

The City of Galena Park

City Commission Meeting

Date : June 21, 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 21, 2016.

Present were:	Esmeralda Moya	Mayor
	Rodney Chersky	Commissioner
	Oscar Silva, Jr.	Commissioner
	Eric Broussard	Commissioner
	Barry Ponder	Commissioner
	Mayra Gonzales	City Secretary
	John Hightower	Special Council

Item # 1- Mayor called meeting to order

Item # 2- Commissioner Broussard led the invocation.

Item # 3- Comments from the audience.

Mrs. Ponder a citizen thanked City Council and Mayor for all their assistance for getting the 4th of July celebration up and running. Mrs. Ponder stated that the Code Enforcer let her in the field that afternoon to look at in from the inside and with that she made a map lay out that gives an idea on how they will get people in the field, she also stated that she noticed that the flyers are out and wants to encourage everyone to pick up a flyer so that they can know about the 4th of July event that they are going to have.

Mr. McCracken a citizen thanked Commissioner Ponder for his hard work and city crews for getting the draining ditch behind the 1800 block of Pugh cleaned out. Mr. McCracken stated that Commissioner Ponder has been at Mr. Moore's office about cutting the grass along Panther Creek and they have already started cutting it.

Item # 4-Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on June 7, 2016 and special meeting on June 9, 2016. Commissioner Ponder made a motion to approve the minutes of regular meeting on June 7, 2016 and special meeting on June 9, 2016. Commissioner Broussard 2nd. Mayor Moya called for the vote: 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 21, 2016. Commissioner Silva moved to ratify accounts payable through June 21, 2016. Commissioner Chersky, 2nd Commissioner Ponder stated that Nanette was very helpful, he asked her to crunch some numbers together to see how much the city is spending on auto repair in the last year and she broke it up into each department. Commissioner Ponder stated that maybe at a later date the city can hire a mechanic. Commissioner Ponder stated that the total is \$46,347.00 in labor in one year. Mayor Moya called for the vote: 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 Buyboard contract with the City of Galena Park and Restroom Facilities Limited. Commissioner Broussard moved to approve the Buyboard contract with the City of Galena Park and Restroom Facilities Limited. Commissioner Silva, 2nd . Commissioner Broussard stated that Hector Garcia was at the meeting to show the audience a quick video of what the restrooms would look like. Commissioner Broussard stated that down the line they

would like to put a restroom at each park. Mr. Garcia stated that the video will give a quick overview of the company and what they do. Mr. Garcia stated that they are a Texas based company and will match the brick to the brick used on the Alvin Baggett Community Building.

Commissioner Broussard stated that they will also add a restroom in Galena Manor as well as a concession stand along the line because they are going to develop a soccer field. Commissioner Broussard stated that in Woodland Acres it was going to take a little engineering because it is limited to space. Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky..Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard... Aye, Commissioner Ponder... Aye.. Vote: 5 Ayes Motion Carried.

Item # 7-Consider authorizing the advertisement and invitation for bids on the Clinton and Main project. Commissioner Broussard moved to authorize the advertisement and invitation for bids on the Clinton and main project. Commissioner Ponder, 2nd. Commissioner Chersky stated that the project is at Clinton and Main which was tore up a year and a half or two years ago for several days they had to dig a hole to repair a line, during this course 2 valves were turned and as a result they started leaking. According to the engineering firm the valves mysteriously are no longer leaking, however, there is a section there that has to be replaced. Mark from LJA engineering stated that there was a water leak at the fire hydrate at McDonalds, a lot of the lines underneath Clinton & Main are old they need to be replaced, they did a temporary patch repair to stop the water from leaking, but at that time the city agreed that it would be a good idea to fix it since there is a lot of traffic in that intersection and that is why the city is going out for bids to get contractors for this job. Mark stated that it will be a job that will take a long weekend to finish; he also stated that it needs to be fixed before it becomes a really bad problem. Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky..Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard... Aye, Commissioner Ponder... Aye.. Vote: 5 Ayes Motion Carried.

