

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date: August 4, 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 August 4, 2015.

Present were:	Esmeralda Moya	Mayor
	Danny Simms	Commissioner
	Cruz R. Hinojosa, Jr.	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 6:00 p.m.

Item # 2- Mayor Moya gave the invocation.

Item # 3- Comments from the audience.

Ms. Taggy Hall, a citizen, asked for everyone to keep Rev. Bailey in their prayers. Ms. Hall stated that he had brain surgery and everything went well, but he is very depressed and not eating. Ms. Hall also stated she would like to thank the City Administrator, Mr. Pruett, for the sign in Galena Manor. Ms. Hall stated that it was beautiful and she would like to give him a hand.

Mr. Macias, a citizen, stated that he needed someone to translate for him. Mayor Moya stated that there were many people that could translate for him. Mayor Moya asked Commissioner Serna to translate. Commissioner Serna translated. He has been coaching the soccer team for 4 years and he has asked for space to practice and play, and nothing has been done. He has asked Commissioner Serna about the fields and she answered that there was a lot of rain and they could not do anything. He stated that it has not rained and the field is not up to par to played safely by the kids. Commissioner Serna stated that she was going to answer his question. Commissioner Serna stated that exactly because they do not have good fields and the liability the city could face, she has asked Mr. Macias to form a league. Commissioner Serna stated that he would have to apply with all the proper authorities, have sports insurance, and a few other things that are listed on the list she gave him. Commissioner Serna stated that as soon as he has that then they will let him use all the fields that they want. Commissioner Serna stated that in the mean time they can use them, but they cannot be made responsible. Commissioner Serna stated that they will get the fields ready, but he has to hold up his end of the agreement. Commissioner Serna stated that all the soccer fields in Houston were the same the only one that is a little bit better is off of 288. Commissioner Serna stated that one of the first things she wanted to put in place was the soccer league. Mr. Macias stated that the information that Commissioner Serna asked him for 7 months ago he has now. Mr. Macias stated that he has contacted some people who have a soccer league in North Shore and they have told him that he cannot start a league without the adequate fields. Mr. Macias stated that the first thing that is going to happen when he starts the league is that the association is going to come and inspect the fields. Commissioner Serna stated that the IRS nor the State of Texas is going to come out and inspect the fields. Commissioner Serna stated that she was sorry, but those are the requirements that the city needs them to do because they do handle money. Commissioner Serna stated that the Parks and Recreation department has formed a Parks and Recreation board

