

City Council Chamber, City Hall, Tuesday, January 10, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 10, 2012, Mayor Annise D. Parker presiding and with Council Members Helena Brown, Jerry Davis, Ellen R. Cohen, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, Al Hoang, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Mike Laster, Larry V. Green, Andrew C. Burks, Jr., Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jack Christie D. C.; Ms. Lynette Fons, First Assistant City Attorney, Legal Department; Ms. Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director, and Ms. Stella Ortega, Agenda Office present. Council Member Stephen C. Costello absent on personal business.

At 1:45 p.m. Mayor Parker stated that today Council had one presentation and asked Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez to take the chair; and invited Mr. David Minceberg and his wife to the podium. Mayor Parker stated that today she was recognizing Mr. Minceberg who over and over again stepped up for the City of Houston and in his most recent carnation had been doing great work at the Houston Housing Authority; he was active in many civic endeavors and in raising affordable housing stock in the city; and presented him a Proclamation proclaiming today as "David Minceberg Day" in the Houston, Texas. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

Mr. Minceberg stated that he was especially pleased to be asked under Mayor Parker to continue his service at the Houston Housing Authority; that he was privileged to serve with a number of commissioners and asked those present to stand to be recognized, introduced his wife; and thanked all for the recognition. Council Members Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez, Council Members Noriega, Cohen, Adams, Laster and Burks thanked Mr. Minceberg for his service and wished him the best in all endeavors; and thanked Mrs. Minceberg for allowing him to serve. Council Members Pennington and Rodriguez absent.

At 1:57 p.m. Mayor Parker called on Council Member Green who invited Imam Mustafa Yigit of the Houston Blue Mosque to lead all in the prayer and Council Member Green led all in the pledge.

At 2:00 p.m. the City Secretary called the roll. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. Council Member Pennington absent.

Council Members Gonzalez and Christie moved that the minutes of the preceding meeting be adopted. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. Council Member Pennington absent. MOTION ADOPTED.

Council Member Adams moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of adding Mr. Gary Grier and Ms. Tamara Bell to the end of the three minute Non-Agenda list of speakers and move Mr. Justin Harris after Mr. Samuel Harris, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. Council Member Pennington absent. MOTION 2012-0020 ADOPTED.

Mr. Clark Martinson, 7625 Betty Jean Lane, Houston, Texas 77055 (281-759-3800) appeared, presented information and stated that he was present supporting Agenda Item 7; that he was representing the Energy Corridor Management District which was along I-10 in Districts A and G between Kirkwood and Barker Cypress; that this project would connect a 25 mile system of trails and was being done by Harris County by a grant with no cost to the city; that in the future they would like it to extend and connect to Cullen Park; that the project was a priority of the West Houston Trails Master Plan and had presented was a summary. Council Members Pennington and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that this was a great example of all regional entities coming together

to get something accomplished. Council Members Pennington and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Brown stated that she was excited about this and looked forward to the vote tomorrow. Council Members Pennington and Rodriguez absent.

Mr. Roland McGinnis, 14811 St. Mary Lane, Houston, Texas 77079 (713-501-1033) appeared and stated that he was present regarding Agenda Item 7, the sale of 8,840 square foot tract to his firm McGinnis Cadillac; that he owned a small body shop on Sherwood Forest and the property was along the northern boundary of the shop for parking purposes; and urged a favorable vote.

Upon questions by Council Member Brown, Mr. McGinnis stated that he had the shop about 30 years and the space was about 20 feet wide to be used for parking; that the property was one acre and totally covered with concrete so it would be difficult to do planting; and Council Member Bradford stated that with the purchase of more land perhaps there would be space for foliage and help with the look of the area; and Mr. McGinnis stated that they would look into it; and Council Member Brown stated that this sale would bring in additional revenues to the city and she thought they would help in beautification in surrounding areas; that she knew residents would love to have a park across from the elementary school and perhaps this could help in the efforts.

Mayor Parker stated that was an interesting suggestion and she would love to visit with her about it; and to follow up on her comment a piece of vacant land was his nearest neighbor and she would agree with the Council Member that some screening or trees or something on the border of the property would be extremely helpful considering the current view; and Mr. McGinnis stated that currently they had an eight foot barbed wire fence they would move to the other side and perhaps could plant a hedge or something along the outside of the fence, but it would be on the city's property; and Mayor Parker stated that they should discuss that some as it was not a requirement of the sale, but it was an ugly fence.

Council Member Christie stated that all were trying to make this a win/win situation, for the city and Spring Branch neighborhoods, etc.; and upon questions, Mr. McGinnis stated that he had not personally contacted neighbors, but the manager had meetings in the area; that a lady said they did not want his business at all; and Council Member Christie stated that perhaps with a call from him they could get a win/win; and Mr. McGinnis stated that he would be happy to contact her.

