

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

Date: June 7, 2016

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 June 7, 2016.

**Present were:**

Esmeralda Moya  
Rodney Chersky  
Oscar Silva, Jr.  
Eric Broussard  
Barry Ponder  
Mayra Gonzales  
John Hightower

Mayor  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
City Secretary  
Special Counsel

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

Item # 2- Mr. Clowers led the invocation.

Item # 3- Comments from audience.

Ms. Ponder, a citizen, stated that The Committee for a Better Galena Park will be sponsoring a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and has a few things that she would like to ask of the city. Ms. Ponder stated that the event will have food vendors, face painting, and craft booths. Ms. Ponder asked for permission to use the baseball field behind the City Pool, if the lights could be turned on at the field, and would like to have the pool open from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. with free admission. Ms. Ponder stated that one of the bleachers was broken and asked if it could be fixed and if the porta potty could be cleaned. Ms. Ponder stated that it seems like someone has been hanging from the porta potty door, which is not closing well. Mr. Paredes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that he will rent a porta potty for that event. Ms. Ponder asked if the grass could be mowed and if the Fire Department could have a first aid station at the event, for minor injuries. Ms. Ponder stated that for the pool they would also be needing lifeguards.

Mr. Paul Henry, a citizen, stated that he saw on the agenda that the city was going to abolish the city administrator position and asked who was going to be taking the City Administrator's work load. Mr. Hightower stated that the proposed ordinance assigns those duties to the Mayor.

A citizen requested a copy of the City Budget and also stated that the city drainage at 1806 Pugh is not draining properly. Commissioner Ponder stated that he would go by the next day to look at it.

Mr. McCracken, a citizen, stated that there is an item on the agenda to hire a meter reader, but the meters are not being read. Mr. McCracken stated that his meter has not been dug up and read in about three or four months. Commissioner Chersky asked for Mr. McCracken's address and will take care it for him.

Mayor Don Carlo, from the City of Baytown, introduced himself as Commissioner from the Port of Houston. Commissioner Don Carlo stated the Port of Houston is working on a possible project in collaboration with the county and the city (Galena Park) and would like to inform the council the statues of the project. Commissioner Don Carlo stated sidewalks would be placed along Mercury or Holland. However, the sidewalks would have to done in phases. In addition, Commissioner Don Carlo stated, that although, most of the expense would be paid by the Port of Houston, he would like the city to look into their budget and see if they would help with some of the expense.

Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated the letterhead needed to be changed. Mayor Moya stated that they are working on that. Commissioner Ponder stated they are trying to use up all the stationary to save money.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes for regular meeting on May 17, 2016. Commissioner Chersky moved to approve the minutes for regular meeting on May 17, 2016. Commissioner Ponder 2<sup>nd</sup> ... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye....Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 5-Consider ratifying accounts payable through June 7, 2016. Commissioner Silva moved to Consider ratifying accounts payable through June 7, 2016. Commissioner Broussard 2<sup>nd</sup>...Commissioner Ponder stated that he had a couple of questions. Commissioner Ponder asked why is the city spending \$14,000.00 on computer upgrades. Nanette Moreau, bookkeeper stated that there was \$4,000.00 that is the annual maintenance agreement and \$3,000.00 was for upgrade of the servers for the police department. Commissioner Ponder asked why. Ms. Moreau stated that it was for the security and for the police department to not lose the ability to run license plates. Mayor Moya stated that it was needed to bring the Police Department into compliance. Commissioner Ponder stated that he was confused, he understood Chief Rader to say that the Police Department passed the TCOLE audit. Chief Rader stated that this deals with the security of the information that is drawn from the DPS computers. Chief Rader stated that there is an agreement that they have to abide by for the security of the information. Chief Rader stated that those particular servers did not have an upgraded license and they needed to upgrade to 2012 version. Chief Rader stated that if they did not upgrade the servers they would lose the license and the ability through DPS to send and receive that confidential information. Commissioner Chersky asked if it was a state issue. Chief Rader stated yes. Commissioner Ponder asked why the city was paying Comcast \$50.19 for one service and \$90.00 for another. Ms. Moreau stated that it depends on the level of service that particular location has. Commissioner Ponder asked why is the city paying Kwik Kopy \$800.00 for copies when the city just purchased three new copy machines. Ms. Gonzales, City Secretary, stated that Kwik Kopy is used to make letterhead, business cards, and coping of the Ordinance Book. City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye....Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 6- Consider approving the contract between the City of Galena Park and Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, & Mott, L.L.P. for the collection of delinquent taxes. Commissioner Ponder moved to consider approving the contract between the City of Galena Park and Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, & Mott, L.L.P. for the collection of delinquent taxes. Commissioner Silva 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Owen Sonik and Mike with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, & Mott, L.L.P introduced themselves to the council. Commissioner Chersky asked how many cities do they represent. Mike stated that they represent 262 cities. Mr. Hightower stated that with certain exceptions they collect the attorney fees from the taxes and it does not cost the city anything with the exception of bankruptcies. Mr. Sonik presented to the council a graph of the city of Galena Park taxes and the revenue that can be collected. City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye... Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 7-Consider approving the agreement between the City of Galena Park and CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for the LED street light installation. Commissioner Silva moved to approve the agreement between the City of Galena Park and CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for the LED street light installation. Commissioner Broussard 2<sup>nd</sup> ... Mr. Shelton Mitchell gave a small presentation to the council on LED lighting and how it works. Commissioner Ponder stated that all the lights should be changed by April of 2017. Mayor Moya asked how many lights would be installed. Commissioner Ponder stated it would be converting 349 lights LED and they would be

