

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date: January 20, 2015

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 January 20, 2015.

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

Mayor Moya called the meeting to order.

Mayor Moya called on Reverend Bailey for the invocation.

Mayor called for comments from the audience.

Ms. Taggy Hall, a citizen, invited everybody to attend the senior luncheon held in Galena Manor.

Mr. Tim Wehmeyer, a citizen, stated that a friend of his, Ernesto Flores, is the head of a flag football league and started a soccer league in Galena Park. Mr. Wehmeyer stated that they had concerns about where they were going to practice because it gets dark soon and the only field that has lights is the baseball field. Mr. Wehmeyer stated that the city has a contract with little league and nobody else can use the fields. Mr. Wehmeyer asked the council if they could work something out and allow other people to have use of the fields. Mayor Moya asked who denied access to the fields. Mr. Wehmeyer stated it was Warren Hilton, the president of the Little League. Commissioner Simms stated that if the fields are there and they are not used during non-season, then they should be used. Mr. Pruet stated that they already told them that the city will turn the lights on and they have advised little league. Mr. Pruet stated that they cannot practice on the Little League field, but they can use the lights to practice on the adjoining fields. Mr. Pruet stated that the Little League field is not suitable for soccer because of the raised mound. Mr. Wehmeyer stated that they can use the outfield and it is only used for practice, not games. Mr. Pruet stated that the Little League uses their own money to maintain the grass and the fields, so he understands the concerns from the little league. Mr. Pruet stated that they were going to try to set up a practice field for soccer league. Commissioner Serna stated that she is currently working on an ordinance to have all the recreational fields in Galena Park open to everybody not just a certain person or a certain organization.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of January 6, 2015. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the minutes of January 6, 2015. Commissioner Flores, 2nd ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 5- Consider ratifying accounts payable from January 6, 2015 through January 16, 2015. Commissioner Flores moved to approve accounts payables from January 6, 2015 through January 16, 2015. Commissioner Serna, 2nd ...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 6- Consider approving the quarterly investment report ending December 31, 2014. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the quarterly investment report ending December 31, 2014. Commissioner Killough, 2nd ...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 7- Consider approving estimate #3 in the amount of \$45,726.98 for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project. Commissioner Killough moved to approve estimate #3. Commissioner Simms, 2nd... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 8- Consider approving Resolution R01 – 2015- to purchase a new fire truck in the amount of \$518,000.00 with \$218,000.00 being funded by a grant from the Texas Forest Service toward the purchase of the fire truck and to enter into a financing agreement with Government Capital Corporation to finance the balance of \$300,000.00 to purchase the truck. Mr. Jim DeFoyd read Resolution R01-2015 out loud. Commissioner Simms asked Mr. Pruett what kind of timeframe they have in the purchase of the truck. Mr. Pruett stated that the Texas Forest Service grant is good until June or July. Mr. Pruett stated that the city bought a fire truck about 14 years ago and they are in need of a new fire truck. Mr. Pruett stated that it may be August or September before the city even takes possession of the fire truck. Mayor Moya asked if they designated Mr. Pruett the city administrator as a signer on the contract. Mr. Pruett stated it was at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council. Commissioner Killough asked if it was usual and customary to designate the city administrator as a signer on the contract. Mr. Pruett stated that with the resolution they will vote to give him permission to be a signer on the contract. Commissioner Killough asked if they would finance the full \$300,000. Mr. Pruett stated that he didn't think they were to have to; the city could pay half and only finance \$150,000. Pruett stated that sometimes you have to borrow money to keep your credit rating where you need to. Mr. Pruett stated that during the last investment report it was noted that the city is not in a great deal of debt and you have to borrow money every now and then to keep your credit rating up. Commissioner Simms moved to make a motion to accept the agreement. Commissioner Flores, 2nd... Vote: 4 Ayes... 1 Nay (Mayor Moya). Mr. Tim Wehmeyer, a citizen, asked what the percentage rate was. Paul Gregory, the Fire Chief, stated that the interest rate was 3.1%. Mr. Pruett stated that it was over a ten year note. Mr. Wehmeyer what interest will the city pay over the ten years. Mr. Gregory stated it would be \$60,000 if they went the full ten years.