Council Member Gonzalez moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending time to question Mr. Roland McGinnis, seconded by Council Member Pennington. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. MOTION 2012-0021 ADOPTED.

Council Member Brown stated that they could have a meeting in the district with all parties and perhaps the idea of contributing shrubby to the city property for beautification and building a park in the future..; and Mr. McGinnis stated that he would be glad to get involved. Council Member Davis absent.

Mr. Don Cook, 7954 Glenheath, Houston, Texas 77061 (713-705-5594) appeared and stated that he talked before about the economy they had until 2013 when federal austerity measures kicked in before the serious renewal of economic problems kicked in again; and continued expressing his personal problems until his time expired. Council Member Davis absent.

Mr. Lawrence Riggs, 5502 Jensen #5, Houston, Texas 77026 (713-691-1123) appeared and stated that he was speaking of officers on the street taking blood samples of drugs and

alcohol, but wanted to arrest others and not doing their job; and he would like the Mayor to help with that.

Ms. Patricia Martin, 8381 Broadway #206, Houston, Texas 77061 (832-276-6470) had reserved time to speak but was not present when her name was called.

Mr. David Brady, 3506 Whispering Brook Drive, Kingwood, Texas 77345 (713-917-3200) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called.

Mr. William Beal, 5814 Overdale, Houston, Texas 77022 (713-738-3410) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called.

Ms. Lizzie Lovall, 7614 Don ridge Drive, Houston, Texas 77071 (713-721-5320) appeared and stated that she was present in September and referred to the Department of Health and help had failed; that her concern was she applied through the dental program for help four years ago and needed to know what could be done as she was receiving no answers.

Mayor Parker stated that she understood she had been here before and the city had been working with her the last several years, it was not that she was ignored; that she was evaluated by eight different dentists and not being able to address her problem they had exhausted their ability to assist her and she was referred to the Texas Disability and Aging Department in October, so her next step was to appeal to the State of Texas; that she did not know if she had passed the appeals deadline at this point, but the information had been provided to her when she was last present; and she could speak to Ms. Barton in Health at this time if she would like.

Mr. Lorenza Phillips Butler, Jr., 3906 Daphne, Houston, Texas 77021 (713-440-6994) appeared and stated that he was the oldest Black publisher west of the Mississippi and his company represented thirteen Chinese newspapers, two Chinese television stations and one Vietnamese television station and present as the North Houston Frontiers Club was a 501c3 service organization dedicated to providing educational and charitable systems to needy minority students and sponsored two major activities to support the organization, one being the MLK Memorial Breakfast funding their scholarship program and to be held Monday, January 16th at the George R. Brown Convention Center; and all were invited to pay to be there. Council Member Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Green commended Mr. Butler on his great work and urged all colleagues and citizens to attend the breakfast as it was such a worthy cause and he would be present. Council Member Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Burks stated that he was proud of his work; and thanked him for his words. Council Member Rodriguez absent.

Ms. Sandy Phan-Gillis, 11519 Dunlap, Houston, Texas 77035 (713-819-7371) appeared, presented an invitation for Mayor Parker and stated that she was the president of Houston's Shenzhen Sister City Association representing Shenzhen in China; that she was presenting the invitation to Mayor Parker from the Mayor of Shenzhen to the Shenzhen International Mayor Conference Event; that this was the first worldwide conference to be held February 23-24, 2012, and the focus of dialogue would be building a platform in economic development, etc.

Mayor Parker stated that she had visited the city of Shenzhen and it was a beautiful city; and thanked Ms. Phan-Gillis for her work.

Council Member Hoang thanked Ms. Phan-Gillis for coming and stated that her work was appreciated; that he and other Council Members had traveled to Shenzhen with her and hopefully the Mayor would be able to go this time; and he appreciated her help attracting

investments to Houston.

Council Member Gonzalez thanked Ms. Phan-Gillis for her efforts in the Houston Shenzhen Sister City Organization and stated that she did a terrific job combining both worlds and highlighted the ties which did bind them culturally, etc., and Houston was the first Sister City with Shenzhen and it was an incredible city.

Mr. Samuel Harris, 2646 S. Loop West #425A, Houston, Texas 77054 (832-878-8535) appeared and stated that the Texans YMCA was in Council Member Adams's District, the beautiful facility was just built and Council Member Green's District had Reliant Stadium; that his son Jay Xavier was a "son" of Houston and supported by Mayor's Brown and White; and Mayor Parker kept up to her campaign statement of working for the people; that they were supported by Council when Jay went to China for the Olympics and were excited today he was working now with the Texans; that he was to sing and they had a box, but was told not to take it to the podium. Council Member Hoang absent.

