

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date: May 19, 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 May 19, 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
	Alfredo Vargas	Interpreter

Item # 1- Mayor Moya called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item # 2- Mayor Moya called on reverend bailey for the invocation.

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

Ms. Taggy Hall stated that Ms. Joyce Jacobs passed away this morning at 2:30 a.m.

Mr. Eric Broussard, a citizen, asked if the Mayor had received any information on the soccer field or for the dedication on the pavilion for Ms. Taggy Hall. Mayor Moya called on Mr. Pruett. Mr. Pruett stated that they are working on getting the size conformity sign together and his recommendation would be to have a corner stone that will last forever. Ms. Taggy stated that she would like to have her name on the pavilion. Mr. Pruett stated that if that was the wish they could do both. Mr. Broussard stated that he knew it had been raining, but if they had any idea when the soccer field would be ready. Mr. Pruett stated that as soon as it dries up good, it is on the priority list.

Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, stated that next Friday the Committee for a Better Galena Park will be hosting a health and safety day for the 5th graders in Galena Park. Mr. Ponder stated that they had 233 children that would be going to the Alvin Baggett Community Building for the training and Constable Diaz's officers would be there to help escort and keep the children safe. Mr. Ponder stated that Constable Diaz office would also have a booth set up for fingerprinting. Mr. Ponder stated that they are going to split the kids into two groups, half of them are going to be learning CPR on children, adults and infants and the other half will be outside with the vendors they have coming. Mr. Ponder stated some of the vendors include Poison Control Center, Texas Children, ABC Dental. Mr. Ponder stated that McDonalds was going to provide the children with breakfast and the committee will purchase pizzas for lunch. Mr. Ponder stated that each kid will receive a book in English and Spanish, goodies from the vendors, and each kid will receive a t-shirt. Mr. Ponder stated that the Mayor has been helping them with planning the event, pointing them in the right direction, and helping get sponsors. Mr. Ponder stated that if it wasn't for her then the event would not be possible and they would like to present her with a t-shirt the kids would be receiving. Mr. Ponder stated that they need volunteers to help feed breakfast, lunch, and to keep the kids moving. Mr. Ponder stated that Shipley's Donuts will be donating donuts for the kids. Mayor Moya thanked Mr. Ponder for all he does.

Mayor Moya stated that there was an interpreter and asked if they wanted to continue with the meeting or wait for the interpreter. Commissioner Flores stated if the Mayor could ask if anybody needed one or they could continue with the meeting. Mayor Moya stated that she can see that the majority of the people need one because an interpreter was requested at the last meeting.

Ms. Elizabeth Rios, a citizen, stated that she had a question for John Rader. Ms. Rios stated that she heard that the new code enforcement guy said that ever since we got a new Mayor she has done this and that and now look at all those wetback truck drivers. Ms. Rios stated that the truck drivers are upset and she would like to know what is going to happen to the new code enforcement guy. Chief Rader stated that he was not going to discuss personnel matters. Jim DeFoyd, city attorney, stated to the Mayor that was out of order and that he cannot speak of a personnel matter and they would all be sued. Ms. Rios asked Mr. DeFoyd, how? Mr. DeFoyd stated that it was against the law to speak about a personnel matter in public. Ms. Rios asked the Mayor what she was going to do. Mayor Moya asked Commissioner Killough to meet with Chief Rader and see what the status is on that. Commissioner Killough stated that she does not tell Chief Rader what to do, but she will meet with about it. Ms. Rios stated that if nothing is going to be done then she will go a step higher. Commissioner Flores stated that he would love to meet with the people that are complaining about the situation and hear their complaints and allegations to see if there is any truth to them.

Mr. Alfredo Vargas, the interpreter, stated that he is a master court interpreter. Mr. Vargas interpreted what was said previously.

Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated that he was there to address the hiring of the new reserve officer. Mr. Brown stated that he had concerns about Mr. Ruben Loreto. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Loreto is also a reserve with Precinct 6. Mr. Brown stated that it is his understanding that Mr. Loreto could be under investigation for a theft of a radio at the Port of Houston. Mr. Brown stated that he cannot be too sure about that, but he would like to request that Chief Rader request an interagency request for all information pertaining to the case before they hire the officer, and he would like to see the item tabled tonight for further investigation to see whether the accusations are true or not. Commissioner Flores asked Mr. Brown what sources did he have, because accusations are one thing and rumors are another. Mr. Brown stated that all they would have to do is an interagency request to find out the truth. Mr. Brown stated that he does not know if it is true or not, but it is worth the investigation. Mr. Brown also stated that Mr. Loreto does not pay his taxes at the Pasadena School District. Commissioner Killough stated that they have people sitting in the meeting that probably don't do that. Mr. Brown stated that they are not having charges filed on them and Mr. Loreto has an active charge. Mr. Vargas interpreted.

