

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

Date: January 5, 2016

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Galena Park was held at City Hall in Council Chambers, Tuesday evening at 6:00 P.M. on January 5, 2016.

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

Item # 2- Commissioner Simms gave the invocation

Item # 3- Comments from the audience

Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated his concern on the monument that is being built in front of city hall. Mr. Brown stated that he is extremely upset about the Vietnam memorial eternal flame that had been totally removed. Mr. Brown stated that it was disgusting that they would tear that down without letting anybody know. Mr. Pruet stated that he is a 6 year army veteran himself and what the city has planned is that they are going to rededicate the plaque. Mr. Pruet stated that it was an American Legion dedication back in 1969. Mr. Pruet stated that the city is going to implement a Police and Fire memorial and a Veterans memorial to the Gateway Project in front of city hall. Mr. Pruet stated that they were going to redo the plaque in cast aluminum, and it will last forever and stay shiny forever. Mr. Pruet stated that nobody has overlooked it or forgotten about it. Mr. Pruet stated that all the Veterans will be invited to the rededication of the memorial.

Mr. Jerry Patton, a citizen, stated that he is the one that took the pictures that they have in front of them and he has some questions for Commissioner Flores. Mr. Patton asked Commissioner Flores how much did it cost to dig up, grind up, and repair one block of road in the City of Galena Park. Commissioner Flores asked Mr. Binning, Public Works Director, to answer the question. Mr. Binning stated typically it would be about 30-40....Mr. Patton stated that he asked the commissioner. Mr. DeFoyd stated that this was comments from the audience, not a question and answer. Mr. Defoyd stated to Mayor Moya that she needed to stop this and control the meeting. Mayor Moya stated that she would if he would not jump in. Mr. Pruet stated that he can comment all he wants, but he cannot question. Mr. Patton stated that he did not have a problem moving on. Mr. Patton stated that the road had been like that through several tenures and he wants to know when the problem is going to be fixed. Mr. Pruet stated that they have spent the last three years getting the money together. Mr. Pruet stated that any estimate that is given on a block long project will be a guess, because the price of concrete and asphalt changes. Mr. Pruet stated that what cost us \$50,000 today may cost us \$150,000 a year

from now. Mr. Pruett stated that in a construction estimate ; if you don't do the right then, six months later the cost may triple. Mr. Pruett asked Mr. Patton to be fair to them. Mr. Patton stated that he doesn't think that is a fair answer and he can see it has gone over everybody's head. Mr. Patton stated that they don't have the skill level to get Galena Park back to where it needs to be.

Ms. Shelby Simms, a citizen, stated Happy New year to everybody. Ms. Simms stated that she knew Galena Park had a zero tolerance on fireworks. Ms. Simms asked why there were fireworks and sometimes gun shots from midnight to two or three o clock in the morning. Ms. Simms asked if the Mayor and the council can tell her what might be done about that in the future. Mayor Moya asked Commissioner Hinojosa to address her concern. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he has been living in Galena Park since 1999 and he has never spent New Year's in Galena Park, but he knows that it happens throughout the week. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that when someone complains and by the time the police get out there, someone has already ran inside and clean up the mess. Commissioner Hinojosa asked Chief Rader how do they stop that. Mayor Moya asked Chief Rader to provide more surveillance. Mayor Moya asked Ms. Simms if she has called it in. Ms. Simms stated that you can, but like Mr. Hinojosa stated, it is an entire block and you can't just call in on one person when you have the entire block doing it. Chief Rader stated that the key was catching them. Chief Rader stated that they go out to a complaint and they don't know who did it. Chief Rader stated that if they do catch them, they will be cited. Chief Rader stated that if they get caught shooting a gun, they will go to county jail. Chief Rader stated that if they get a call and they go out there and they catch them they will pay the price, but the key is catching them.