Council Member Adams moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of allowing Mr. Samuel Harris to bring his "boom box" to the podium, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. Council Member Hoang absent. MOTION 2012-0022 ADOPTED.

Mr. Justin Harris, 2646 S. Loop West #425A, Houston, Texas 77054 (832-878-8535) appeared and stated that he was very glad to be present and would do a part of the song he composed for the Texans Called "Go Hard Go Home" which he then performed. Council Members Sullivan and Hoang absent.

Mayor Parker stated that it was good to see him again and she appreciated the work he did as a role model in the community and charitable events he helped to support. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Council Members Adams, Green, Burks and Gonzalez thanked Jay for always supporting sports teams by his writings such as the Texans and Rockets, commended him for spreading the word and for setting good examples for others to pursue their dreams; and upon questions Mr. Xavier stated that his website was jayxavierofficial.blogspot.com. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Mayor Parker stated that while on the subject, City Hall would be red Friday and Saturday night sending off the Texans. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Mr. Josh Gibson, 910 Hidden Valley Drive, Houston, Texas 77088 (832-328-8511) appeared and stated that this was his first time present and his concern was drainage; that he resided in the Hidden Valley Neighborhood and president of the homeowner association and each time at the board meetings drainage was an issue; that the rain yesterday made it hard to get in or out at all entrances; that Rebuild Houston was voted in and Council approved, but his concern was when the money started getting spent they would be on the back burner; and in closing would plead that when money became available they get help; that another issue was the Stuebner Airline Park, they waited over 20 years for the park and it opened with a boom and already needed another playground and pavilion. Council Member Sullivan absent.

Mayor Parker stated that Citizens Assistance would get his letter and she made a note for Public Works with his concerns of Hidden Valley and ask them to explore it; that they were preparing the capital projects list at this time. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Adams thanked Mr. Gibson for coming; and to Mayor Parker stated that many Council Members had received calls about the flood which occurred yesterday; and upon

questions, Mayor Parker stated that there was localized street flooding all over the city yesterday and this was the reason she believed voters had supported Proposition I, the drainage fee, and believed it was critical moving forward that they launch projects with maximum impact and focus on the worst first; that Public Works was currently preparing the CIP list to be presented to the Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee which Council Member Pennington represented Council on and would be going through each neighborhood through the CIP process. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Gonzalez thanked Mr. Gibson for coming and stated that his issue was an important concern to many Houstonians and he agreed with the Mayor that yesterday they set a good example of making sure they had an adequate infrastructure and drainage system in place for many years to come; and encouraged that they report drainage issues through the 311 system as they were going into more of a data driven process in identifying. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Davis stated that they did travel yesterday throughout the district to figure out certain areas of concern and as he promised he would be working hard for those in District B and people voted for the drainage fee to pass and now they would be doing something about it. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Council Member Gonzalez moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending time to question Mr. Josh Gibson, seconded by Council Member Hoang. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. Council Members Sullivan and Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0023 ADOPTED.

Upon questions by Council Member Burks, Mr. Gibson stated that water yesterday was above the ankle, it was not the 24 to 36 inches they did normally see; that it came above the curb, but normally it came to the waist on his street. Council Members Adams, Sullivan and Noriega absent.

Ms. Paula Harrison, 1440 Brunswick Lane, Houston, Texas 77047 (832-339-8225) appeared and stated that she was present to discuss Section 8 housing, it was her understanding it had been frozen 20 years or more; that in Seattle they had a lottery for vouchers; that there was a difference between Section 8 and low income housing projects like Allen Parkway, etc., the lottery allowed them to integrate with some rich and learn other cultures; and she was asking the Section 8 Voucher Program to be opened again. Council Members Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that the Section 8 Voucher Program was run by the Houston Housing Authority and they had an active Section 8 Voucher Program and for the first time in their history they allocated all 100% of the vouchers. Council Members Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Mr. Gary Grier, who was previously added to the speakers list, appeared, presented information and stated that he was director of Community Engagement for the Coalition for the Homeless; that the brochure presented was regarding the Houston homeless count; that the key to solving homelessness was understanding who was homeless; that he thanked citizens Assistance and citizens.net for helping with the volunteers needs for the program; that they received 21,000 t-shirts through Customs and Border Patrol; that he was asking for support for the homeless count which they did yearly as it was used to measure needs, demographics and causes, etc; and www.houstonhomelesscount.org was dedicated to their effort. Council Members Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Adams thanked Mayor Parker for rolling out her initiatives and having at the top homelessness ; that she worked hard with Coalition for the Homeless and she would

continue making it one of her priorities; and encouraged all colleagues to join in the count; and thanked Mr. Grier for his passion and all he did. Council Members Sullivan and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Gonzalez thanked Mr. Grier for working on the issue; and upon questions, Mr. Grier stated that the survey was required to be conducted within the last 10 days of January and they would actually do it twice to make sure they did not have a flawed count and it would be held the 24th and 31st and the count used would be the one most accurate and the methodology was proven to be the best; that the time was between 5:30 and 11:30 in the evening to conduct street count because those persons in shelter or transitional housing would have been in; and Council Member Gonzalez commended Council Member Adams who participated with the count and led by example; and upon further questions, Mr. Grier stated that the information would be included in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report which goes to Congress and used to measure Houston's ability to leverage and utilize HUD dollars and used internally for needs assessment in making sure the homeless youth were being reached, etc., making sure the correct programs were in place. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Christie absent.

