

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

Date: April 21, 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 21, 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 at 6:02 p.m.

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

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

Ms. Taggy Hall, a citizen stated that her aerobics class was going to participate in the senior Olympics starting on April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Evangeline Delagarza, a citizen, asked Mayor Moya what she was going to do about the police department. Mayor Moya asked Ms. Delagarza if she could please state her concern. Ms. Delagarza stated that she went to the police department and was treated like she was an ignorant person. Mayor Moya asked Ms. Delagarza who the officer was that she spoke to and what day and time this occurred. Ms. Delagarza stated that it was on Sunday at about 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Killough asked Chief Rader to look into the situation. Ms. Delagarza stated that every time she goes to the meetings everyone always tells her that they are going to look into it. Mayor Moya stated that she will address it and if it doesn't work out, then she will look into another agency. Ms. Delagarza stated that everyone in Galena Park parks illegally and the police department does not do anything about it. Ms. Delagarza stated that someone told her that she can call PCT. 2 officers, and wanted to know if it was true. Mayor Moya stated that she can call them. Mr. Robert Pruett, City Administrator, stated that PCT 2 cannot enforce city ordinance, they would need to call the Galena Park Police Department. Commissioner Killough stated that she has also complained about the parking on both sides of the streets. Commissioner Killough stated that the way she understood it is that as long as there is room for one car to drive down the middle of the street, it is legal for cars to park on the street. Commissioner Killough stated that they have a new code enforcement officer and he is working specifically on cars parking illegally and making sure the tags are current. Commissioner Killough stated that they will try to make it better and that Chief Rader would get back with her on Monday on who was the officer that attended her. Ms. Delagarza had a concern about the police cars not being moved while they are not working. She stated that she was told that they don't move them until someone from the outside comes by to fix them. Mr. Pruett stated that they hire one of the local tire shops to fix the police cars. Ms. Delagarza stated that Galena Park is turning into trash, that someone poisoned a rat that died in her yard and her cat ate it and it died. Commissioner Killough stated that they are all concerned about the trash that has piled up on the streets and the houses and they are trying to address the problem. Mayor Moya stated that they are going to address and enforce all Ordinances including the sex offender ordinance. Ms. Delagarza stated that every time she has a concern it is never mentioned again. Commissioner Serna asked Ms.

Delagarza, what her suggestion would be to address her first complaint?, what would she like to see happen? Ms. Delagarza stated that if everyone is going to park on the side of the road one way then they should make it a one way street. Ms. Delagarza stated that she made a complaint to an officer and he stated to her that is the way they park in Galena Park. Mayor Moya suggested that next time Ms. Delagarza speaks to an officer, for her to make sure and get their name. Commissioner Killough stated that Chief Rader would follow up on it. Chief Rader stated that he would find out. Mayor Moya stated that today was Tuesday and they were going to give Commissioner Killough a time fram. Commissioner Killough stated that the Mayor would not give her a time frame and she will have Chief Rader investigate it as it is appropriate. Mayor Moya stated to Commisioner Killough that was uncalled for and she needed to address Ms. Delagarzas's question. Mayor Moya stated that if Ms. Delagarza did not hear from anybody by Thursday to let her know and she would follow up with a higher agency. Ms. Delagarza stated that if she waited for them she would gone from Galena Park and they would still be addressing it, because they are always addressing thigs and never doing anything about it. Mr. Pruett stated that the police officers must follow the law and the ordinance states that a vehicle can park on the road as long as they don't block a driveway and the vehicle is moved every 24 hours.

Ms. Dorothy Harding, a citizen, stated that there were several organizations that would be participating in the Senior Olympics. Some of the other organizations are the AARP, GP Fun Club, and the Hill Toppers.

