

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

Date: February 3, 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 February 3, 2015.

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

Item # 1- Mayor Moya called the meeting to order.

Item # 2- Mayor Moya gave the invocation.

Item # 3- Mayor called for comments from the audience.

Ms. Taggy Hall, a citizen, stated that they had a shooting in Galena Manor on Sage Dr. Ms. Hall stated that the police department has been patrolling the area. Mayor Moya asked Chief Rader if there was an investigation. Chief Rader stated yes they were and that they did not have any leads other than the color of the vehicle and that Detective Garza is following up and interviewing witnesses. Mayor Moya asked that they keep them updated.

Mr. Broussard, a citizen, stated that there was another shooting in Galena Manor last year on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in the cul-de-sac late at night. Mr. Broussard stated that he called the police and the police came out, but just drove by very slowly and drove off and never got out. Mr. Broussard stated that he never heard anything else on it. Chief Rader asked what date it was on. Mr. Broussard stated it could've been November or December of last year. Mr. Broussard stated that there is a lot of crime in Galena Manor and he does see the officers patrolling and appreciates that. Ms. Taggy Hall stated that she heard that a gang from 5<sup>th</sup> ward was going to start coming into the area and breaking into houses, but it is just hearsay.

Ms. Dorothy Harding stated that on June 9, 2014 the Galena Park Recreation Board met and had all board members present except Mr. Cantu. Ms. Harding stated that a discussion was held on the number of board members and the ethnic make-up of the board. Ms. Harding stated that in recent years they had gone from a 7 member board to a 5 member board and it was working well. Ms. Harding stated that Commissioner Serna expressed her desire to have her choice of board members and that she felt that they needed more Hispanic members on the board and that Mr. Cantu was no longer interested on continuing to serve on the board. Ms. Harding stated that Commissioner Serna was reminded that they were not acting along racial lines, but making suggestions to city Council according to what was needed in their respecting neighborhoods. Ms. Harding stated that at that time they had one member living in Woodland Acres, two in Galena Manor, and two in Galena Park. The ethnic make-up was two Caucasian, two black, and one Hispanic. Ms. Harding stated that in a later meeting she suggested that they make Mr. Avington, due to health issues, and Mr. Cantu, due to him not being able to attend meetings, honorary board members. Ms. Harding stated that Mr.

Cantu continues to serve on the board and Mr. Avington was made an honorary board member last month. Ms. Harding stated that she thought Mr. Ivan Rojas would make an excellent member as he is the Recreation Director for the City of Jacinto City and a Galena Park resident raising four children in the city. After Mr. Rojas raised his concerns at a council meeting about taking his children to the park in the city, Ms. Harding stated that she heard Commissioner Serna ask him to be on the committee. Ms. Harding stated that on the November 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting she made a motion that Mr. Avington be made an honorary board and that Mr. Rojas be made a member of the board. Ms. Harding stated that at the meeting they had a quorum and Commissioner Serna was present. Ms. Harding stated that she expected Commissioner Serna to present that to the council, but after waiting for that to be done through four council meetings she proposed that those two things be done as president of the board. Ms. Harding stated that she was very disappointed that the Commissioner did not present that to Council and when she did the Commissioner did not second the Mayor's motion. Ms. Harding stated that she was also disappointed that after many years of faithful service of the board members, they did not have the respect and support of the Council. Ms. Harding stated that it was the duty of the board members to fill the vacancy under city ordinance 2011-01, section 4. Ms. Harding stated that it was too late for Mr. Rojas to be considered on the board therefore his name will no longer be considered. Ms. Harding stated that was very disappointing, because she has talked to Mr. Rojas about that since July. Ms. Harding stated that Mr. Rojas did say he would help them in any way. Ms. Harding stated that she has the ear of some very influential people and they have promised to help the city, and when she talks to them and she goes before the council are they going to give her the respect, support, and consideration that the recreation board needs. Ms. Harding thanked the council.

Ms. Dawn Fisher, a citizen, announced that she was back. Commissioner Flores welcomed Ms. Fisher back.

Mayor Moya stated if there were no more comments, they would move on to the agenda.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of January 20, 2015. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2015. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 5- Consider ratifying Accounts Payable from January 16, 2015 through January 30, 2015. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the payables. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup> ...Vote: 4 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 6- Consider approving Ordinance 2015-01- Granting Valero Refining Texas, L.P. a permit to install one 16 inch pipeline. Mr. Jim DeFoyd, City Attorney, read the first reading of Ordinance 2015-01. Commissioner Killough moved to approve Ordinance 2015-01. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup> ...Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 7- Consider approving Ordinance 2015-02- Amending the water tap fees by adopting a service modification fee and increasing portable hydrant meter deposits. Mayor Moya called on Ms. Tojuana Cooper, Water and Sewer Superintendent, to explain this item. Ms. Cooper stated that the current fee structure for water services is a \$1200.00 water tap fee. Ms. Cooper stated the fee covers our cost of labor and materials to install water meter, piping, and fittings from our water main to the customers private water line. Ms. Cooper stated that it has come to her attention several situations in Galena Park where two houses are served by one water meter. Ms. Cooper stated that she recently had a request from a customer to separate the two houses and put a separate meter for each. Ms. Cooper stated that the fee to do that is not \$1200.00. Ms. Cooper stated that she evaluated what it would cost to put in a new meter and the piping and fitting and she came up with \$335.00. Ms. Cooper stated that she is asking that they approve a service modification fee for those situations where they have one meter servicing two houses. Mayor Moya asked if it was only going to be upon request. Ms. Cooper stated it was only upon request, because they do not know