Council Member Laster thanked Mr. Grier for his work and stated that it was his long time privilege for the last 20 years or so to be affiliated or know about the general workings of the community which tried to count and administer work for the homeless; that homelessness was not in one part of town; and upon questions, Mr. Grier stated that he worked in the industry 17 years. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Christie absent.

Council Member Adams moved the rules be suspended for the purpose of extending time to question Mr. Gary Grier, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Christie absent. MOTION 2012-0024 ADOPTED.

Upon questions by Council Member Laster, Mr. Grier stated that they expanded their efforts and would have nine staging areas all around town including the northside, southeast, etc., with 17 specialized outreach teams with one being Lord of the Streets, Cyfair Helping Hands; that they would deploy and canvas the entire region and the coalition would use it and determine how they can best connect with service providers and hopefully return to housing within their own neighborhoods and have job opportunities; and Council Member Laster asked if Mayor Parker would coordinate with the District J area to give more detailed information on how they could assist. Council Members Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Christie absent.

Upon questions by Council Member Burks, Mr. Grier stated that he could talk generally of the knowledge he had on veterans, locally they had the U. S. Vets Program, a host site for the facility and he believed they were expanding their property; that veterans had a supportive housing program which came through the Housing Authority and was a partnership with the VA and Housing Authority and last year when the count was conducted, unfortunately, 16% of homeless were veterans and there was an aggressive campaign to make sure veterans could access services and except homeless and they expected to see a decline in that number. Mayor Parker, Council Members Sullivan, Hoang, Rodriguez and Christie absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez presiding.

Ms. Tamara Bell, who was previously added to the speakers list, appeared and stated that she was vice chair of Super Neighborhood Alliance and she was present as a concerned volunteer and citizen; that changes were made recently in the Department of Neighborhood's leadership and she would ask that as they were looking to replace leadership, they look at someone with a passion and knowledge of the city; that on another item, yesterday was a heavy rain and there was now a drainage fee, but when projects were done she would like them done to last; that the McGregor Bayou was worked on over three years and it flooded quicker

yesterday on 288 than it had flooded prior to their work; that her street had never flooded and yesterday there was high water and it was because of the bayou reconstruction. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Christie absent.

President Joseph Charles, P. O. Box 524373, Houston, Texas 77052-4373 (713-928-2871) had reserved time to speak but was not present when his name was called. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Christie absent.

At 3:09 p.m. Mayor Parker stated that City Council was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2012. Council Member Costello absent on personal business. Council Members Sullivan, Rodriguez and Christie absent.

A Regular Meeting of the Houston City Council was held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 11, 2012, with Mayor Annise D. Parker presiding and with Council Members Helena Brown, Jerry Davis, Ellen R. Cohen, Wanda Adams, Mike Sullivan, Al Hoang, Oliver Pennington, Edward Gonzalez, James G. Rodriguez, Mike Laster, Larry V. Green, Stephen C. Costello, Andrew C. Burks, Jr., Melissa Noriega, C. O. "Brad" Bradford and Jack Christie, D.C.; Mr. David Feldman, City Attorney; Ms. Marta Crinejo, Agenda Director, present.

At 8:21 a.m. the City Secretary read the descriptions or captions of items on the Agenda.

At 9:04 a.m. Mayor Parker called the meeting to order and recognized Mr. Ronald Green, City Controller, and Mr. Kelley Dowe, Director, Department of Finance, for the Monthly Operations and Finance Report. Council Members Brown, Adams and Hoang absent.

9:00 A.M. - REPORT FROM CITY CONTROLLER AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CITY including but not limited to, a revenue, expenditure and encumbrance report for the General Fund, all special revenue funds and all enterprise funds, and a report on the status of bond funds – was presented. Council Members Adams, Brown and Hoang absent.

Mr. Green and Mr. Dowe reviewed the Monthly Operations and Finance Report, a copy of which is on file in the City Secretary's Office for review. Council Member Adams absent.

Upon questions by Council Members, Mayor Parker stated that it was certainly their goal to maintain the number of firefighters, that they were, as they knew, working with the opportunity to bring in more lateral entry transfers of firefighters and they believed that would help them close the gap, but she could make sure that Council Members had a more complete briefing from the Fire Chief. Council Member Adams absent.