Item # 8- Consider approving Ordinance 2016-04 Amending the Code of Ordinance for the City of Galena Park regulating parking of vehicles and other items on the front yards of residential lots. Mr. Hightower stated that the only thing that is changing on the Ordinance is that it removes the permission to park in front of the yards for 4 hours and this ordinance will make it illegal to park in front of the yard. Commissioner Ponder moved to approve Ordinance 2016-04 amending the Code of Ordinance for the City of Galena Park regulating parking of vehicles and other items on the front yards of residential lots. Commissioner Broussard, 2nd. A citizen asked what size the driveway had to be. Commissioner Broussard stated that the drive way is defined as 20 inches. The citizen asked what will happen if there is a driveway bigger than 20 inches prior to this ordinance. Commissioner Chersky asked the citizen how wide is her drive way. The citizen stated that it is 32 inches wide it can accommodate 3 or 4 cars. Commissioner Chersky stated that the purpose for this ordinance is to get the vehicles from parking in the front yard of homes. The citizen stated that she is handicap and if she parks in her driveway it's about 85 inches from her front yard so she pulls up in front of her door to get into her house. A citizen stated that the national disability act has not passed and they have to deal with this ordinance, he also stated that this was not the Woodlands that he didn't want a Memorial City Ordinance here. Commissioner Ponder stated that when they were out and speaking to everybody one of the biggest concerns that the citizens brought to them was that the citizens were tired of having people park their vehicles in the front yard. Commissioner Ponder stated that it looked bad for the City of Galena Park to allow folks to park their boats, RV's, and large truck on their front yard in the grass specially when they have a drive way. Commissioner Ponder also stated that they are trying to enforce what the citizens asked for. Commissioner Ponder made a motion to table Ordinance 2016-04 amending the Code of Ordinance for the City of Galena Park regulating parking of vehicles and other items on the front yards of residential lots. Commissioner Broussard, 2nd. Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky...Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard...Aye, Commissioner Ponder... Aye... Vote: 5 Ayes Motion Carried.

Item #9-Consider the appointment of Edward J. Mata- Chief of Police.

Commissioner Ponder moved to the appointment of Edward J. Mata as Chief of Police at an annual salary of \$68,000.00 with the condition that he relocates his residency to the city within 6 months after the date of his appointment and that he therefore continues to reside in the city for as long as he is chief of police for the city. Commissioner Broussard, 2nd. Commissioner Broussard asked if his salary or residence was discussed with him prior to offering him a position with the city. Commissioner Silva stated no. Commissioner Broussard stated that was a good question because Mr. Mata might not accept this. Commissioner Broussard stated that putting stipulations prior to his knowledge may cause Mr. Mata to not want the position. Mr. Broussard stated that it would be mute for them to even vote on it and they may want to consider it further. He also stated that this is something that they might need to be table so that they can offer Mr. Mata a contract. Commissioner Silva stated that he doesn't think that rule is in affect as of right know or is in the city charter about them living in the city or whatever radius. Commissioner Ponder stated that it is not in the charter. Mr. Hightower stated that it is not a requirement, but it is in their authority to make that a requirement. Mr. Hightower stated that if he was an ordinary officer the statue actually prohibits you from having a residency requirement , but if someone is a department head and the Police Chief is a department head then you have the right to require them to live in the city if you choose to. Commissioner Broussard stated that his problem with requiring someone to live in this community or any community is that there is a limitation of housing, you cannot limit someone to living in a place where he may not find housing in, Commissioner Broussard also stated that he could see him living near our community but he doesn't feel fair requiring someone to live in a certain spot. Commissioner Chersky asked what was the concern with having someone live within the city, this is not something that has been practiced before within the City of Galena Park and why are we doing so? Commissioner Ponder stated that when they were out canvassing there were several things that the citizens wanted them to do and one of the things was that they had a question of why didn't the department heads live in the City of Galena Park, the concern was that they were taking our money, they were working within the city but we weren't good enough for them to stay in the city. The others said that they didn't have interest in the city, they make a decision that doesn't affect them because they leave the city and they go off to where they live. The other concern that the citizens had was if there is a catastrophe, they did not want a Fire or Police Chief that lived 50 miles away. Commissioner Silva stated that is why they have second in command to take over. Commissioner Ponder stated that he and Commissioner Chersky had talked about that and the second in command would be a sergeant. Commissioner Ponder stated that he started thinking to himself, who is the sergeant and are they really bettering themselves by giving it to the sergeant? Commissioner Silva asked why wouldn't they, they are sergeant's for a reason. Ms. Gutierrez asked that if they were out canvassing and the citizens asked for this ordinance, why don't they let the citizens vote on it. She also asked what does that do to your Fire Chief. Commissioner Ponder stated that the discussion is not about the Fire Chief, it is a valid question, but he is telling them what they heard from the citizens. Ms. Gutierrez stated those are only the people that were home at the time they went. Commissioner Chersky stated that he agreed with Mr. Broussard; there is an issue of availability of homes in Galena Park, if there is a good home in Galena Park it normally gets swiped up off the market within 24 to 72 hours. Commissioner Chersky stated that if a catastrophe happened they would have supervisors that would secure the scene and they would also have to call in additional support from Jacinto City, City of Houston, Harris County, probably the state and everybody else, they would have more than enough man power to handle that sort of catastrophe, the chief would be notified immediately on something like that, regardless if he is coming from 2nd and Holland or further. Commissioner Chersky stated that he agrees that the chief should be in close proximity. Commissioner Broussard stated that where a person chooses to live is his own prerogative, it involves a lot of factors, schooling for his kids. Commissioner Broussard stated that he believes we should hire a qualified individual as a department head and we would have to assume that they will get to work no matter where they live. Commissioner Broussard stated that he did not agree with it and agreed if there is a stipulation in it, it should be part of the charter. Commissioner Broussard stated that way if there is a potential person who