A citizen stated that they can get that information through the Freedom of Information Act. The citizen stated not only can they give that information, but they can get his background or an employee background, it is a federal law. Mr. Vargas interpreted.

Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, stated that the president of the Committee for a Better Galena Park, Mr. Joe Delatorre, lost his father and he would like for everyone to keep his family in prayer. Mr. Vargas interpreted.

Ms. Elizabeth Rios, a citizen, stated that Mr. Cantu's brother received another letter in regards to the no parking of the trucks. Ms. Rios asked why was he still receiving letters when they thought the problem was resolved. Mr. Vargas interpreted. Mayor asked Mr. Pruett if he would like to answer that question. Mr. Pruett addressed Chief Rader to answer that question. Chief Rader stated that they received a second letter, because they are in violation of city ordinance. Ms. Rios handed something to Mr. Pruett and asked him to read it to Chief Rader. Mr. Vargas interpreted. Mayor Moya asked Ms. Rios what information she handed to Mr. Pruett. Mr. Pruett stated that Ms. Rios handed a copy of the ordinance to him. Mr. Pruett stated that if the Chief of Police perceives

them in violation of the ordinance he can issue them a citation and they will have their day in court and they can argue their case. Mayor Moya asked to see it. Mayor Moya read Section 7 Trucks, Routes, Permits, and limits. No truck, tractor, trailer, or other heavy vehicular equipment in excess of 8,000 lbs. or vehicle over 25 feet minimum total length should be operated on the streets of the city except for Clinton Dr., Federal Rd., Industrial Rd., Holland Ave., main streets south of Clinton Dr., Gulf Compress Road, Avenue K west of South Main, Eastway Street south of Clinton Drive, Magnolia Street, Pine Street, 1st street to Eastway Street to Westway Street and Avenue F,G, H South of the Southern Pacific Railroad and East of the South Main Streets and the maximum load limit on the above named streets should be 72,000 lbs., any owner or operator designed to operate truck, tractor, heavy equipment, etc. should obtain a permit from the chief of police and the permit will be issued by the followed....Mayor Moya continued to read the ordinance. A citizen asked when the ordinance went into effect. Mayor Moya stated that it was back since October 1974. A citizen asked why was it barely going into effect? Mayor Moya stated that the police department is stating that they cannot have their vehicles there, but the ordinance is stating that they can there are exceptions. Chief Rader stated that the Mayor was reading the ordinance wrong. Chief Rader stated that the exception are the roads that they can operate on, but the only place on 1st street that they can operate a truck on legally is between Eastway and Westway on 1st St. A citizen stated that Chief Pruett never enforced it before, why is it being enforced now. Commissioner Serna stated that the difference now is that there are different people on the council and they want to abide by the rules. Chief Rader stated that his job as Chief is to enforce the rules. Mr .Vargas interpreted. A citizen asked if city council was trying to enforce the no parking of trucks. Commissioner Serna stated through the department that is in charge of that. Mr. Pruett stated that with the amount of truck traffic, many ordinance don't get enforced, because they don't generate a complaint. Mr. Pruett stated that in this case there has been several complaints, not just one from citizens that live in the area. Mr. Pruett stated that when they receive complaints the Chief of Police is obligated to enforce the ordinances. Mayor Moya asked for Mr. Cantu's address and stated that her and Commissioner Flores were going to look into the situation closer, because she did not believe that they were in violation. Mr. Cantu asked that if he is not in violation, why do they keep sending letters. Mayor Moya stated that she was to aware that there were letters sent out until he commented it to her at the meeting. Mr. .Vargas interpreted. Commissioner Flores stated that he would like to get with them and if needed go out to the business to get the issue resolved. Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, asked if the area was zoned residential or commercial? Mayor Moya stated that it was commercial. Mr. Ponder asked if there was anybody around the business that is residential. Mr. Pruett stated that all of the businesses back up to residents. Commissioner Killough stated that there are a lot of streets with pot holes and that need street repairs because of the heavy weight of the vehicles. Commissioner Killough stated that is why they put up the big no truck signs. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Pruett when the signs were put up. Mr. Pruett stated the signs have been up. Mayor Moya stated Commissioner Killough stated that they put up signs, but he is saying they have been up which is it. Mr. Pruett stated that if they need to be replaced they replace them, and if the council wishes to change the ordinance they can put it on the next agenda. Commissioner Serna stated that a citizen complained that when the guys finish their shift they drink beer and they don't have restrooms outside and they expose themselves when they use the restroom on the open. The citizen complained that he was concerned because he has little girls and he can see this from his house. Commissioner Flores stated that he is willing to go out and meet with them and see what he can work out with them.