

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date: April 7, 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 April 7, 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

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

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

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

Ms. Evangeline Delagarza, a citizen, asked the council if they had done anything about her concerns at previous council meetings. Mayor Moya called on Commissioner Killough. Commissioner Killough stated that she has been driving around the streets and reporting the pot holes. Commissioner Killough stated that they must get a load of asphalt and once they get enough holes to occupy the asphalt they will cover them. Commissioner Killough stated that if anybody knew of any holes that needed to be covered to call city hall or herself. Ms. Delagarza stated that was not her concern. Ms. Killough stated that the other concern was the messy yards. Ms. Delagarza stated her other concern was the drinking like crazy. Commissioner Killough stated that they have more policemen out on the streets now, and they have ordered six new police cars. Commissioner Killough stated that they would have more of a visible police presence in the neighborhood. Commissioner Killough stated that if someone calls in on a noisy neighbor, the officers will be out there and give them a warning the first time and a ticket the next. Ms. Delagarza asked when would the second time be, the same day or the next week. Ms. Delagarza asked if they do something that day and do it two days later, does that count as a second time. Commissioner Killough stated yes. Ms. Delagarza raised her concern on the signs that were all over the city. Ms. Delagarza asked what they were and that they were misleading people. She stated that she asked her neighbor about them and her neighbor stated he didn't know he was just asked if he could put it in his yard. Commissioner Simms asked what signs were those. Commissioner Killough stated the vote no signs. Ms. Delagarza stated that maybe those signs should be removed, because they are not telling you the whole thing. Commissioner Killough stated that the city did not put those signs up and they were put up by a political group, and they must get the owner's permission to put those signs in their yards. Ms. Delagarza stated that the signs are up on people's yards, but the people do not understand what they are for. Ms. Delagarza asked if she needed to go door to door to explain to the people what is going on. Commissioner Killough stated that it was her right as a citizen to explain what she knows if she thinks people do not understand. Ms. Delagarza stated that she went to city hall and asked to speak to the Mayor and Ms. Gonzales stated to her that the Mayor was not in. Ms. Delagarza stated that she received a two page letter in the water that was in English and Spanish. Ms. Delagarza stated that the English she understood, but the Spanish had words that she had never heard before. Ms. Killough stated that anytime you use a translating program there is always a problem, because some of them use words that are not commonly used. Ms. Delagarza

stated that Ms. Gonzales stated that she could give her 24 pages of the amendments and would have to pay ten cents per page. Ms. Delagarza stated that Ms. Gonzales was rude to her and yelled to her as she was going around the corner, and she has no right to talk to her like she is trash. Ms. Delagarza stated that she was not going to pay for the copies and that she would be back to city hall and would get them for free. Ms. Gonzales stated that she apologized if Ms. Delagarza got that impression, but what she was going to her office to do was to get a copy of the Ordinance for her, and she did tell her that she had to pay ten cents per page. Ms. Delagarza stated that herself and everybody in Galena Park should be able to get those papers for free. Ms. Delagarza stated that the city needs to show people and the people need to understand why they should vote for or against. Ms. Delagarza stated that she has read the amendments and most of them you can vote in favor and wants to know why they are saying save galena park. Commissioner Flores stated to Ms. Delagarza that he would love to get with her after the meeting and he stated that he will be having town hall meetings soon and will announce those dates after the meeting.

A citizen asked which political group was responsible for putting the amendments on the ballot that will be on the May 9, 2015 election. Commissioner Killough stated that the city had a committee of fifteen citizens who worked on the charter revision for about eight to nine weeks and were led by the city attorney. Commissioner Killough stated that the city attorney had examples of other city charters for the committee to look at. Commissioner Killough stated that mainly the purpose of the revision was to bring the language of the charter up to date, because most of the language in the charter was not appropriate for the year 2015. The citizen stated that he ordered a copy of the city charter and asked if it was normal for a two week waiting period. Ms. Gonzales stated that it takes anywhere from 1- 10 days and someone from the office would be contacting him.

A citizen stated that if anybody had a computer available, you could print out the amendments from the city website, and it will show you what the charter was before and what the new amendment will be. She also stated that in the paper there is information about the signs in the city and there is a phone number you can call.