Ms. Jacobs, a citizen, stated her concerns on the weeds that are over grown behind her home. Ms. Jacobs stated that every year they have a problem with who is responsible for cutting it. Mr. Pruett stated that it was not in the city's jurisdiction, but the city has had to cut in the right of ways that pertain to different jurisdictions. Mr. Pruett stated that it is either the county's jurisdiction or the drainage district, but when it dries up the city will take care of it.

A citizen stated that they recently received a letter from the city stating that 18 wheelers were not allowed to park on the street. Mayor Moya asked Chief Rader to explain the letter, because according to the ordinance he is not breaking any rules. Chief Rader stated that just because it is a commercial area, does not mean that commercial trucks are allowed. Chief Rader stated that trucks are not allowed to turn from 1<sup>st</sup> onto Stewart or Stewart onto 1<sup>st</sup> St. Chief Rader stated that the only area that the trucks are allowed to go down currently by the ordinance is between Eastway and Westway. Chief Rader stated there are two issues that they are dealing with, one is the route of the trucks and the other is the parking of the trucks. Chief Rader stated that being commercial property does not allow them under ordinance to park a large commercial truck on the property. Mayor Moya stated that is not what the ordinance states and she does not see that they are doing anything wrong. A citizen stated that she sees that new signs were put up and how does that affect her deliveries. Chief Rader stated that truck drivers were ignoring the no truck signs and that is why they put the new ones up and it does not affect deliveries. Mr. Pruett stated the ordinance does not affect the deliveries and pickups of businesses. Mr. Pruett stated that the police department was enforcing and existing ordinance and a lot of times they don't enforce it until they get a complaint, and at that time they are obligated to inforce it. A citizen stated that why after 20 years are they just now saying they can't park there. Commissioner Serna stated that everyone wants change in Galena Park and to make that happen each and every one of them, including herself must make changes and start abiding by the laws. Mayor Moya stated that according to the ordinance, it is zoned commercial and they are not violating anything. A discussion continued with the council and audience about the parking of the trucks on 1<sup>st</sup> St. Commissioner Killough stated to the Mayor that they would adjourn the meeting if she did not calm the meeting, Ms. Coreathers, a citizen, asked if there were parliamentary procedures, because she does not mind discussion, but there are petty arguments going on that are inappropriate. Commissioner Flores stated that it was the Mayor's job to control the meeting and she needed to learn how to run a meeting. Mayor Moya stated that Roberts Rules of orders state that in order for any of them to address the floor they must address

the chair of the meeting first and not once has any of them done that. Commissioner Flores asked Mayor Moya to please control the meeting.

A citizen addressed the council and asked for a translator, another citizen translated. The citizen stated that he had approached the council a few months back and he spoke to Commissioner Serna about getting some soccer leagues in Galena Park. The citizen stated that he works with a soccer league of over 50 kids and he does not charge the parents anything. The citizen stated that he wanted to know what was the status on the soccer fields. Mr. Pruett stated that the city is currently working on putting soccer fields in Galena Manor. Mr. Pruett stated that the new parks and recreation director is working on getting the field started. Mr. Pruett stated that the bleachers have already been ordered and the fields have not been put up yet, because of the rain. Mr. Carlos Bazaldua stated to the council that they have been waiting since 2003 for the soccer fields. Mr. Bazaldua stated that a Committee for a Better Galena Park that donated soccer balls to them. Mr. Ernest Paredes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated the he meet with Carlos that afternoon and talked to him about getting the fields ready and the rain has delayed them. Mayor Moya asked for the members of the committee to stand and thanked them for donating the soccer balls. Commissioner Serna stated that the city has a new director that is doing a wonderful job, and has only been there a month and has already met with them and started the process, but they have to be patient. Ms. Coreathers, a citizen, asked how they were recruiting kids and if they could recruit at the schools. Mr. Eric Broussard, a citizen, stated that the committee for a better galena park is helping the soccer league with that. Mr. Pruett stated for one person in charge of the league come meet with him or the council and the city will help them, but they must be patient. Mayor Moya stated that in the mean time they need a lighted soccer field. Mr. Pruett stated that the field in Galena Manor is lighted. Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, stated that Mr. Broussard found a website, the international soccer league, that will give the city a grant and the city only has to come up with 50% of the cost. Commissioner Serna stated that in order for the city to get grants the grants require a planning and development department, which is one of the things that they are bringing forward for the citizens to vote on. Mayor Moya thanked Mr. Broussard. Commissioner Killough stated that the city wants to bring soccer to Galena Park. Mayor Moya stated that she appreciates the citizens getting involved and caring for the city and appreciates the committee.