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of regular meetings on April 21, 2015 and May 5, 2015. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the minutes of regular meetings on April 21, 2015 and May 5, 2015. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #5- Consider ratifying accounts payable from May 1, 2015 through May 15, 2015. Commissioner Serna moved to approve ratifying accounts payable from May 1, 2015 through May 15, 2015. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #6- Consider approving estimate # 3 in the amount of \$57,765.70 for the waterline rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Simms moved to approve estimate # 3 in the amount of \$57,765.70 for the waterline rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #7- Consider approving Ordinance 2015-07- Granting Magellan Pipeline Company, L.P. a permit to install one 12.75 inch pipeline. Jim DeFoyd, city attorney, read the Ordinance aloud. Commissioner Simms moved to approve Ordinance 2015-07- Granting Magellan Pipeline Company, L.P. a permit to install one 12.75 inch pipeline. Commissioner Killough, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #8- Consider approving Ordinance 2015-08- Granting Magellan Pipeline Company, L.P. a permit to install one 12.75 inch pipeline. Jim DeFoyd, city attorney, read the Ordinance aloud. Commissioner Flores moved to approve Ordinance 2015-08- Granting Magellan Pipeline Company, L.P. a permit to install one 12.75 inch pipeline. Commissioner Simms, 2nd.... Mr. Barry Ponder, a citizen, asked where the pipeline was being located and 1400 psi is a lot of pressure. Commissioner Killough and Commissioner Simms stated it was off of Federal. Mr. DeFoyd stated that a map was attached to the ordinance and he is welcome to a copy of it. Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #9- Consider approving the agreement for engineering services from Alan Plummer Associates, Inc. to develop sanitary sewer overflow initiative plan. Mayor Moya asked Ms. Tojuana Cooper, Water and Sewer Superintendent, if there was a process in how she chose the company. Ms. Cooper stated that the process consisted of her taking into consideration other companies that she is aware of the conduct that type of service and also speaking with the company that they have general consultation with first to determine if they had any experience conducting sanitary sewer evaluation surveys. Ms. Cooper stated that company is LJA Engineering and they do the majority of the engineering for the city and they have not had experience conducting the surveys. Ms. Cooper stated that as they discussed in the workshop on March 8th, there are two processes that can be used to select and engineer. One could be based on sending out request for qualification statements to various engineers and in turn receiving statements of qualifications from those engineers. Ms. Cooper stated that the other process can be based on one's experience. Ms. Cooper stated that at the workshop the council wanted her to make recommendations on engineers and since the workshop the council has joined TCEQ program and they only have 180 days to submit the cities plan for stopping sewage from coming out onto the streets, she has decided to use the second approach which was to ask for a statement of qualifications based on her experiences with Alan Plummer. Ms. Cooper stated that she has worked with them in another city and they have done other plans for other cities. Ms. Cooper stated that they are very experienced in what the city needs them to do and she does have a statement of qualifications if anybody would like to see it. Ms. Cooper stated that she recommends Alan Plummer to them and she has also checked and compared their fees to fees on other projects that she has documentation on, and their fees are very fair and reasonable. Commissioner Killough asked how many places do they have in Galena Park with sewage coming up in the streets. Ms. Cooper stated that between October and now she has turned in over 30 reports for separate incidents and those reports identify roughly about 20 locations. Ms. Cooper stated that they have been working on identifying what the causes are and correcting them. Ms. Cooper stated that by joining the TCEQ initiative program allows the city to work on a plan to fix the problems and not be subject to fines that can be as much as \$25,000.00 per day every time sewage hits the ground. Mayor Moya asked Ms. Cooper if she had a chance to address some of the issues citizens had complaints about. Ms. Cooper stated that she had a list of over 30 locations that Alan Plummer would be working with herself, contractors, and city staff to identify what is causing the overflows. Mayor Moya stated that they had taken pictures of drains covered with mud and the sewer was backing up into the home of the citizens that complained. Ms. Cooper stated that 17th St. does not seem familiar to her. Mayor Moya asked the city secretary. Mayra

