

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

**Date: February 17, 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 17, 2015.

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

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

Item # 2- Mayor Moya called on Rev. Bailey to give the invocation.

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

Ms. Evangelina Galarza, a citizen, stated that she has lived in Galena Park for 30 years. Ms. Galarza expressed her concerns about people drinking on their front yard and the loud music that is played. Ms. Galarza stated that she has contacted the police department and they tell her that there is nothing that they can do. Mayor Moya called on Chief Rader. Chief Rader stated to Ms. Galarza if he can meet with her after the meeting to address the issue. Ms. Galarza then expressed her concern about the light at Clinton and Center and asked if the stripes can be repainted to avoid accidents. Ms. Galarza asked if the police department received a new police car. Ms. Galarza asked why Galena Park was paying for a Charger and not a police car that cost less. Ms. Galarza stated that after all the equipment is put on the car it will be worth \$50,000.00. Commissioner Killough stated that police cars are expensive. Mr. Pruett stated that the city goes through Houston Galveston Area Council in the bidding process and the dodge chargers are the only ones available for police service now. Mr. Pruett stated that the city tries to go with rear wheel driving cars, because they hold up to city driving better and the vehicles have got too small for the officers and the prisoners. Mr. Pruett stated that know they have to go to a mid-size or bigger package and they are limited to what cars can stand up to police service. Ms. Galarza stated that something needs to be done about Galena Park because it is getting messy and horrible to live in. Commissioner Killough stated that they will do what they can, but sometimes legally their hands are tied. Mayor Moya stated that they are going to address her concerns.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on February 3, 2015, Special Meeting on January 12, 2015 and Open Session of Executive Session on February 9, 2015. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 5- Consider ratifying accounts payable from January 30, 2015 through February 13, 2015. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the payables. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 6- Consider approving the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-01 Granting Valero Refining- Texas, L.P. a permit to install one 16 inch pipeline. Commissioner Killough moved to approve Ordinance 2015-01. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

**Item # 7- Consider approving Resolution R03-2015- Designating the North Channel Star Newspaper as official newspaper of the City of Galena Park. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the North Channel Star Newspaper as the official newspaper of the City of Galena Park. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.**

**Item # 8- Consider approving Resolution R04-2015- Regarding a lease purchase financing agreement for the purpose of procuring six (6) "Police vehicles and related equipment". Commissioner Simms moved to approve Resolution R04-2015. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes ...Motion Carried. Commissioner Serna stated considering that the cars all fully equipped we are getting a good price for them. Mr. Tim Wehmeyer, a citizen, asked how many police cars the city has now. Chief Rader stated that the police department has a total of 12 now. Mr. Wehmeyer asked if the city needed 6 police cars immediately. Chief Rader stated that the six cars were needed, the cars that they have now average 8 years old and 85,000 miles. Mr. Wehmeyer asked if for the next meeting they could have the exact years on the cars. Mr. Wehmeyer asked if this was a lease and not a purchase. Mr. Pruetz stated that it was lease to purchase. Mr. Wehmeyer asked if there was a balloon payment at the end and how many years the agreement was for. Chief Rader stated that it was for 4 years and no balloon payment. Mr. Wehmeyer asked if the citizens could get more information on these topics. Mayor Moya stated that they would work on getting something with more information prior to the meetings.**

**Item # 9- Consider approving estimate # 4 and final for retainage in the amount of \$32,629.87, change order No. 3 to balance project in the amount of a deduct of (\$104,371.25), certificate of acceptance, and the certificate of completion for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project. Commissioner Killough moved to approve estimate # 4 and final for retainage in the amount of \$32,629.87, change order No. 3 to balance project in the amount of a deduct of (\$104,371.25), certificate of acceptance, and the certificate of completion for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.**

**Item # 10- Consider a report on the condition of the city's sanitary sewer system from the Water and Sewer Superintendent, Tojuana Cooper. Ms. Cooper stated that she wanted to take a few minutes to summarize the condition of the city's sanitary sewer system. Ms. Cooper stated that she wanted to clarify what the sanitary sewer system is. The system that collects wastewater from the homes and businesses is referred to as a wastewater collection system. Ms. Cooper stated that the report she was giving was on the sanitary sewer system portion of the waste water collection system. Ms. Cooper stated that the wastewater collection system consist of two types of flows, one being gravity flow. Ms. Cooper stated that gravity flows so deep it has to be pumped up to a higher elevation and that part is called pressurized system. Ms. Cooper stated that this report is only on the gravity flow part of the waste water collection system. Ms. Cooper stated that the condition of the sanitary sewer system is significantly aged. Ms. Cooper stated that 80% of the sanitary sewer system have been in the ground between 56 and 80 years. Ms. Cooper stated that those materials are concrete and clay pipe and an asset management plan states that the useful life of those materials is 50 years. Ms. Cooper stated that if the pipes have been in the ground for 56-80 years that pipe is significantly deteriorated. Ms. Cooper stated that she gave a letter to the Mayor and Commissioners explaining the problems the city has and she wanted it to be clear to them. Mayor Moya asked why the city has not looked into getting grants for the issues the city needs to get fixed. Ms. Cooper asked if she could answer that question once she explains what the problems were. Mayor stated for her to go ahead. Ms. Cooper stated that there are two major problems with the aging system. Ms. Cooper stated that one problem was with environmental compliance situations. Ms. Cooper stated that due to the system being overloaded with storm water and ground water during wet weather events, the city is getting infiltration and inflow. Ms. Cooper stated that when we have wet weather the ground water enters the pipes through cracks or deterioration and storm water that flows goes through the system possibly through clean outs that have the caps left off and it overflows from the pipes onto the streets and nearby lakes. Ms. Cooper stated that those were environmental violations and they needed to take action to stop the problem. MS. Cooper suggested that the city participates in a plan**