Mr. Eric Broussard asked why the charter was taken off the website. Ms. Gonzales stated that it was removed when the city switched websites and when the city switched providers, from Franklin Legal to Municode. Ms. Gonzales stated that before it gets put back up the city is waiting to see what amendments pass and which do not. Mr. Broussard stated that it will be beneficial to the citizens to see what the existing charter says and compare it to the proposed amendments. Mr. Broussard stated that the citizens now do not know what is in our city charter now and it really isn't that bad, it just needs to be clarified and not drastically changed. Mr. Broussard stated that most of the amendments are drastically changing the charter, and you may have people that agree with him and you have people that don't, but if the charter was there on the website people can make an informed decision. Commissioner Killough asked Ms. Gonzales what does it intel to get the charter on the website. Ms. Gonzales stated that she will contact the website provider to help her get it up on the website.

Ms. Dawn Fisher, a citizen, stated that the charter is good to some extent, but it was done in the 1940's and did not provide in the charter for a police chief or a fire chief, those were done by resolution. Ms. Fisher stated that it also provides for term limits, which she thinks is a good idea, considering Baggett was in office for 30 years. Ms. Fisher stated that it also staggers the terms, instead of having all of the offices come up for election at one time and the whole council cannot be turned over at one time. Mr. Broussard stated that he has a problem with term limits, because what happens when you run out of people to run. Mr. Broussard asked what if Mayor Moya turns out to be the greatest Mayor that the city will have and she has to step down after two terms. Mr. Broussard stated that the town will run out of good people. Ms. Fisher stated that if a Mayor's term expires all they have to do, is lay out one year and then they can run again. Mayor Moya stated that the charter was established in 1946, but however was amended in 1978. Mayor Moya stated that the Police Chief and the Fire Chief were added then and it has been gradually amended. Ms. Fisher

stated by resolution, not in the charter. Mayor Moya stated no, she pulled the information from Austin and it was not by resolution. Ms. Fisher asked Mayor Moya if she can provide her with a copy of it or tell her where to get it. Mayor Moya stated she could provide it for her or she could call Austin and they will give you all the information you request from the City of Galena Park.

Commissioner Killough stated that Jim DeFoyd, the city attorney, was having a birthday that day. The council sang Happy Birthday to Mr. DeFoyd.

A citizen stated in Spanish that he has been having problems with his water bill. Commissioner Killough asked if someone could translate and in short segments. Mayor Moya stated she could. The citizen stated that his water bill has been \$200.00 for the past seven months. Commissioner Killough asked if they have checked for water leaks. The citizen stated that they have checked for leaks and the meter does not indicate that there is a leak. Ms. Tojuana Cooper, Water and Sewer Superintendent, asked for his address so she can have it looked at. There were several citizens with concerns about their high water bills. Mayor Moya asked if they could get with Ms. Cooper and give her their name and phone number she would take a look at their account. Ms. Cooper stated that the city gets a lot of complaints about the water meters and request them to be changed. Ms. Cooper stated that she has had those meters tested and most of the meter were accurate and the ones that were not accurate showed that they were under read. Ms. Cooper stated that none of them were over read. Ms. Cooper stated that she would look into the situations. Mr. Tim Wehmeyer stated that he has several properties in Galena Park and over the years he has had problems with the water bill. Mr. Wehmeyer stated that the problems have happened over the last 20 years and he checks the meters himself and checks for leaks. Mr. Wehmeyer stated that he had spoken to Mayra the city secretary, to discuss an issue with a water bill on a new tenant.

Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, stated that they were doing a great job in the manor, but when they are surging the lines they are busting the lines. Mr. Ponder wanted to know if there was something in place where the citizens can call in busted pipes. Ms. Cooper stated that the citizens that were going to be affected from the project were given a number on a door hanger for emergencies.

Commissioner Killough asked Mr. Pruett if the citizens can call if they need to be put on a payment plan. Mr. Pruett stated that the City of Houston is increasing the water to the city every year. Mayor Moya asked if the council had passed an ordinance to increase the water every year by 3%. Mr. Pruett stated that there are many state laws to adhere to. Mayor Moya asked how many wells does the city have. Mr. Pruett stated there were two in operation. Ms. Cooper stated that there are 2 wells in operation and the city is only aloud to pull a certain amount of water out of the wells without being penalized.

A citizen stated that the special election that the city is holding is very important. He stated that he is not telling anyone how to vote, but he is trying to educate everyone and get everyone to be an educated person on the amendments. He stated to know what you are voting for and understand what is in front of you. He understands the charter is old and has only been amended once. He asked how Galena Park was going to be a progressive city if the charter gets amended every 35 years. He stated to get educated and find out what the proposals mean. He stated this proposal is very important.