Gonzales stated that she turned it over to Mr. Pruett. Mr. Pruett stated that they will be addressing these problems. Ms. Cooper stated that she addressing the sewer not the drainage, that is another department. Mayor Moya stated she understood, but wanted to make sure it was addressed. Mr. Pruett stated that it is two different topics one is storm sewer and the other is sewage. Ms. Cooper stated that the infrastructure is significantly aged and when it rains ground water gets into the waste water lines and it comes out into the streets. Ms. Cooper stated as far as the storm sewer those are designed to handle the water that flows onto the ground and that is a separate department. Mayor Moya asked if it can affect the sewage. Ms. Cooper stated that some of the ground water might flow into a manhole if it is not draining properly. MS. Cooper stated that there are many reasons why there are overflows, but because of the age of the pipes being 50- 80 years old she thinks it is due to the deterioration of the piping. Ms. Cooper stated that any time somebody sees sewage coming out on the streets to please let her know. Mr. .Vargas interpreted. Mr. . Sergio Moya, a citizen, stated that on Holland and 1st St. every time it rains sewage comes up onto the street and it has been reported for months. Ms. Cooper stated that she has no record of Holland and 1st and she will put it on her list. Mr. .Vargas interpreted. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the agreement for engineering services from Alan Plummer Associates, Inc. to develop sanitary sewer overflow initiative plan. Commissioner Simms, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 10- Consider approving the part time employment of Travis Thompson- Street Department. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the part time employment of Travis Thompson- Street Department. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #11- Consider approving the part time employments of Charles Pierson and Mark Broussard- Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the part time employments of Charles Pierson and Mark Broussard- Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 12- Consider the employment of Ruben Loreto as a reserve Police Officer (Non Paid)- Police Department. Mayor Moya asked if they were going to have a discussion having heard what they did earlier. Commissioner Simms asked Chief Rader if he was going to do a thorough investigation. Chief Rader stated that there was a background done and he has the report. Commissioner Serna stated considering that they don't have enough police officers in the city and since a background check has already been conducted she thinks they should consider the employment of Mr. Loreto. Commissioner Flores stated that rumors are rumors and they can't go based on that if the background check has already been conducted. Mayor Moya stated that she has not seen the background check and having heard what she has heard it is going to be up to the commissioners. Commissioner Killough moved to approve the employment of Ruben Loreto as a reserve Police Officer (Non Paid)- Police Department. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 4 Ayes.... 1 Nay (Mayor Moya)...Motion Carried.

Item #13- Consider approving the part time summer employment of the following: Lifeguards: Roberto Antimio, Alejandra Lopez, Juan D. Flores, Ariel Alexander, Michael Sorto, Rocio Chavez, Salvador Rojas, Rodrigo Carrillo, Cesar J. Gonzalez, Stephanie Espinosa, Jose Padilla, Jorge Medrano, Vicente Cuellar, Justin Bennett, Trystan Puente, Ivan Silva. Cashiers: Gabriela Flores, Julio Cuevas, Maria Sorto, Zuriel Espinosa. Summer Help: Rachel Moreau, Bianca Acosta, Kaira Sanchez, Perla Hernandez, Mairsol Ovalle, Nunik Fernandez, Maria Vargas, Kriselda Narvaez, Angelica Valdez, Cindy Flores. Pool Manager: Maria Rodriguez. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the the part time summer employment. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #14- Open and Canvass the special election returns and consider approving Ordinance 2015-09- Canvassing and declaring the results of the special charter election held May 9, 2015 in the

City of Galena Park. Mr. Jim Defoyd, city attorney, read the Ordinance aloud. Commissioner Flores moved to approve opening and canvassing the special election returns and consider approving Ordinance 2015-09- Canvassing and declaring the results of the special charter election held May 9, 2015 in the City of Galena Park. Commissioner Simms, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Mayor Moya asked for any announcements.

Mr. Barry Ponder, citizen, stated that all the kids that were approved for the summer employment were sitting in the audience and should be recognized. Mayor Moya asked for them to stand up and the council applauded them.

Ms. Taggy Hall announced the senior luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in Galena Manor.

Mr. Pruettt stated that as of 6:00 p.m. yesterday he became a grandpa for the first time.

Ms. Dorothy Harding stated that AARP was going to host a garage sale on June 18th from 8:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. under the covered slab to help bring back a food pantry to Galena Park. They are selling tables and sponsorship signs.

Commissioner Flores announced that they are having an out of school movie bash at 6:30 p.m. on June 13th at the covered slab on Keene. Commissioner Flores announced that the city is celebrating its 80th birthday bash and would love to hear from some of the oldest residents. Commissioner Flores stated that he is getting with the school and working on a time capsule.

Mr. .Vargas interpreted.

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 P.M.


MAYRA GONZALES


APPROVED