After further questions by Council Members, Mayor Parker stated that if they turned to Page 53 that was where they would see the Municipal Courts and the trends, that she wanted to make sure everybody knew where to find things in the book.

After further questions by Council Members, Mayor Parker stated that Mr. Dowe projected the sale of property, they control the sale of property and anticipated the sale of property but last year there was a large piece of property that did not sell, rightly so the Controller never indicated a sale of property until they actually get the check in hand, so often that was the biggest cap, it was to show them what they hoped and what they had actually done; that they do not do any votes on the differences, expect during the budget presentation, in May they did their economic forecast for what they thought the revenue was, and the Controller, just as he did on a monthly basis, also made a revenue forecast and the Council Members would weigh the two and may decide that they needed to cut more spending, for example, because the Controller invariably would come in below the administration. Council Members Rodriguez and Noriega absent.

After further discussion by Council Members, Council Member Costello moved to accept the Monthly Operations and Finance Report, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Rodriguez and Noriega absent. MOTION 2012-0025 ADOPTED.

Mayor Parker stated that they would move to the consent agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT

CONSENT AGENDA NUMBERS 1 through 24

ACCEPT WORK - NUMBER 1

1. RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Public Works & Engineering for approval of final contract amount of \$9,133,090.91 and acceptance of work on contract with **JFT CONSTRUCTION, INC** for Hillcroft Avenue Reconstruction from Bellaire Boulevard to Southwest Freeway - 1.56% over the original contract amount - **DISTRICT J - LASTER** – was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0026 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES - NUMBERS 3 through 24

3. ORDINANCE allocating \$975,000.00 as a Cash Match; approving and authorizing the submission of a grant application to the **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT** for the Lead-Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program; declaring the City's eligibility for such grant; authorizing the Director of the Health and Human Services Department to act as the City's representative in the application process; authorizing the Director of Health & Human Services Department to accept the grant and expend the grant funds, if awarded, and to apply for and accept all subsequent awards, if any, pertaining to the grant – had not been received, and the City Secretary announced it would be considered at the end of the Agenda if received during the meeting.
8. Omitted
9. Omitted
11. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,148,150.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **CP&Y, INC** for Lift Station Abandonment and Flow Diversion; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT B - DAVIS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-018 ADOPTED.
12. ORDINANCE appropriating \$690,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **OMEGA ENGINEERS, INC** for Negotiated Work Orders for Wastewater System / Substitute Service Support; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-019 ADOPTED.
13. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,257,754.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services

Contract between the City of Houston and **CHARLES D. GOODEN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC** for Water Line Replacement in Braeburn Terrace Area and Water Line Replacement in Sharpstown Area; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICTS C - COHEN and F - HOANG** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-020 ADOPTED.

14. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,130,800.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **ESPA CORP, INC** for Water Line Replacement in Gessner Area and Water Line Replacement in Sharpstown Country Club Estates Area; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT J - LASTER** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-021 ADOPTED.
15. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,141,300.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **KALLURI GROUP, INC** for Engineering services associated with the Plant 1 & 2 Intertie Switchgear and Motor Control Center Replacement at East Water Purification Plant; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT E - SULLIVAN** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-022 ADOPTED.
16. ORDINANCE appropriating \$1,342,100.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund and approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **MONTGOMERY & BARNES, INC** for Water Line Replacement in Sherwood Forest Area and Water Line Replacement in Kickerillo Area; providing funding for CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT G - PENNINGTON** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-023 ADOPTED.
17. ORDINANCE appropriating \$3,306,300.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding contract to **METRO CITY CONSTRUCTION, L.P.** for Water Line Replacement in Kingspoint Area; setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering, testing, CIP Cost Recovery, and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-024 ADOPTED.
19. ORDINANCE appropriating \$2,190,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding contract to **REYTEC CONSTRUCTION RESOURCES, INC** for Rehabilitation to Large Diameter Water Lines, Valves and Appurtenances, Package No. 10; setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering testing, and CIP Cost Recovery relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-025 ADOPTED.
20. ORDINANCE granting to **JAT INTERESTS, LLC, A Texas Limited Liability Corporation d/b/a ABC VACUUM SERVICES**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and

transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions - **FIRST READING** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-026 PASSED FIRST READING IN FULL.