Item # 9- Consider approving the full-time employment of David Kent- Water/Wastewater Department. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the full-time employment of David Kent. Commissioner Serna, 2nd ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Mayor Moya welcomed Mr. Kent and asked him if he had his certifications. Mr. Kent stated he had his level C license.

Item # 10- Consider approving the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation board to make Mr. Henry Avington and honorary board member. Commissioner Killough asked if Mr. Avington had resigned from the board. Mayra Gonzales, City Secretary, stated that Ms. Dorothy Harding, the president of the Parks and Recreation board, had brought a letter for the Mayor and Council signed by all the board members, including Mr. Avington, recommending to make Mr. Avington an honorary board member. Commissioner Serna asked what an honorary board member was. Ms. Taggy Hall, a board member, stated that Mr. Avington was one of the first members on the Parks and Recreation board and has been on the board for many years. Ms. Hall stated that Mr. Avington has had a stroke and cannot speak and instead of taking him off the board they would like to recommend him to become an honorary board member. Ms. Harding stated that Mr. Avington has been on the board for 15 years and after his stroke he cannot really participate. Commissioner Killough asked if Mr. Avington would still attend the board meeting. Ms. Harding stated that he could if he wanted to and she made it very clear to him that they would be honored to have him at the board meeting anytime he wanted to attend. Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, stated that an honorary member of the Parks and Recreation board is a nonvoting member. Commissioner Killough moved to approve Mr. Avington as an honorary board member on the Parks and Recreation board. Commissioner Serna, 2nd Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 11- Consider the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation board to add Ivan Rojas to the Parks and Recreation board. Commissioner Serna stated that in March 2015 the end of the terms will be up for the Parks and Recreation board and they would like to wait until March to reappoint everybody, because she has other recommendations for new people to be placed on the board. Mayor Moya stated that she would like to make a motion to consider the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation board to add Ivan Rojas to the Parks and Recreation board. Commissioner Flores stated to Mayor Moya that she cannot make a motion. Mayor Moya stated that she can make a motion. Ms. Harding stated that Mr. Rojas is a young man living and raising his children in Galena Park, and is also the Parks and Recreation Director in Jacinto City. Ms. Harding stated that she believes that he would blend in to the committee in good way. Commissioner Flores asked Ms. Harding if they had considered any other candidates or reached out to any other candidates for the board. Ms. Harding stated that they had not. Commissioner Flores stated that a Mr. Ernest Flores was also interested in being on the committee and they were to consider that. Commissioner Flores asked if they could get a resume from Mr. Rojas and from Mr. Flores and they can make the right decision as to who to consider for the board. Commissioner Serna stated that Mr. Bautista was also interested in being on the board. Ms. Harding stated that some of them on the Recreation Board have sat on some pretty high power boards, and they never had to fill out a resume to be on a board. Ms. Harding stated that she thinks Mr. Rojas will be good on the board and he has a lot of talent. Commissioner Flores stated that Mr. Ernest Flores has also done a lot for the community and that is someone that they are possibly interested on having on the board. Ms. Harding stated that there are four of them that have terms up in March and she knows there could possibly be some changes there, but in the meantime, she thinks that they could use his expertise on the board. Commissioner Flores asked if Mr. Rojas would just be serving a one month term. Mayor Moya asked who else was on the board. Mr. Taggy Hall stated that she was on the board and she did not have to fill out resume. Commissioner Serna stated that times have changed, and just last meeting the citizens' scolded Mr. Pruet for stating the way things used to be done. Commissioner Serna stated times change and things change. Commissioner Serna stated that they will not ask for resume, but she will develop some questions so that she could see what he has to offer and what they want out of this position. Ms. Harding stated that all the Parks and Recreation board does is make suggestions, and it is ridiculous that five members that vote on that board and recommended Mr. Rojas; and that there would be any doubt in any council person's mind that they couldn't second that motion. Commissioner Killough asked Mr. DeFoyd what was the parliamentary procedure in that case. Mr. DeFoyd stated that there was a motion on the floor with no second. Mr. Pruet asked Ms. Hall if Mr. Avington went to the board and stated that he no longer wished to serve on the board or did they collectively decide that Mr. Avington cannot do the job because of the stroke and they arbitrarily decided that he needed to be off the board and they want to make him an honorary board member. Ms. Harding stated that Mr. Avington cannot communicate and has only made one board meeting since the stroke. Ms. Harding also stated that Mr. Avington was very happy that he was going to be an honorary board member. Mr. Pruet recommended that they wait until all the terms are up and everybody shows their interest on serving on the board and let Mayor and Council decide who serves on the board. Ms. Harding stated that she met with Mr. Avington and his wife and he was very happy to sign the letter recommending him to become an honorary board member. Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated that they were discussing the wrong agenda item and Mr. Avington had already been voted on by the Mayor and Council on the previous agenda item as an honorary member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Mayor Moya once again makes the motion to accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation board to add Ivan Rojas to the Parks and Recreation board. Mayor Moya stated that the reason being is that the spot needs to be filled. Commissioner Simms asked if the board members are all up for reappointment in March, is it really important that they place somebody at to fill the spot at that time. Mayor Moya stated that there is a time limit. Commissioner Simms stated that if they voted on him he would serve a term of two months, then the terms of all the board members would be up in two months and if the mayor and council chose other candidates he would only serve for two month term, and would not serve the purpose. Mayor Moya stated that if they vote him in he would have to be re-appointed in March.