to handle and bring forth to them everything that the citizens want. Commissioner Serna stated that they were going to decide what is going to be done in the department. Commissioner Serna stated that if he wanted he can get with her after the meeting and she would give him all the names of the members on the board and he can contact them. Commissioner Serna stated that at those meetings they would discuss what the citizens want and their they will decide what is going to get done. Commissioner Serna translated. Mr. Macias stated that brought up the idea to them since January. Commissioner Serna stated that the city is still waiting on his credentials. Mr. Macias stated that he had all the information she requested and he could bring it to her next Tuesday. Commissioner Serna stated that he would have to take all that information over to the head of the department, Ernesto Paredes. Mr. Macias stated that they are asking for the fields in Galena Manor to be fixed, and Mr. Ernesto told him that all they are going to do is put sand in them. Commissioner Serna called on Mr. Paredes. Mr. Paredes stated that he has been in contact with Mr. Macias. Mr. Paredes stated that Mr. Macias was on vacation for two weeks and for those two weeks he couldn't contact him. Mr. Paredes stated that he asked Mr. Macias for the measurements of the field. Mr. Paredes stated that he took the team out to the field to measure the field and the measurements did not match. Mr. Paredes stated for that reason he did not want to do anything on the fields until he was in contact with Mr. Macias. Mayor Moya asked when he says measurements did not match, what does he mean by that. Mr. Paredes stated that there is a medium field and a large field that Mr. Macias requested and the measurements that he gave him with the space that the city has does not fit. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Macias if he understood. Mr. Paredes stated that they have been in contact. Mr. Macias stated that it is very easy, he is a citizen of Galena Park, and Mr. Paredes is the representative for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Macias state that he was giving the measurements as a citizen to Mr. Paredes, and if the measurements are not correct it is Commissioner Serna's obligation as the person in charge to find out if the measurements are correct. Commissioner Serna stated that Mr. Paredes is the Parks and Recreation director and he has the experience. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Paredes that if when he found out the measurements were wrong did he try to contact Mr. Macias. Mr. Paredes stated that he did, but Mr. Macias was gone for two weeks. Mr. Paredes stated that there are three groups that are interested in soccer in Galena Park and they are in competition within themselves. Mr. Paredes stated that he is trying to work with all three so they can compromise and even schedule the fields. Mayor Moya stated that now that he has the information can Mr. Paredes get with him to let him know what he needs. Mr. Paredes stated that he will continue to work with him. Mr. Paredes stated that Mr. Macias wanted him to take down a tree and move a dumpster for the field in Galena Park. Mr. Paredes stated that he presented it to the committee and the committee did not agree, because they did not want any trees taken out of the park. Mr. Paredes stated that they did move the dumpster and redid the measurements. Mr. Paredes stated that they did that today and they spoke to Mr. Macias copartner. Mr. Paredes stated that Mr. Macias was not communicating with his partner and then Mr. Macias goes to the council meeting and gets everything all crazy. Mayor Moya stated that she was confused, because they were talking about two fields. One field was where they held the first kick off for the soccer season and the one in Galena Manor which includes the three fields. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Macias what fields he was talking about. Mr. Macias stated that he was talking about the fields in Galena Manor. Mr. Macias stated that he will give him the measurements for the field, but they are not good to play ball on. Commissioner Serna stated that soccer is not the only sport that exist in Galena Park, they have three baseball leagues that are also looking for space, one basketball league, senior citizens, and the pool. Commissioner Serna stated that there are a lot of programs for the Parks and Recreation department and they cannot dedicate all day and every day to soccer. Commissioner Serna stated that they had already designated a space for them and he was content with that and agreed that they would use that space in the meantime. Commissioner Serna stated that the city was at the end of the fiscal year and they are trying to stretch the money as much as they can. Commissioner Serna stated that there are people who say that they do not need soccer, they need the streets fixed. Commissioner Serna stated that everyone has different priorities and they have to listen to them all. Mr. Macias stated that is why he is there, because Commissioner Serna told him they were going to work on those fields and Mr. Paredes told him they were going to paint them. Mr. Macias stated that those fields were in no condition to be played on. Commissioner Serna stated that she asks

Mr. Macias to please continue to work with Mr. Paredes. Mr. Macias stated that it is over 60-70 children that play and Commissioner Serna saw that. Commissioner Serna stated that they were not all from Galena Park and that is another requirement that they want it to be kids that live in Galena Park. Commissioner Serna stated that there were kids from her kids school, which is not in Galena Park. Commissioner Serna stated that once they have met all the requirements that they are asking for then the city will consider them as a league. Commissioner Serna asked him to get with the other leagues, because they cannot have three different soccer leagues. Commissioner Serna also asked him to get with the Soccer representative Francisco Sanchez and coordinate with him. Mr. Macias asked Commissioner Serna if she said that all the soccer fields were the same and the only one that was better was the 288 field. Commissioner Serna stated that the majority of the fields were the same with holes and everything. Mr. Macias stated that he was going to show her a field so that she can see that the fields are not all the same.

Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, stated that in 2013 the county donated about \$175,000 worth of trees in our parks. Mr. Clowers stated that he has notice that about 25-30 of the trees are in various stages of stress. Mr. Clowers stated that if they don't start watering them, they are going to die. Mr. Clowers stated that they were turning yellow and it was about 25 trees that he counted. Mr. Clowers stated that it was about \$40-45,000 dollars' worth of trees. Commissioner Serna asked if the trees were in the main park. Mr. Clowers stated that it was all the parks Woodland Acers, Galena Manor, and by the Alvin Baggett building. Commissioner Serna stated that Mr. Paredes would look into it. Mr. Clowers stated that they needed to start watering them and not look into it. Mr. Paredes stated that they had started today watering the trees.