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Ms. Almaca Clark Taylor, a citizen, stated that she is concerned about the amount of people in the council room and the capacity limit. Fire Chief, Paul Gregory, stated that they were still below the limit. Ms. Taylor stated that if the citizens would consider having the meetings in another place. Ms. Taylor stated that on May 7<sup>th</sup> they will be having National Day of Prayer on the steps of city hall and they would encourage the community to participate. Ms. Taylor stated that as of today she was inducted into the African American Museum. Mayor Moya congratulated her. Commissioner Serna stated that she has seen Ms. Taylor's work closely as the city is very proud of her.

A citizen stated a concern about a robbery at Family Dollar that she experienced and she was asking for more police present on Clinton Drive at night. Commissioner Killough asked for Chief Rader to make sure that they have more police presence on Clinton Dr. Several citizens stated their concerns on their vehicles being broken into in Galena Park. Ms. Gallegos, a citizen, stated that the police department has a case pending on the vehicle that someone tried to steal. She stated that the police department is not doing anything about it. Ms. Gallegos stated that the police know who they are and they even have a video of the incident and they have not done anything. Chief Rader stated that he would talk to her after the meeting. Chief Rader stated that the police are out there and they are patrolling. Chief Rader stated that he checks he records and they were in and out of Galena Manor more than 700 times. Chief Rader stated that there are procedures that have to be followed. Ms. Gallegos stated that it has been a month and has not heard from anyone and in the video they can see the people clearly and they still haven't done anything about it. Ms. Gallegos stated that they need more police at the schools. Commissioner Killough stated that the school district has a contract with the constables, but galena park can help. Ms. Coreathers stated that she has had her vehicle stolen in Galena Manor, but she can say that the police presence has increased.

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**Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on April 7, 2015. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the minutes of regular meeting on April 7, 2015. Commissioner Killough, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.**

**Item #5- Consider ratifying accounts payable from April 7, 2015 through April 17, 2015. Commissioner Serna moved to approve ratifying accounts payable from April 7, 2015 through April 17, 2015. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.**

**Item #6- Consider approving estimate #2 in the amount of \$250,922.55 for the water rehabilitation project phase 1. Commissioner Killough moved to approve estimate #2 in the amount of \$250,922.55. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.**

**Item #7- Consider approving the city to execute the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's "Notice of intent to participate in the sanitary sewer overflow initiative". Commissioner Simms moved to approve the city to execute the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's "Notice of intent to participate in the sanitary sewer overflow initiative". Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.**

**Item #8- Consider approving the quarterly investment report ending March 31, 2015. Mayra Gonzales, City Secretary, read the quarterly investment as follows: Beginning Book/Market Value totaled \$1,479,776.47, Interest Credit on Investments \$763.32, Purchases/Redemption of Investments \$225,000.00, Ending Book/Market Value \$1,705,539.79, and Accrued Interest Totaled \$310.56. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the quarterly investment report ending March 31, 2015 as read. Commissioner Killough, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.**