21. ORDINANCE granting to **CHING YI LO d/b/a A. URANU SERVICE, A Texas Sole Proprietorship**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions **FIRST READING**– was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2012-027 PASSED FIRST READING IN FULL.
22. ORDINANCE No. 2011-1198, passed second reading January 4, 2012
ORDINANCE granting to **EXPRESS DUMPSTER INC, A Texas Corporation**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions - **THIRD AND FINAL READING** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2011-1198 ADOPTED THIRD AND FINAL READING IN FULL.
23. ORDINANCE No. 2011-1199, passed second reading January 4, 2012
ORDINANCE granting to **GARNER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC, A Texas Corporation**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions - **THIRD AND FINAL READING** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2011-1199 ADOPTED THIRD AND FINAL READING IN FULL.
24. ORDINANCE No. 2011-1200, passed second reading January 4, 2012
ORDINANCE granting to **COVENANT WASTE SERVICES, LLC, A Texas Limited Liability Corporation**, the right, privilege and franchise to collect, haul and transport solid waste and industrial waste from commercial properties located within the City of Houston, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 39, Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas; providing for related terms and conditions **THIRD AND FINAL READING** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. ORDINANCE 2011-1200 ADOPTED THIRD AND FINAL READING IN FULL.

MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOWS:

PURCHASING AND TABULATION OF BIDS

2. **AZTECA SYSTEMS, INC** for Software Maintenance and Support Services Agreement for the Infrastructure Management System for the Department of Public Works & Engineering - 1 Year \$161,295.00 - Enterprise and Stormwater Funds – was presented, moved by Council Member Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. MOTION 2012-0027 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES

4. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Interlocal Agreement between the City of Houston and **HOUSTON PARKS BOARD** for the provision and acceptance of local matching funds for the construction of the Sims Bayou Recreational Plan Project - **DISTRICTS D - ADAMS; I - RODRIGUEZ and K - GREEN** – was presented. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-028 ADOPTED.

5. ORDINANCE appropriating \$317,800.00 out of Contribution for Capital Projects Fund and \$304,000.00 out of Metro Construction Projects Fund; approving and authorizing Project Partnership Agreement between the City of Houston and the **UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS** for the construction of the Sims Bayou Recreation Plan Project - **DISTRICTS D - ADAMS; I - RODRIGUEZ and K – GREEN** – was presented.

After discussion by Council Members, a vote was called on Item No. 5. Council Member Brown voting no, balance voting aye. ORDINANCE 2012-0029 ADOPTED.

6. ORDINANCE authorizing Maintenance Agreement and the dedication to the public of a recreational easement out of fee-owned land, for the extension of the Terry Hershey Hike and Bike Trail, in the Joel Wheaton Survey, A-828, Harris County, Texas; authorizing a dedication instrument - **DISTRICT A – BROWN** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Davis and Hoang absent. ORDINANCE 2012-030 ADOPTED.
7. ORDINANCE authorizing sale of a 8,840-square-foot tract of land to McGinnis Cadillac, Inc, abutting owner, out of a fee-owned 5.7-acre tract in Sherwood Estates Section 2, E. Williams Survey, A-834, Harris County, Texas, in consideration of payment to the City of \$41,990.00 and other consideration - **DISTRICT A - BROWN** – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Davis and Hoang absent. ORDINANCE 2012-031 ADOPTED.
10. ORDINANCE approving and authorizing Professional Engineering Services Contract between the City of Houston and **ESPEY CONSULTANTS, INC d/b/a RPS ESPEY** for Water Resources Management - \$300,000.00 - Enterprise Fund – was presented. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Members Davis and Hoang absent. ORDINANCE 2012-032 ADOPTED.
18. ORDINANCE appropriating \$7,117,000.00 out of Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund, awarding contract to **ALSAY INCORPORATED** for Rehabilitation of existing water wells; setting a deadline for the bidder's execution of the contract and delivery of all bonds, insurance, and other required contract documents to the City; holding the bidder in default if it fails to meet the deadlines; providing funding for engineering testing, CIP Cost Recovery, construction management and contingencies relating to construction of facilities financed by the Water & Sewer System Consolidated Construction Fund - **DISTRICT D - ADAMS** – was presented, and tagged by Council Member Brown. Council Member Hoang absent.

NON CONSENT AGENDA - NUMBER 25

MISCELLANEOUS

25. **MOTION TO SET A DATE** not less than seven days from January 11, 2012, to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Two Alternate At-Large Positions of the **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, for one year terms to expire December 31, 2012 – was presented. Council Member Hoang absent.

Council Member Gonzalez moved to set Wednesday, January 18, 2012, to receive nominations for Positions One, Two and Two Alternate At-Large Positions of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors, seconded by Council Member Bradford. All voting aye. Nays none. Council Member Hoang absent. MOTION 2012-0028 ADOPTED.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Laster stated that this past Monday the City was blessed with an

abundance of rain, which was a timely reminder of the City's ability to flood quickly leaving people stranded across the City and he wanted to commend their traditional first responders, Police and Fire personnel, who responded and acted so well towards those citizens and persons across the City, but also wanted to commend some new unsung heroes, some Public Works employees, who he understood, deployed at least 5 dump trucks and helped relocate over 600 people across the City, that they did a great job and he wanted to commend them and all of the City employees and volunteers across the City that helped in those instances; that he wanted to wish all of the Council Members a very safe and happy MLK weekend. Council Members Adams, Rodriguez and Bradford absent.