everywhere that is occurring in the city. Ms. Cooper stated if a customer asks to have a separate meter put in they would go and do that once the customer paid the \$335.00. Mayor Moya asked how the fees were going to be applied. Ms. Cooper stated she needed to get with the city secretary, but when a water tap is paid they pay it before the service is done. Mayra Gonzales, City Secretary, stated that we charge the customers the \$1200.00 up front, but if they need assistance the city can work something out and bill them on their water bill. Mr. Broussard, a citizen, asked if the \$1200.00 water tap fee was for new construction only. Ms. Cooper stated yes. Mr. Broussard asked if there was any way they could go back and see how many people that affects, because if they found one there could be many more. Ms. Cooper stated that she is talking with a company that is considering coming in and helping the city with an operational survey to determine situations like that. Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated that he agrees with Mr. Broussard if they have a problem in that area and have numerous situations like that. Commissioner Killough stated that it would only be when they requested it. Ms. Cooper stated that is correct, they would only apply the fee when the customer requested to have a separate meter. Mr. Brown asked why would there be a meter serving two houses and who pays the bill. Ms. Cooper stated that some of the situations where a meter is serving two houses is because the houses are being rented and it is one address associated with that water meter. Mr. Brown stated that he had a problem with that, because there may be cases where it cost more than \$335.00 to put a new line in. Mr. Brown asked if they were going to tap off the existing water line. Ms. Cooper stated yes and placing it on the side. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Cooper to explain to him how they are running two houses off of one meter. Ms. Cooper stated that piping on the other side of the water meter is the owners responsibility. Ms. Gonzales stated that normally this applies to duplexes or apartments. Ms. Gonzales stated that it does not really apply to two separate houses. Commissioner Killough stated that maybe the home owner wants the renter to pay their own bill and that is why they are requesting a separate meter. Ms. Cooper stated the particular situation she came across had two separate address. Mr. Brown stated that in most cities that is the home owners responsibility. Commissioner Killough asked Mr. DeFoyd if there was an ordinance in place. Mr. DeFoyd stated there is a water rate ordinance in place. Mr. DeFoyd stated that Ms. Cooper was accommodating the landlords. Ms. Cooper stated there is also a second fee. Ms. Cooper stated that there are companies that rent portable construction meters for \$500.00, but she has determined that the city's cost to replace that meter, if not returned, is approximately \$995.00. Ms. Cooper stated that she is proposing to change the deposit from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 which would allow them to replace a meter if damaged or not returned. Mr. DeFoyd read Ordinance 2015-02. Commissioner Killough moved to approve Ordinance 2015-02. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 8- Consider approving Resolution R02-2015- Approving the business account signature document and Comerica business and personal deposit account for all accounts of the City of Galena Park. Mr. DeFoyd read Resolution R02-2015. Commissioner Serna moved to approve Resolution R02-2015. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 4 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 9- Consider approving the resignation of Saulo Palacios as Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the resignation of Saulo Palacios. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 10- Consider approving the appointment of Andrew Scroggins as Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the appointment. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>... Vote: 4 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Mayor called for announcements.

Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, requested for Ms. Killough's microphone to be looked at. He stated she sounds horrible and her voice rattles. Commissioner Killough stated they would look into it.

Mr. Tim Wehmeyer, a citizen, asked if the city got any money off of what is going through the pipelines. Council answered no. Ms. Dorothy Harding, a citizen asked how many 16 inch pipelines are running through the city. Commissioner Killough stated that Ms. Cooper is working on getting an exact count of all the pipelines and water lines running through the city. Commissioner Killough stated that it is her understanding that the city will be getting revenue off of what runs through the Kinder Morgan pipelines when it is actually sold.

Ms. Taggy Hall, a citizen, asked when the city was going to start putting new water lines in Galena Manor. Ms. Cooper stated that they are waiting on the county to set a date for the pre-construction meeting. Ms. Hall stated that they had a water main break and they had no water, but the guys were working on it.

Commissioner Flores announced that on Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> the city was going to have a movie night. Commissioner Flores announced that the city's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being incorporated was coming up and they wanted to get a committee together to celebrate that. Commissioner Flores asked for residents interested in participating. Commissioner Flores stated that March 7<sup>th</sup> they will be having a street clean up and anyone interested in joining contact him. Commissioner Flores stated that if anybody had any potholes that needed to be fixed to please contact him. Mr. Flores stated that they have fixed several already that people have brought to his attention.

Mr. Jack Brown asked if there was a list of the Councilmembers phone numbers. Mr. Brown asked how do they contact them. Commissioner Serna stated that they can call the City Secretary. Commissioner Flores stated that he would give him a flyer about the movie night, it had his number on it. Commissioner Killough stated her number is in the phone book. Ms. Gonzales stated that Mr. Brown can call her and she would relay the message. Commissioner Serna stated that she has a business in Galena Park and she is also in the phone book.

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

Meeting adjourned: 6:37 P.M.

  
MAYRA GONZALES

  
APPROVED