would want to work for us they will know. Commissioner Ponder stated that the charter changes that they are talking about was presented to the city council and they rejected it. Commissioner Ponder stated that part of that city charter change they made was that the Police Chief and the Fire Chief must live within the city and there were 750 people that signed that. Commissioner Ponder stated that if we pass that charter amendment it will be up to the citizens whether they want that in there or not. Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated that at one time there was an ordinance in Galena Park that required the police chief to be in Galena Park, and it was done by ordinance. Mr. Brown stated that it does not have to be done by charter change and can be done by ordinance or resolution. Commissioner Chersky stated that if there is a stipulation, it should at least be reasonable. Mayor Moya stated that for that they will have to hold a meeting to discuss his residency and how much the Police Chief is going to be making a year. Commissioner Ponder stated that the reason he came up with 68,000 is the national average for a police chief for a city our size is 70,000 and also checked with Jacinto City and their police chief has 15 years as police chief and 35 years as police office and he makes 90,000. Commissioner Ponder made a motion to table to consider the appointment of Edward J Mata as Police Chief. Commissioner Broussard 2nd.. . Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky...Aye, Commissioner Silva...Nay, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard.. Nay, Commissioner Ponder... Aye... Vote:...3 Ayes...2 Nays... Motion Carried. Mr. Hightower suggested to the council move to appoint a committee to negotiate with Mr. Mata a compensation package and other conditions of employment. Commissioner Broussard moved to create a council to offer Mr. Mata a contract and to come to some agreement on his salary and place of residents at a later date. Commissioner Chersky, 2nd... Commissioner Broussard made a motion to have a special meeting in 72 hours. Commissioner Chersky, 2nd... Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky...Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard... Aye, Commissioner Ponder... Aye.. Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item #10-Consider the appointment of Robert L. Collins as City Attorney. Commissioner Broussard moved to consider the appointment of Robert L. Collins as City Attorney. Commissioner Chersky 2nd... Mayor Moya called for the vote: 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 full time employment of Jarrod Jones-Water Superintendent. Commissioner Chersky moved to approve the full time employment of Jarrod Jones as Water Superintendent. Commissioner Silva, 2nd. Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky...Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard... Aye, Commissioner Ponder...Aye...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 12- Consider the full time employment of Irma Betancourt- Water Department Utility Billing Commissioner Broussard made a motion to consider the full time employment of Irma Betancourt in the water department utility billing. Commissioner Chersky 2nd. Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky..Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard... Aye, Commissioner Ponder... Aye... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 13- Consider the appointment of Hector Torres- Civil Service Board. A citizen asked who was on the civil service board? Ms. Gonzales, City Secretary, stated that Mr. Sims, Mr. Garland and Mr. Torres if he gets appointed. Commissioner Chersky moved to consider the appointment of Hector Torres in Civil Service. Commissioner Broussard, 2nd... Mayor Moya called for the vote: Commissioner Chersky..Aye, Commissioner Silva...Aye, Mayor Moya...Aye, Commissioner Broussard... Aye, Commissioner Ponder... Aye.. Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 14- Announcements

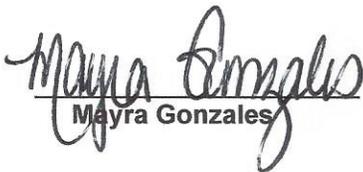
Ms. Dorothy Harding, a citizen, stated that it has been very nice that when she leaves her house she passes Galena Park Officers. Ms. Harding stated that she appreciated seeing the police presence.

Ms. Coreathers, a citizen, stated that when nominations come up for people on the agenda, they would like to know who they are and their qualifications.

A citizen stated that he lived in Galena Park for the past 4 years and he has been in the same section and it is very rare that the police pass by his area. He also stated that he had a party at his residence for his son's graduation and at 2 a.m. a police officer came to his house and went to his back yard and gave him a citation. He stated that instead of giving him a warning, he gave him a citation. The citizen stated that he did not know what the process was on the officer going into his back yard. Chief Scroggins stated that they don't have to give him a warning for violating the law, it is up to the officer and maybe the police officer knocked on the door and no one answered so he went to the source.

Commissioner Ponder stated that last Saturday the grounds crew allowed him to work with them and the grounds crew consist of Mr. Kelly and about 2 others and a part timer . Commissioner Ponder stated that he showed up at 8am and Mr. Kelly was already there getting everything together. Commissioner Ponder stated that they do approximately 25 to 30 lawns and lots that houses have been vacant. Commissioner Ponder stated that around 3 p.m. that afternoon there was a heat index of 106. Commissioner Ponder stated that the next time they see these guys out there they are putting in a 100% effort , go by give them some water and if not just say thank you. Mayor Moya stated that they appreciate all of the staff, they do a great job.

Item #15 Adjourn- Meeting adjourn at 6:58 p.m.


Mayra Gonzales


APPROVED