installing 5 new lights in Woodland Acres. Mr. Ponder asked what it was going to cost the city. Mr. Mitchell stated that it would cost the city nothing up front. City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 8- Consider opening sealed bids for the closure and demolition of abandoned units at the wastewater treatment plants. Commissioner Chersky Moved to approve opening the sealed bids for the closure and demolition of abandoned units at the wastewater treatment plants. Commissioner Ponder 2<sup>nd</sup>.. City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Vote: Aye...5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Commissioner Broussard asked how many units were being demolished. Mayor Moya stated two one at Public Works and the other in Woodland Acres. Ms. Gonzales opened the sealed bids and read them as follows: Base bid for KSH Services, LLC is \$ 167,447.00. Base bid for Lopez Utilities Contractor, LLC is for \$275,025.00. Base bid for Whittaker Lane Contracting is for \$114,425.00. Ms. Gonzales stated there were two bids from same company. Mr. Hightower stated to continue reading the bids and then we could short it out later. Base Bid for Whittaker Lane Contracting is for \$117,721.00. Base Bid for G.W. Phillips Concrete Construction is for \$220,209.00.

Item # 9-Consider approving the assignment letter from LJA Engineering for engineering services as required for the CDBG Waterline Rehabilitation Phase 2. Commissioner Broussard moved to approve approving the assignment letter from LJA Engineering for engineering services as required for the CDBG Waterline Rehabilitation Phase 2. Commissioner Silva 2<sup>nd</sup>... Commissioner Broussard asked if it was the Phase 2 for the Galena Manor contract. Mayor Moya stated yes. City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 10-Consider approving the 2015 annual drinking water quality report. Commissioner Silva moved to approve the 2015 annual drinking water quality report. Commissioner Chersky 2<sup>nd</sup> ... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 11-Consider approving the Ordinance 2016-02 amending the code of ordinance of the City of Galena Park to repeal and eliminate section 2-189 and abolish the City's Police Reserve Force. Commissioner Chersky stated that being in law enforcement himself he thinks that if the council approves this ordinance that it is important that they put a time line on getting the badges and id's back from the reserve officers. Ms. Gonzales stated that the Chief of Police will be doing that the next day. Mr. Hightower read the Ordinance. Commissioner Ponder moved to approve the Ordinance 2016-02 amending the code of ordinance of the City of Galena Park to repeal and eliminate section 2-189 and abolish the City's Police Reserve Force. Commissioner Silva 2<sup>nd</sup>... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 12- Consider approving Ordinance 2016-03 amending the code of ordinances of the City of Galena Park to repeal and eliminate Chapter 2, Article III; abolishing the position of the City Administrator. Mr. Hightower read the Ordinance. Commissioner Chersky stated that he insist that the Mayor should be compensated for taking the responsibility of the City Administrator and he knows it would require a charter election. Mr. Hightower stated that there is a legally restriction and it could be done, but unfortunately it would not take place until the next election. Commissioner Broussard asked if it would require a charter election. Mr. Hightower stated that he would have to check the charter to see if it limits the Mayor's pay. Mr. Hightower stated assuming it does not, it would take an ordinance but it would not take effect until the next election. Mayor Moya stated that