Mr. John Huff, a citizen, stated that he lives on 9th and Center and he wanted to invite everybody there to attend that Center Street races. Mr. Huff stated that they go on all day and night. Mr. Huff stated that you have the 15-16 mph eliminations and just pack a lunch sit on the side of the road and enjoy it. Mr. Huff stated that he hopes they get to enjoy it before one of our kids get hurt. Mayor Moya asked if it was on the corner of 9th and Center. Mr. Huff stated yes ma'am. Commissioner Flores stated that he would be out there himself and they would start working on it.

A citizen stated that she has missed a few of the meetings and she has a couple of questions. She stated that she is new to and still learning about the charter and she means no disrespect to anybody in law enforcement. She asked if the citizens of Galena Park were supposed to vote on the judge that is coming up. Mr. Defoyd stated no. The citizen asked why. Mr. Defoyd stated that it was not in the charter. Commissioner Serna stated that it was an appointed position. Mayor Moya asked Mr. Defoyd if he could explain it. Mr. Defoyd stated no, the answer was no. Mr. Defoyd stated that municipal judges are not elected. The citizen stated that he was replacing a judge and after a certain amount of time everybody is supposed to vote on that. Mr. Defoyd stated no. The citizen stated that a couple of officers were let go for discrimination of one sort or another. The citizen asked if the city did any kind of background checks on the officers coming into the city. Commissioner Serna stated yes and very thorough. The citizen asked if it was, because she knows for a fact that one of the police officers has two different assault charges against his girlfriend that is public record. Commissioner Serna stated that she would have to.... Mr. Defoyd stated that they do not discuss personnel matters at a council meeting at all, ever. The citizen stated that she is not asking the names. Another citizen asked Mr. Defoyd not to yell. Mr. Defoyd stated that he just wants to make sure she understands, because she has brought this up several times. The citizen stated that this was the first time that she has brought this up. Mr. Defoyd stated maybe so, but personnel matters are not discussed in public. The citizen stated that her question was if they do background checks on employees of the city. Mayor Moya stated that they are supposed to run a background check. Commissioner Flores stated that if she did have a problem with someone to get with him after and he could study that further.

A citizen addressed Commissioner Flores. She stated that they needed the streets paved from 1st Street to Center all the way passed the First Baptist Church. The citizen stated that he promised

her that they were going to do it and it is ridiculous for people to come from other places and see that. She stated that everyone going down 1st tries to not hit the bumps. Commissioner Flores stated that he would respond to her and he knows they have done some patch work in front of the Baptist Church. Commissioner Flores stated that the city has 50 years of neglect that has not been done and they are actually working on a study to see how much it would cost the city to repair all the roads. Commissioner Flores stated right now they are patching and repairing, but their overall goal is to redo all the streets in Galena Park. Commissioner Flores apologized for it taking 50 years, but they are working on it and within the next couple of months they should have an idea of what it is going to cost. Commissioner Flores stated that they are trying their best to get stuff done without having a tax increase. Commissioner Flores stated in the meantime what he can do is patch and repair until they get the overall plan and once again he would like to apologize. Commissioner Flores stated that he has been in office for 1 year and he is trying his best to get things done without passing the cost to the tax payer. A citizen made a comment. Commissioner Flores stated that if she couldn't keep it down that they were going to have to ask her to leave. Mayor Moya stated Commissioner Flores....Commissioner Flores stated that the citizen was interrupting him and he was reacting to the interruption. Mayor Moya stated that he was the Commissioner so let's try to keep our...Commissioner Flores stated that she was the Mayor. Mayor Moya stated yes she was the Mayor. Commissioner Flores stated yes ma'am, but if you can keep over the meeting.