Council Member Costello stated that this morning he represented the Mayor and the City of Houston in joining the Houston Food Bank and the Houston Texans in kicking off the largest community food drive, that Super Bowl of Caring started off with a group of young people collecting dollars in soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday and giving it all away to charity, a selfless act that spread across the Country and resulted in more than \$81 million in food items for hunger relief charities since it started in 1990; that he wanted to remind his colleagues that they were going to start their core services assessment this week, Tuesday, at 9:00 a.m. at the Mayor's basement conference room, the first two departments would be Parks and Libraries, that he would urge his colleagues to participate and looked forward to his colleagues joining them. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Sullivan stated that he did not attend the BFA meeting this week, but had something that he remembered from last year and asked if a Council Member attended the Council Member could sit at the table and ask questions, that it was nearly impossible for all Council Members to attend each one of those, that as he remembered last year their staff members could not sit at the table, they had to sit against the wall and their staff members were then not given an opportunity to ask questions on the Council Member's behalf, that he thought that cheated them a little bit about participation, that they sat at Council during the week on Council Committee meetings and ask questions, that was a positive constructive comment, that if he could not be there it did not mean he did not have an interest, but he certainly expected his staff to ask questions on his behalf. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Costello stated that in due respect to the department directors he felt that they needed to follow that same procedure but they would welcome, he and Council Member Bradford or any other Council Member, to take questions from other Council Members staff on their behalf during the meeting. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Sullivan further stated that when Chief McClelland was hit with not having enough fuel in his helicopters to keep them up they ranted and raved on the phone and Chief McClelland stated that he told them at the core assessments meeting that if they did not give him more money this was what would happen, that he thought that Council Members Costello, Bradford and himself were there, so two or three of them heard it first hand, no one else heard it and no one else knew what to expect, and Council Member Costello stated that he thought that was one of the reasons they were asking the department heads to tell them what the ramifications were of some of the issues that they were faced with to help them through those; and Council Member Sullivan further stated that he wanted to thank Officer Thomas Fendia, Northeast Sub Station and Senior Police Officer Melanie Sobanos, Eastside Sub Station who allowed Kelly Waterman from his office do a ride along during the Christmas Holidays and Allie Van Deventer rode out of the Clear Lake Sub Station with HPD Officer Renato, that last week he had a chance to ride in an HPD proto type vehicle that was being evaluated, that HPD was looking at a number of vehicles to replace the Crown Victoria. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that Mayor Parker had stated often the need of the City to perhaps get out of the jail business and he wanted to go on record as being supportive of

that, that he felt strongly about the establishment of a detox center, that he thought other cities had used the model very effectively and thought it would save the City money and be a tremendous opportunity for them, that every year in the City of Houston they arrested 19,000 people for being intoxicated, it did not mean they were driving while intoxicated, just being intoxicated, and all they did was arrest them and he thought it would be much more effective if they basically let them sleep it off, that they would save money in personnel and not having to feed them meals while under City care, also it provided a point of intervention where they could give them important information on recovery services that were out in the community that were funded privately; that he wanted to thank the East Sunset Heights Association for coming out in full force last night and he wanted to thank Mayor Parker for being in attendance as well, that he wanted to thank the City staff that was present and his staff as well for being in attendance; that he wanted to congratulate the Houston Texans on their tremendous victory over the Bengals, it was their first playoff game in franchise history; that Sunday would mark the first BARC and SNAP Spay and Neuter event for zip codes 77011 and 77023 in District H at Ripley House located at 4410 Navigation. Council Members Sullivan, Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she was glad that Council Member Gonzalez brought up the detox center, that they knew she talked about it during her inaugural speech by getting out of the jail business, but Council Member Gonzalez was the one who raised the idea of a sobering or detox center with her in the last term, that they were making great progress and thought they would be able to have some announcements soon, and Council Member Gonzalez could take a great deal of credit for pushing that and staying with it, that they had been considering a couple of different locations and a couple of different non profit partners, that she looked forward to rolling that out; that she was going to say at the press conference after Council that Friday was going to be support the Texans Day and encouraged all Houstonians to wear their Texans gear. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that they were distributing a memo, and something that she was also going to talk about at her press availability after Council having to do with mandatory water restrictions, that obviously each Council Member had particular passions and she would mention one of Council Member Gonzalez's, the conditions at the jail and the detox or sobering center, that Council Member Sullivan had a particular interest in water issues and now that they had some rain and before they got back into what may be a continuing drought cycle he had volunteered to work on an update of their Water Conservation Drought Restrictions Ordinance, which frankly was a little bit difficult to implement and she appreciated Council Member Sullivan's willingness to take on that task, but was looking forward to discussing the current water conditions in the City and there was a memo in front of them. Council Members Sullivan, Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Noriega stated that on Saturday, January 14, 2012 the USA Track and Field and the Houston Marathon Committee would host the Men's and Women's Olympic Trials Marathon, first time ever, on the same day and the same site, they wanted to thank the USA Track and Field and Houston Marathon Committees for bringing this historic event to Houston; that on Sunday, January 15, 2012 the Houston Marathon Committee would present the 40th Annual Chevron Marathon, Aramco Half Marathon and the El Paso Corporation 5K. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that she wanted to remind Houstonians that it did have a traffic impact so everybody needed to plan their route on Saturday and Sunday. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Adams stated that she wanted to say bon voyage to Minnie, who used to work with Planned Parenthood and was going to NYC, New York City, held at the Hear Say Lounge, that she took a national position at Planned Parenthood; that last Friday she shared with US Vets a donation of 21,000 t-shirts from the US Customs and Border Protection, that the