she appreciates that, but she ran for Mayor because she wanted change not to get something in return. Mayor Moya stated that she wants to make sure that the citizens money is going to where it is supposed to go to. Mr. Paul Henry, a citizen asked if the City Administrator position was created for the situation that they just explained. Commissioner Chersky stated that he was not there when it was created he would have to look back and check. Mr. Henry stated that most of the small municipalities do not have time for a full time Mayor or City Council. Mr. Henry stated that there are duties that have to be full filled every day. Mayor Moya stated yes and she is going to be there every day. Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, stated that in order to do that change the citizens would have to vote to change the charter. Mr. Hightower stated that if the charter designated for a salary then you would have to require a charter election. Mr. Henry stated that someone needs to table this. Mayor Moya stated that they are not voting on the salary. Commissioner Chersky stated that would require an election he was just expressing his opinion. Commissioner Broussard moved to approve Ordinance 2016-03 amending the code of ordinances of the City of Galena Park to repeal and eliminate Chapter 2, Article III; abolishing the position of the City Administrator. Commissioner Ponder 2<sup>nd</sup>... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote:5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 13- Consider approving Rodney Chersky as Mayor pro tem for 6 month period. Commissioner Silva moved to approve Rodney Chersky as Mayor pro tem for 6 month period. Commissioner Broussard 2<sup>nd</sup>... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 14-Consider approving the appointment of Brooks Harrison as Municipal Court Prosecutor. Commissioner Broussard move to approve the appointment of Brooks Harrison as Municipal Court Prosecutor. Commissioner Chersky 2<sup>nd</sup>... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Mr. Clowers, a citizen, asked if this was an Ordinance. Mr. Hightower stated no it was being done by motion. Mr. Clowers asked if it was a lifetime appointment. Mr. Hightower stated that as attorney's they serve at the pleasure of the council. Mr. Hightower stated that the Municipal Judge is a term that is appointed for two years and the Prosecutor serves at the will and pleasure of the city council.

Item # 15-Consider approving the part-time employment of Hector Gonzales as dispatcher-Police Department. Commissioner Ponder asked if the council would look at the accounts payable report and see the amount that was paid back for Officer Torres and that does not include Officer Rivers. Commissioner Ponder asked if Commissioner Silva or Mayor Moya have anything to do with considering the hiring of Mr. Gonzales. Commissioner Silva and Mayor Moya stated no. Commissioner Ponder stated that he had a concern of officers that were let go and the city is paying a lot of money because of that. Commissioner Ponder stated that he would feel more comfortable if Commissioner Silva himself was doing the interview process and find out if these folks are a good fit for Galena Park. Commissioner Ponder made a motion to table the part-time employment of Hector Gonzales as dispatcher-Police Department. Commissioner Silva 2<sup>nd</sup>... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 16-Consider approving the full time position of Stephen Clark- meter reader water department. Commissioner Silva moved to approve the full time position of Stephen Clark- meter reader water department. Commissioner Broussard 2<sup>nd</sup>... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

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Item # 17-Consider approving the part time employment of Javier Gonzalez and the part time employment of the following for parks and recreation:

Lifeguard

Natalia Vásquez	Zuriel Espinosa	Stephanie Espinosa
Cody Parrott	Shelby Loya	Andrew Bennett
Trystan Fuente	Galilea Ibarra	

Summer Fun

Kriselda Narvaez	Cindy Flores	Priscilla Montemayor
Stephen Sanchez		

Cashiers

Kiara Sanchez	Maria Sorto	Jessica Quiroga
Maria Espinosa	lily Caudill	Erika Espinoza

Commissioner Broussard moved to approve the part time employment of Javier Gonzalez and the part time employment of the list read by Mayor Moya. Commissioner Ponder 2<sup>nd</sup> ... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried. Commissioner Broussard commented that all of the employees had been interviewed by the Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Paredes.