A citizen stated that someone is putting stickers over the cars that have been sitting there forever. The citizen asked what was the time limit before the cars had to be moved. Mayor Moya called on Mr. Pruett. Mr. Pruett stated that it is usually 24 hours, but it depends on the ordinance and if it is in the yard on the street. The citizen stated that there are still several cars with the big green sticker that have not been moved. Mr. Pruett asked if they were on the street or in the yards. The citizen stated both. Mr. Pruett stated if it is in the yard it falls under a different ordinance and it is a more lengthy process entering private property to have it removed, but if it is on the street they can have it removed immediately. The citizen asked how long the ones in the yard took. Mr. Pruett stated it could take anywhere from 2 weeks to 30 days.

Item #4- Oath of office for Mr. Cruz R. Hinojosa, Jr. – Police and Fire Commissioner. Mayor Moya asked where Mr. Hinojosa was. Commissioner Serna stated he was coming. Mr. Hinojosa entered the room and the audience applauded. Judge Joan Delgado welcomed everyone and stated she has been given the great honor to serve the City of Galena Park as the Justice of Peace, and she is honored to be there to give the oath of office to Cruz Hinojosa, Jr. Judge Delgado stated that Galena Park is often referred to a small city incorporated in 1935 located in the north bank of the Houston Ship Channel. Judge Delgado stated that its main purpose was for the refineries and the steel mills and today it is much more than that. Judge Delgado stated that in 2014 the city made history in electing its first Hispanic female Mayor, Mayor Esmeralda Moya. The audience applauded. Judge Delgado stated along with the four Commissioners who work diligently day in and day out in their day to day duties, whether it be serving water and sewer, parks and recreation, streets and bridges, and now the position they are going to install. Judge Delgado stated the position is Police and Fire; the life line responders to any municipality. Mr. Hinojosa introduce his father, Cruz Hinojosa, Sr. Everyone applauded. Mr. Hinojosa stated that he would be using his mother's bible. Mr. Cruz Hinojosa, Jr. took the oath of office as Police and Fire Commissioner given by Judge Delgado. Everyone applauded for Mr. Hinojosa. Mr. Hinojosa took his seat as Police and Fire Commissioner. Commissioner Hinojosa asked for his family to stand. Everyone applauded.

Mayor Moya stated they were moving on to the next item. Approving the minutes. The Mayor and Council had the incorrect agenda. Commissioner Simms stated that the agenda that was faxed to him had Mr. Thibodeaux taking his oath. Mr. Pruett stated that the agenda that was posted has Mr. Thibodeaux taking the oath. Commissioner Flores asked if the Mayor wanted to come back to it or wait. Mayor Moya stated that she would wait. The council received the correct agenda and Mayor Moya stated they would continue.

Continued Minutes of Council Meeting on August 4, 2015- Page 5

Item #5- Oath of office for Mr. Joe Thibodeaux- Associate Municipal Judge. The audience applauded. Mr. Thibodeaux took his oath of office as Associate Municipal Judge given by Judge Delgado. The audience applauded. Mayor Moya thanked Judge Joan Delgado.

Item #6- Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on July 21, 2015 and special meeting on July 27, 2015. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the minutes of regular meeting on July 21, 2015 and special meeting on July 27, 2015. Commissioner Simms, 2nd... Vote: 4 Ayes... Motion Carried. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he did not vote, according to article 9 section 13 no member shall be excused from voting. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that each member of the city commission present at any meeting shall be required to announce his vote on each question, ordinance and resolution placed before the City Commission. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he was not there and does not know what happened he abstains from voting. Mayor Moya stated that he was correct and she did not hear him vote so she figured he was not. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he just wanted to say it for the record.