A citizen stated that he would like to know the names of the people who were part of the charter review committee. Mayor Moya stated that she was not part of the committee, because it was in violation of the charter. Mayor Moya stated that the charter states that the Mayor appoints the committee. Commissioner Killough stated that the Mayor chose not to choose three members to represent her and she wishes she would have. Mayor Moya stated it was in violation of the charter.

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Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on March 17, 2015. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the minutes of regular meeting on March 17, 2015. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #5- Consider ratifying accounts payable from March 13, 2015 through April 2, 2015. Commissioner Killough moved to approve ratifying accounts payable from March 13, 2015 through April 2, 2015. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #6- Consider approving the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-04 granting Kinder Morgan Crude and Condensate, LLC. a permit to install one 20 inch; one 12 inch; and two 4 inch pipelines. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-04 granting Kinder Morgan Crude and Condensate, LLC. a permit to install one 20 inch; one 12 inch; and two 4 inch pipelines. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #7- Consider approving the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-05 an amendment to Chapter 7, " Offences and Nuisances" of the Code of Ordinances establishing new criteria for the regulation of sex offender residency in the city limits of Galena Park. Commissioner Killough asked if she was an owner of a rental property, would it be her responsibility to do a background check on the renter. Mr. DeFoyd stated yes. Commissioner Killough asked if there was a charge for that. Mr. DeFoyd stated there was no charge and they can also contact the Texas Department of Public Safety for the information. Mr. DeFoyd stated that it can also be found on line. Commissioner Serna asked about the people that already live in Galena Park. Mr. DeFoyd stated that they would be exempt and would only apply to those after the ordinance was passed. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-05 an amendment to Chapter 7, " Offences and Nuisances" of the Code of Ordinances establishing new criteria for the regulation of sex offender residency in the city limits of Galena Park. Commissioner Killough, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #8- Consider approving the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-06 relating to the prohibition of illicit synthetic drugs in the city limits of Galena Park. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-06 relating to the prohibition of illicit synthetic drugs in the city limits of Galena Park. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 9- Consider approving estimate # 1 in the amount of \$101, 152.20 for the water rehabilitation project phase 1. Commissioner Simms moved to approve estimate # 1 in the amount of \$101, 152.20 for the water rehabilitation project phase 1. Commissioner Killough, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #10- Consider approving the lease agreement between Pitney Bowes and City of Galena Park for the postage machine. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the lease agreement between Pitney Bowes and City of Galena Park for the postage machine. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 4 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #11- Consider approving the FY2014 tier 1 racial profiling report contact data- Police Department. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the FY2014 tier 1 racial profiling report contact data- Police Department. Commissioner Simms, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #12- Consider approving the part time employments of Raul Palafox- Parks and Recreation department and Carlos Glaskox- Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Moya stated that this item of business will be voted on separately, because it is for two different people in two different departments. Mayor Moya read to consider approving the part time employment of Raul Palafox- Parks and Recreation department. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the part time employment of Raul Palafox- Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5

Ayes... Motion Carried. Mayor Moya stated that on the next item she had received some information as well as the Commissioners. Mayor Moya asked the Commissioners if they had received the information. The Commissioners shook their heads no. Mayor Moya asked Chief Rader if he had done a background check on Mr. Glaskox. Chief Rader stated yes and that it was ok. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the part time employment of Carlos Glaskox- Code Enforcement Officer. Commissioner Serna, 2nd... Vote: 4 Ayes: Mayor Moya stated that she received the information and would have tabled it so she will have to vote no. (1 Nay) Mayor Moya...Motion Carried

Mayor Moya asked for announcements.

Commissioner Killough announced the rotary cake auction and proceeds go to the kids for scholarships. Carolyn stated that United Community Credit Union will have a booth and other companies will to. Mr. Jack Brown asked if the rides would be placed like they normally are. Carolyn stated yes and that they would not block the driveways.

Commissioner Flores announced the town hall meetings that he will hold. Commissioner Flores stated that they will be informing people of the charter amendments, not telling them how to vote, but informing them. Commissioner Flores stated that he will also have the department heads at the meetings to answer any questions. Commissioner Flores stated that the first meeting will be April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the community building at another on April 23rd at 7:00 pm in Galena Manor.

Commissioner Killough asked Mr. Pruett when the street sweeper will be delivered. Mr. Pruett stated that it would be in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Alice Moody, a citizen, stated that on Philpot Road someone has created a dump site behind her house. Ms. Moody asked who was responsible for cleaning up the area. Commissioner Flores stated for her to get with him after the meeting and they would take care of it.

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:09 P.M.


MAYRA GONZALES


APPROVED