Item # 18-Consider approving the full time employment of Reese Martin as probationary Police Officer-Police Department. Commissioner Ponder stated that he has the same problem that he has with item #15 and asked if the Mayor or Commissioner Silva have any part in the interview of the candidate? Commissioner Silva stated no. Chief Rader asked if he can intervene on this. Mayor Moya stated yes. Chief Rader stated that their police department is covered under 143 of Civil Service. Chief Rader stated that the applicant passed the background and all the requirements of the civil service rules. Chief Rader stated that the whole purpose of the civil service is to separate the politics from the police department. Chief Rader stated that it allows him the opportunity to interview and hire the candidates. Mr. Hightower stated that they are required to take an examination and the Chief is required to pick from the top three. Mr. Hightower stated that the fact that it is on the agenda is customary, but under civil service statute the commission establishes the rules and the Chief does the hiring. Commissioner Chersky stated that he does know that the police department is very short handed. Commissioner Chersky stated that even with the reinstatement of Officer Torres they are still under maned. Chief Rader stated that even if it is not under 143 and the Police Commissioner would like to get involved there is no problem in that. Commissioner Silva stated that he would like to. Commissioner Ponder stated that his biggest concern is in the past Chief Rader has hired people who do not fit the needs of Galena Park and we ended up with egg on our face and does not want that to happen again. Commissioner Ponder stated that he would like the interview process to go through Commissioner Silva. Mr. Hightower stated that he does not see a problem with that, but under statute it is ultimately the Chief's decision. Mr. Hightower stated that his remedy is with the Chief, if he is unhappy with the Chief's performance. Commissioner Chersky moved to approve approving the full time employment of Reese Martin as probationary Police Officer-Police Department. Commissioner Broussard 2<sup>nd</sup>... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Nay...Vote: 4 Ayes... 1 Nay...Motion Carried.

Item # 19-Announcements

Mayor Moya stated that Harris County Lead Control was there. Johnathan with Harris County Lead Control announced that he would be passing out flyers and what they do is repair homes with lead at no cost to the home owner. Johnathan stated that they were located in Pasadena on Richey and 225.

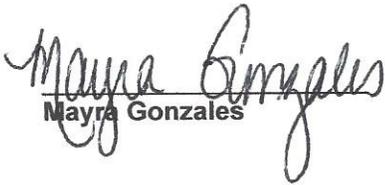
Mayor Moya stated that there were refreshments and cheesecake after the meeting, courtesy of Commissioner Ponder.

A citizen asked how many police officers were in the city. Commissioner Silva stated that he did not know the exact number, but he will get with Chief Rader. Chief Rader stated that with the new hire that will make 18 including himself. Chief Rader stated that by ordinance they have 16 officer positions, 4 Sergeants, and 1 Chief. Chief Rader stated that the city has not funded for those vacant slots. Commissioner Chersky asked how many vacant slots they have? Chief Rader stated all they have been funded for right now is 18 slots, even though they have they slots for 21.

Margarita Alanis, a citizen, announced her concerns on properties that have not been maintained and homes that were being broken into. Ms. Alanis stated that they do not have a detective. Chief Rader stated that each one of the officers are being assigned their own cases to follow. Chief Rader stated that if they have a major case they assign a detective. Commissioner Silva stated that is in the works and he will get with Chief Rader to discuss the detective position and he is also working on getting the properties maintained.

Commissioner Chersky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Broussard 2<sup>nd</sup> ... City Secretary called for roll call: Commissioner Chersky... Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 P.M.

  
Mayra Gonzales

  
APPROVED