Ms. Dorothy Harding, a citizen, stated that she lives on the 1500 block of 7<sup>th</sup> St. and fireworks were still going on at 3:30 a.m. Ms. Harding stated that the fireworks are very loud, and she doesn't understand how the officers on duty cannot hear that and immediately go to where they hear the noise. Mr. Pruett stated that it is all over town and the police officers are doing zig zags. Mr. Pruett stated that they see the police car and they run in the house. Mr. Pruett stated that until people learn to adhere to the law, they are going to have that. Mr. Pruett stated that if they catch them, there are severe fines and the fines can be up to \$2,000. Commissioner Simms asked if they put on extra officers for that reason on New Year's Eve. Chief Rader stated absolutely, and for the holidays they get very busy. Chief Rader stated that they can be on a call and hear the fireworks, they radio it in and by the time another officer gets over there, they are going to be gone.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on December 15, 2015. Commissioner Hinojosa moved to approve the minutes of regular meeting on December 15, 2015. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup> ...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 5- Consider ratifying accounts payable through January 5, 2016. Commissioner Serna moved to approve ratifying accounts payable through January 5, 2016. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup> ...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 6- Presentation of the Audit Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2015- Belt Harris Pechacek, LLP. Mr. Robert Belt gave the presentation of the audit as follows:

Mr. Belt stated that they are to present the annual report for the audit ending in September 30, 2015. Mr. Belt stated that he was very pleased to announce that it was an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance that they can provide to the city. Mr. Belt stated that all the disclosures required by general acceptance of accounting principals have been included and the financial statements are materially correct. Mr. Belt stated that there is a tremendous amount of financial information within the report and he is going to point out a few items to them. Mr. Belt stated for the council to turn to page 27, Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds. Mr. Belt stated on the General Fund, which is the primary operating fund of the city, total revenues for the fund came in at \$8,557,359, public expenditures came in at \$8,375,605, giving a revenue over expenditures of \$181,754. Mr. Belt stated that there were other financing sources and uses, which netted out to a positive \$121,096; giving a net change in fund balances for the year of a positive \$302,850. Mr. Belt stated that the city began the year with a fund balance of \$4,868,056 and ended the year with a fund balance of \$5,170,906. Mr. Belt stated that the fund balance is the primary indicator of the financial help of the governmental entities, and most financial advisors will recommend that a governmental entity maintains about three months of operating expenditures on hand. Mr. Belt stated that 25% of the operating budget is a target amount that the city should be going for and the city is well in excess of that, so the city is in great shape from a financial point. Mr. Belt stated that he would also like to point out on page 33, Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in the Net Position Proprietary Fund. Mr. Belt stated that total revenues from the Water and Sewer funds came in at \$2,778,297, operating expenditures were \$2,705,758, nonoperating revenues of a negative (\$30,795), total change in net position of \$1,097,517. Mr. Belt stated that the city began with a net position of \$6,239,944 and ended with a net position of \$7,337,461. Mr. Belt stated that they also conducted a single audit, which is an audit of the city's federal grant programs in accordance with the federal government regulations and there were no findings on the financial single audit report. Mr. Belt stated that he would be more than happy to entertain any questions the Mayor and city council may have. Mayor Moya asked how much did the city over budget. Mr. Belt stated that the primary budget is going to be the general fund budget and the actual comparison will be on page 61. Mr. Belt stated that the city had projected the total revenue to be \$8,031,000, the actual amount of revenues came in at \$8,557,000, and a positive increase of budget variance of \$525,000. Mr. Belt stated that the majority of that was in the intergovernmental line item are grants. Mr. Belt stated that was a positive of \$1,077,000 and came in under budget on sales tax by \$523,000 and under budget on property taxes by \$354,000. Mr. Belt stated that on the expense side of the equation the budget amount for the year were \$8,681,000 compared to actual expenditures that came in at \$8,375,000. Mr. Belt stated that meant the departments came in under budget on the expenditures side by \$306,000. Mr. Belt stated that the total the city projected to reduce its fund balance by \$612,000, but it actually increased it by \$302,000, resulting in a total budget variance of \$915,000. Mayor Moya stated that is what she thought and asked if the commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Hinojosa asked if he thought that was because of the drop in city and sales tax. Mr. Belt stated that there are a lot of factors that go into it, the additional grant money that was not budgeted is what dramatically changed the budget situation for the city. Mr. Belt stated had that money not come in the results would have been entirely different. Mr. Belt stated that with the sales tax decrease, it was a pretty huge hit. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he noticed on some of the recommendations on the deficiencies, money not being deposited on time, is that something that they have seen