**Item #9- Consider approving naming the pavilion in Galena Manor the Eronia "Taggy" Hall Pavilion. Commissioner Flores stated that he has been talking to several people in Galena Manor and several other names were mentioned to name the pavilion after. Commissioner Flores stated that he knows that Ms. Taggy has done a lot for the community, but Mr. John Carter and Mr. Washington were brought up. Commissioner Flores stated that they want to be fair and they would like to get a committee together to take into consideration the other names that were brought up. Ms. Goodbeer, a citizen, stated that she knew Mr. Carter and Mr. Washington and Taggy deserves to have her name up on the pavilion. Ms. Goodbeer asked the council to please let Taggy have the pavilion named after her, the other people did not do anything for the community. Ms. Goodbeer stated that Mr. Washington and Mr. Carter were her friends and they are deceased and they should give it to Taggy. Ms. Taylor, a citizen, stated that there is no greater honor than to have your name seen on a building. Ms. Taylor stated that Taggy deserves it and she has seen Ms. Taggy not feeling good and she still gets up and does for the area. Ms. Jacobs stated that she was the one that suggested that Taggy's name be put on the building. A citizen stated that Mr. Carter was his cousin and he knew Mr. Washington and nobody has done what Taggy has done for the committee. Ms. Dorothy Harding stated that they should take Commissioner Flores idea into consideration to form a committee to name all the parks and buildings in Galena Park. Several citizens asked the council to please name the pavilion after Ms. Taggy and that is what the community wants. Ms. Taggy does a lot for the community. Mr. Jack Brown stated that Ms. Taggy had an accident and Ms. Taggy had him drive her around and she wore him out with everything she did. Mr. Pruettt stated that he suggest that they do form a committee and present to Mayor and Council their recommendation on names to name several parks in the community. Ms. Coreathers stated that she is in agreement with her community and she asked who was going to be in the committee and what are the requirements to be on the committee. Ms. Coreathers stated that the community would be upset if the council named the pavilion after someone who does not reflect the community. Mayor Moya made a motion to consider naming the pavilion in Galena Manor the Eronia "Taggy" Hall Pavilion. Commissioner Flores stated to Mayor Moya that as the chair she cannot make a motion. Commissioner Serna stated that since there is so much controversy they should table the item and form the committee.**

Commissioner Flores moved to table naming the pavilion in Galena Manor the Eronia "Taggy" Hall Pavilion with the consideration of forming the committee. Commissioner Flores stated that anybody who is interested could contact him. Ms. Goodbeer stated that Ms. Taggy needs to be on the pavilion and she knows what is happening and what has happened. Ms. Goodbeer stated that Galena Manor does not want any other name on that pavilion but Eronia "Taggy" Hall. Ms. Taggy Hall stated that they have supported each and every one of them, but they will not be supported again. Commissioner Simms and Mayor Moya stated that they should name the pavilion after Ms. Taggy. Commissioner Simms made a motion to name the pavilion in honor of Ms. Taggy Hall. Commissioner Killough, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: Commissioner Simms stated that he does that with extreme respect to Commissioner Flores. Commissioner Flores removes his motion, but he would still like to start a committee. Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried. The council talked about having a committee to name parks and buildings. Commissioner Serna stated to take into consideration that Galena Park is 90% Hispanic and to please consider people that have done things in the community.

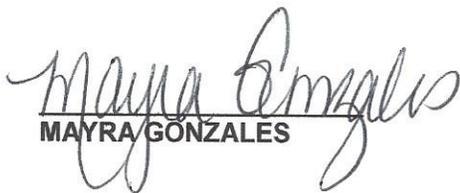
Ms. Taylor stated that she has enjoyed the council meetings, but they speak of Roberts Rules, but there is one rule that says do unto others as you would like done unto you. Ms. Taylor stated that she would like to see a translator at the meetings. Ms. Killough stated that Mr. Pruett was looking into having a certified translator at the meetings.

Reverend Bailey stated God Bless the Mothers.

Commissioner Flores stated that a town hall meeting will take place at the community building tomorrow. All the department heads will be there and if they have any concerns or questions they could go and ask. They will also have the meetings in Galena Manor and in Woodland Acres.

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 P.M.

  
MAYRA GONZALES

  
APPROVED