Item #7- Consider ratifying accounts payable from July 17, 2015 through July 31, 2015. Mayor Moya asked if everyone had a chance to review the payables. Mayor Moya stated that she knows Mr. Hinojosa did not, but the rest of the Commission? Commissioner Serna stated that Commissioner Hinojosa did review the payables. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he did. Mayor Moya stated that she asked him before. Commissioner Flores made a motion to approve ratifying accounts payable from July 17, 2015 through July 31, 2015. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #8- Consider approving the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-11- adopting and enacting a new code of ordinances for the City of Galena Park published by Municode. Mr. Defoyd read ordinance aloud. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-11- adopting and enacting a new code of ordinances for the City of Galena Park published by Municode. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #9- Consider approving Resolution R07-2015- approving the Comerica Bank contract for night deposit service for the City of Galena Park's banking deposits for all business accounts. Mr. Defoyd read the resolution aloud. Commissioner Simms moved to approve Resolution R07-2015- approving the Comerica Bank contract for night deposit service for the City of Galena Park's banking deposits for all business accounts. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 10- Consider approving estimate #5 in the amount of \$44,578.75 for the month of July for the Water Rehabilitation Project Phase 1. Commissioner Hinojosa asked why is the council voting on an estimate, don't they normally vote on bids. Mayor Moya called on Mr. Pruett. Mr. Pruett referred the question to Tojuana Cooper, Water and Sewer Superintendent. Ms. Cooper stated that it is her understanding that it is city procedure and if it is not then she will review it. Mr. Pruett stated it was part of the equation of open government and they want everything in the open. Mr. Pruett stated that it was not required and they do it to keep the public informed on the cost and what we have to go through to get a project up and running from start to finish. Ms. Gonzales stated that the council did approve the bid for A Absolute Plumbing to do the project. Mayor Moya asked how many bids they had and stated they had taken other bids. Mr. Defoyd stated that this was increment payments. Mayor Moya stated to Commissioner Hinojosa that they could refer him to some of the minutes. Mr. Pruett stated that it was an ongoing project. Commissioner Simms stated it was the next payment in line. Commissioner Simms moved to approve estimate #5 in the amount of \$44,578.75 for the month of July for the Water Rehabilitation Project Phase 1. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item #11- Consider changing the employment status of Travis Thompson from part time to full time-street department. Commissioner Simms moved to approve changing the employment status of

Travis Thompson from part time to full time- street department. Commissioner Flores, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Mayor Moya asked for announcements from the audience.

A citizen addressed the council in Spanish. Commissioner Flores translated a summarization of what he stated. The citizen stated that he was very happy to witness the swearing in of two people, Mr. Hinojosa and Mr. Thibodeaux. He stated that he was very honored to have Mr. Hinojosa's dad there to witness his son's swearing in. He also stated that Galena Park is in good hands with these two gentlemen coming on board. He stated that he hopes they can work together and move Galena Park forward.

Commissioner Serna stated that the Galena Park Resource and Training Center is having the 9th annual uniform and school supply drive this coming Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Commissioner Serna stated the address was 1721 16th St. If anybody knew of any needy children they can go by and get a backpack and a uniform.

Commissioner Flores stated that under street and bridges, they have the street sweeper up and down the streets. Commissioner Flores stated that he knew a lot of people have been complaining about the dust, and he is sorry about that, it has been a while since some of the streets have been cleaned and at first you will see a lot of dust, but it will get better. Commissioner Flores stated they are going to continue rotating the street sweeper around the city to make the streets look better. Commissioner Flores asked for them to please have some patience and if anybody has any complaints please let him know and he would be happy to address them as they come. Commissioner Flores stated that they are working on the 80th birthday of Galena Park coming up in September. Commissioner Flores stated that they are working on a time capsule for the city with the school that would be buried here. Commissioner Flores stated that they are looking for the oldest living Galena Park resident. Commissioner Flores stated that they will have a program going on at both recreation centers to acknowledge that and they are looking for ideas. Commissioner Flores asked if anybody had any suggestions to please come forward. Commissioner Flores stated that he is working with Ernesto and is trying to get one more movie night in before school begins over at the swimming pool. Commissioner Flores stated that they were also going to have school supplies for kids in need. Commissioner Flores stated that they would be sending out flyers to the local business. Ms. Lois Killough, a citizen, asked Commissioner Flores to write down the names Kenneth and Aileen Graham, they are in 80's, both born and raised in Galena Park. Commissioner Simms asked if he had a date set yet. Commissioner Flores stated that 3rd week in September and they are going to make a week of it with different events. Commissioner Flores stated they are going to include the senior banquet over at Parks and Recreation along with Galena Manor. Commissioner Flores stated that they are going to do one big event and bring the community together, but he will have more information at the next council meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned: 6:55 P.M.


MAYRA GONZALES


APPROVED