in previous years. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he also sees where every deficiency has been addressed. Mr. Belt stated that one of the requirements of the federal government is that any finding presented in the previous year must be represented and an update by it. Mr. Belt stated that he is correct, there were two comments about deposits from the previous audit and they were addressed by the city and they are required to follow up. Commissioner Hinojosa moved to approve the audit as read. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 7- Consider approving Resolution R01-2016- Authorizing the filing of an application for financial assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Policy and Administration; for leak detection, water line upgrades, commercial smart metering, and customer engagement. Mr. DeFoyd read Resolution R01-2016. Commissioner Simms moved to approve Resolution R01-2016- Authorizing the filing of an application for financial assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Policy and Administration; for leak detection, water line upgrades, commercial smart metering, and customer engagement. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 8- Consider approving Resolution R02-2016- Designating an area for the establishment of a “Dog Park” and adopting rules and regulations for the operation of the dog park. Commissioner Serna moved to approve Resolution R02-2016- Designating an area for the establishment of a “Dog Park” and adopting rules and regulations for the operation of the dog park. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 9- Consider approving the 2016 Holidays for the City of Galena Park. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the 2016 Holidays for the City of Galena Park. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 10- Consider approving the part time employment of Kirk R. Garza- Meter Reader, Water Department. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the part time employment of Kirk R. Garza- Meter Reader, Water Department. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Mayor Moya asked for announcements.

Ms. Dorothy Harding, a citizen, announced that the Fun Club Seniors and the Heritage Hall Seniors are sponsoring a Chair and Mat Yoga Retreat at the Jacinto City Town Center from 10:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Ms. Harding stated that everyone is welcome to attend, they will have a teacher for chair yoga and mat yoga. Ms. Harding stated the fees are donations only. Ms.

Tojuana Cooper, Water and Sewer Superintendent, stated that Siemens Industrial has offered to put on an educational workshop concerning advanced metering infrastructure. Ms. Cooper stated that the grant proposal includes 51 commercial and industrial meters to be proposed for advanced meter and infrastructure. Ms. Cooper stated that Siemens does not manufacture the equipment, but they can do an objective educational workshop, and she thinks that would be good. Ms. Cooper stated that she would just need the Mayor or three councilman to call the workshop. Ms. Cooper stated that they were looking at tentatively February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it would be no more than an hour. Ms.

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**Cooper stated that she thinks it would be a good educational tool for them as they are submitting grants proposals, and they need to start planning on changing out the old meters. Ms. Cooper stated that 70% of the meters have exceeded the AWWA recommended life span.**

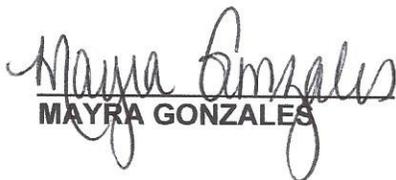
**Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, asked why where the holidays on the agenda not made available for the citizens. Mr. Clowers also asked why the bills to be paid are not made available to the citizens. Commissioner Simms asked Mr. Clowers if he would like for him to read the holidays to him for the upcoming year. Mr. Clowers stated no. Mr. Clowers stated as a tax payer and a citizen of Galena Park, that should be made available just like the agenda is made available. Mayor Moya stated that they will be sure they include it.**

**Commissioner Serna announced that the Parks and Recreation Department will be having the dedication of the dog park on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Serna stated that very same day they have a vet coming to provide services at a very low cost. Commissioner Serna stated there flyers that they could grab on their way out, and they invite everyone to attend.**

**Mr. Jerry Patton, a citizen, announced they had 18 more Saturdays before the election.**

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

**Meeting adjourned: 6:38 P.M.**

  
**MAYRA GONZALES**

  
**APPROVED**