that TCEQ has established called a Sanitary Sewer Overflow that will allow the city to get forgiveness for any violations that occur during the period that the city tries to correct the problem. Ms. Cooper suggested a workshop for the council to discuss a plan of action. Ms. Cooper stated that the second problem they also have waste water treatment plant violations. Ms. Cooper stated that when the plant is overloaded it causes them to violate their permit in having a certain amount of flow in the treatment plant. Commissioner Killough asked if during rain events that means that there is sewage in the streets. Ms. Cooper stated yes. Ms. Cooper stated that these problems needed to be corrected, because if not then she anticipates the city can have a problem with TCEQ. Ms. Cooper stated one objective of the workshop would be to discuss the funding sources. Ms. Cooper stated she attended a Water Development Board Workshop and there are loans and other alternatives available for the funding. Ms. Cooper stated that she is also looking into some grants from the Small Business Assistance Group with TCEQ. Ms. Cooper stated that if the city lets this go another year without coming up with a plan to correct the sanitary sewer overflows there will be a large number of sanitary sewer overflows reported to TCEQ. She stated that it is required by law that every over flow is reported to TCEQ. Ms. Cooper suggested for the city to be proactive and go TCEQ and tell them the city has a problem and the city will participate in their plan to correct the problem versus the city waiting a year and letting the overflows accumulate. Ms. Cooper stated that with the plan the TCEQ will allow the city time to correct the problem without penalties. Commissioner Flores asked if Ms. Cooper will have all the information they need on funding and requirements for the program by the time they have the workshop. Ms. Cooper stated that before they can participate in the program TCEQ requires that the city makes a commitment to fixing the problem and a rule is that not all of the funding can come from grants. Commissioner Killough stated that the city has to commit to a certain amount of money going into the project. Ms. Cooper stated that she can name sources for the funding by the workshop, but she cannot guarantee that the city will be able to get funding from those sources. Ms. Cooper stated that it is a long term project and TCEQ will allow 10 years to correct the problem and she will make suggestions as to how long she thinks it will take to correct the problem in the workshop. Commissioner Killough asked about an engineering study that needed to be done for the program. Ms. Cooper stated that TCEQ requires that the city participates in conducting a system wide sanitary sewer evaluation. Ms. Cooper stated that this was a study that illustrates what the causes are of the sanitary sewer overflows are, where they are located, and what the city plans to do about them. Ms. Cooper stated that TCEQ gives 180 days to conduct the study. Mayor Moya asked who was going to conduct the study. Ms. Cooper stated that was something they can talk about in the workshop, but she did have some in mind. Ms. Cooper stated LJA Engineering and Allen Plumbing and Associates have contacted her. Mayor Moya asked about the cost of the study. Ms. Cooper stated that the cost will be based on what and how much they are required to do, but that is also something that can be discussed at the workshop. Commissioner Flores asked if Ms. Cooper had been through that process before. Ms. Cooper stated she had been through the initial part of the process. Ms. Cooper stated that she would like to have the workshop on March 3, 2015. The Mayor and Commissioners Killough and Flores asked if they could have the workshop on another date, so that they had enough time to discuss everything. Commissioner Killough stated she would like to commend Ms. Cooper on her thorough report. Commissioner Killough moved to approve Ms. Cooper's report. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 11- Consider the part time employment of Maria Solis- Street Department. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the part time employment of Maria Solis. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 12- Consider the retirement of Kathy Harvey, Parks and Recreation Director, effective February 28, 2015. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the retirement of Kathy Harvey effective February 28, 2015. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup> ...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Continued Minutes of Council Meeting on February 17, 2015- Page 4

Item # 13- Consider the resignation of Robyn Reiser as a dispatcher- Police Department. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the resignation of Robyn Reiser as dispatcher. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup> ...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Mayor Moya called for announcements.

Rev. Bailey, a citizen, announced the Senior Citizen luncheon at the Evelyn Churchill Building Wednesday and Friday at the Alvin Baggett Community Building.

Dawn Fisher, a citizen, announced that Tojuana Cooper was one of the best employees that the city has come across in several years, she is wonderful, and she appreciates her hard work. Ms. Fisher stated that the new Parks and Recreation Director should be Gwen Distefano.

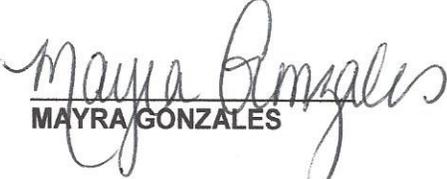
Commissioner Killough announced that the Galena Park Rotary will be sponsoring a Golf Tournament. The scholarship money goes to the Galena Park High School students.

Commissioner Flores stated that they will be having community clean up on March 7, 2015 and they will be meeting up at the fire station on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He stated they are looking for volunteers and they will be walking up and down the main streets cleaning them and making them look nice. Commissioner Flores stated that there is a committee getting together to celebrate the city's birthday and anybody interested in helping please contact him.

Mr. Robert Pruettt asked that everybody keep Barbara Binning, David Binning's wife, and Mercy Martinez, court clerk, in their prayers.

Commissioner Simms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>.... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 7:56 P.M.

  
MAYRA GONZALES

  
APPROVED