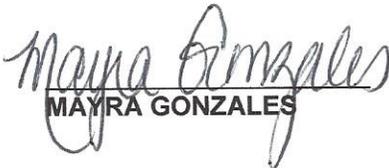
Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, stated that if he remembered the ordinance correctly the members had staggered terms and they were not all up for reappointment at one time. Mayra Gonzales, City Secretary, stated that two years ago they were all reappointed at one time and the terms were staggered but they had not been reappointed, therefore the previous mayor and council appointed them at one time. Commissioner Serna asked if there was a term limit. Ms. Gonzales stated that they have a term limit of two years. Mr. Clowers stated that if they were not going to go by the ordinance, then the ordinance needed to be changed. Commissioner Serna recommended that they table it so that they can work on an ordinance. Mayor Moya stated that she has a motion on the floor to approve the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation board to appoint Ivan Rojas. Commissioner Simms stated that he does not see why they must appoint somebody at that moment to fill the seat. Mayor Moya stated that the Council voted to make Mr. Avington and honorary board member, therefore there is an available seat to be filled. Mayor Moya states there is a motion on the floor. Commissioner Killough asked Mr. DeFoyd what happens if there is not a second. Mr. DeFoyd states that the motion dies for lack of a second. Commissioner Simms asked Mr. DeFoyd if a different motion can be made to table the item as Commissioner Serna, the Parks and Recreation Commissioner, recommended. Mr. DeFoyd states they can. Commissioner Serna entertained a motion to table the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation board to add Ivan Rojas to the Parks and Recreation board until all the other board members are up for reappointment. Commissioner Serna stated that she would like to see more candidates and would like to see who she is going to work with. Commissioner Simms, 2nd... Vote: 4 Ayes... 1 Nay (Mayor Moya)

Mayor Moya called for announcements.

Commissioner Simms announced that if anybody was concerned former city administrator Mr. John Cooper passed away this past fall. Commissioner Simms stated that his wife and he visited Mr. Cooper's wife and she has ALS. Commissioner Killough asked what school Ms. Cooper taught at. Commissioner Simms stated she taught at North Shore middle school along with several other schools. Commissioner Simms asked that everybody just keep her in their prayers.

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

Meeting adjourned: 6:44 P.M.


MAYRA GONZALES


APPROVED