding is that by the rules Commissioner Simms is the only one that can take that off the table and he is not there. Mayor Moya stated that was right. Mr. Jim DeFoyd, City Attorney, stated that was not true. Mr. Ponder stated that Robert's Rules of Order states that if it has been tabled the person who tables it..... Mr. DeFoyd stated that is incorrect. Another citizen asked why it was incorrect. Mr. Pruett stated that if that was the case it would stay tabled forever. Mayor Moya stated that she suggest they reconsider and wait until Commissioner Simms returns because she also read that in Roberts Rules of Order. Commissioner Flores stated they had a motion on the floor and they need to either accept it or decline it. Mr. Pruett stated that this project has been ongoing for 2 years. Mr. Defoyd stated that they need a motion and a second. Commissioner Flores stated it already had been done. Mr. DeFoyd stated all in favor. Mayor Moya stated to please note that the city attorney was taking over the meeting. Mr. DeFoyd stated he was not he was telling them they needed to call for the motion. Mayor Moya stated that was taking over the meeting. Commissioner Flores asked Mayor Moya if she was going to call for the question. Mayor Moya stated that she wants to state on record that she wanted to table and she will ask for the question. Vote: 3 Ayes.... 1 Nay (Mayor Moya).... Motion Carried.

Item # 7- Consider approving Resolution R15-2014- Amending the budget for the Water Rehabilitation Project by increasing the budgeted amount to \$113,714.00 to comply with the city's obligations under the project. Mayor Moya called on Ms. Cooper. Ms. Cooper stated that they are asking to increase the budget by \$113,714.00. Ms. Cooper stated that this project had been started in 2011. Ms. Cooper stated that in 2011 they anticipated that the Water Line Rehabilitation Project would be \$148,213.00 and the commitment from Harris County for the CDBG grant would be \$592,853.00 for a total of \$741,066.00. Ms. Cooper stated that now we are three years later and have taken bids and an engineer's true estimate of \$958,000.00 for the project. The lowest bid came in at \$786,567.00 from A Absolute Plumbing. Ms. Cooper stated that Harris County's commitment would be \$592,853.00 and the city had budgeted for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 \$80,000.00. Ms. Cooper stated that the city has a short fall of \$113,714.00. Ms. Cooper stated that the city needed to amend the budget to increase the number by \$113,714.00. Ms. Cooper stated that the total amount that would be the city's commitment is \$193,714.00. Commissioner Killough asked if Harris County gave the city that much money every year or was that just the total. Ms. Cooper stated that was just the total. Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, asked if the money that was being amended was in addition to the money that was just approved in the item before. Mr. Pruett stated that the city budget for \$80,000.00 because they did not know what their commitment was going to be, but the cost came in higher so they are asking Mayor and Council to amend the budget to make up the difference in the cost. Commissioner Killough stated that it would not be the contractor that receives the extra \$113,714.00. Commissioner Serna stated no, the contractor will only receive a total of \$786,567.00. Commissioner Serna stated that the county committed to pay \$592,853.00 and the city budget for \$80,000.00, but that still leaves them short \$113,714.00 to complete the \$786,567.00. Mr. Brown

asked how could they award somebody money that they do not have, they should have asked for the money first then approved the total amount of the project. The items should have been reversed. Ms. Cooper asked Mr. Brown if he was referring to the placement of the items on the agenda. Mr. Brown stated yes. Ms. Gonzales stated to Mr. Brown that they needed to award the bid first in order to know what amount they needed to amend the budget by. Mr. Brown asked if the council had awarded the company a bid that the city does not have the money to pay for. Commissioner Serna asked Mr. Brown if he would rather the work not get done. Ms. Cooper stated that Harris County would like to know that the city is committed to making up the difference before they pay for the project. Mr. Brown stated that all he is saying is that he thinks the agenda items are reversed. Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, stated that if item #6 would have been moved to item #7 and item #7 to item #6 then there would be no problem. Commissioner Serna stated that the order does not alter the product. Mayor Moya stated that they are going to conduct business..... Commissioner Flores and Commissioner Serna stated without the audience, because that is a business meeting. Mayor Moya stated that the audience are the ones paying the taxes to have the project done, so they need to know what is going on. Commissioner Serna stated that there is protocol that needs to be followed. Mayor Moya stated that they were going to continue the meeting. Mr. DeFoyd read Resolution R15-2014. Commissioner Serna made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Commissioner Killough, 2nd... Vote: 4 Ayes... 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 8-Consider approving the full time employment of James Lutz- Firefighter/ Paramedic and the part time employment of Fabian Huerta- Fire Department. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the full time employment of James Lutz and the part time employment of Fabian Huerta. Commissioner Serna, 2nd ...Vote... 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

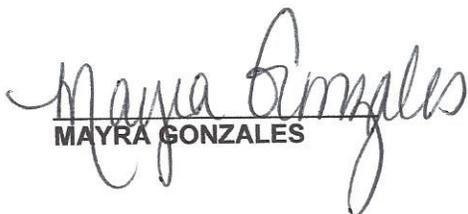
Item #9- Consider approving the resignation of Rene Serna, Jr. from the Charter Review Committee and consider approving Gene Knight on the Charter Review Committee. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the resignation of Rene Serna, Jr. and the appointment of Gene Knight. Commissioner Flores, 2nd ...Vote: Mayor Moya stated that she could not vote on this item, because she was not part of it. Vote: 3 Ayes.... 1 Nay (Mayor Moya)... Motion Carried.

Mayor Moya called for announcements.

Tim Weheyer, a citizen, asked if the Water Rehabilitation Project was going to affect the water rates. Mayor Moya stated no.

Commissioner Killough made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Flores, 2nd.... Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 6:30P.M.


MAYRA GONZALES


APPROVED