t-shirts would go to the Coalition for the Homeless; that the count was coming up and she would encourage her colleagues, if they would like to see exactly where the homeless sleep they could go to the Coalition of the Homeless Website to see how they could volunteer to do the count; that this past week Houston experienced 4 to 7 inches of rain and within District D it caused several school closures and the Palms Apartments were affected as well, that she had to give a big thank you to HUD, Dr. Prinkle and Mr. Richardson for being at their beg and call for going to the center and making sure the families were being placed so they could have a safe and dry place to live, that she wanted to thank the Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi for being on call to become a Red Cross Shelter; that she wanted to thank Mohammed Sabzevari and Ben Banzio from Public Works and Engineering for continuing to work with the McGregor Community on the Bikeway Bridge and Trail Project and attending a meeting and to thank her staff for attending that meeting; that she wanted to commend Public Works and the administration for seeing to the needs of the constituents, that she had a deep concern, people always blame the City of Houston for a lot of things they did, but they also had to commend them for a lot of things that they did right, that the City of Houston made sure they maintained the gulley they owned for the flooding, but she did know what communication they needed to get all of the partners involved, that people were blaming Metro and the City of Houston, but they came to find out there was a big pipe that was owned by the rail company that had been non maintained for a very long time and it collapsed, so this was what caused the backup for the water to flood out the Palms Apartments and MacGregor area, what accountability did they have for other organizations to maintain their part, that she looked forward to working with the railroad and see what they could do to fix the problem. Council Members Hoang, Rodriguez and Burks absent.

Council Member Pennington stated that he wanted to add his note of the Olympic Trials on January 14, 2012, that he wanted to congratulate the Houston Marathon Committee and all the volunteers and local sponsors; that his recollection of the core services was that last year the different department heads had a proposed budget and said they needed the dollars that they were proposing in order to run the departments, which may be true, but what they may be faced with was cutting some of those amounts and it would be useful if the directors could make recommendations of how they would, 5% or 10%, to give their idea of what they thought were the most important services; that he noted in the newspaper today that the County was proceeding with a new crime lab, that he did not know if it was possible to work something out with the County but it looked to him like it was an opportunity to locate in the Medical Center where there were tremendous resources for investigation of the very complex issues, that he hoped they were doing what they could do to participate with that; that he attended the Greater Houston Builders Association Annual Forecast Luncheon yesterday, that Dr. Mark Doerer, Chief Economist in the Real Estate Center at A&M was a featured speaker, and he said there was a lot of cash being accumulated by corporations and there out to be more growth than there was but because of the uncertainties, both economic and political, that the money was not being spent, but thought that Texas was ahead of the curb than other parts of the Nation, and Houston was ahead of the other parts of Texas; that he wanted to note the victory of the Houston Texans, they had overcome diversity with the injuries and had shown great spirit and were an inspiration to them all. Council Members Hoang, Rodriguez and Bradford absent.

Council Member Green announced the following events: Greater Saint Mathew Missionary Baptist Church would be hosting a college day and job fair event, Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Workforce Solutions Astrodome, 9321 Stella Link; a strategy meeting with Willow Meadows, Willow Bend and Westwood Communities tonight at the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4930 West Belfort, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; a strategic type meeting tomorrow with the Fort Bend Community at the Briargate Club House, 7002 Laughlin Drive, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; the Black Heritage Society 34th Annual MLK Parade on Monday, January 16, 2012; the following hiring events, Labor Ready at the Workforce Solutions Office at Hobby Airport, 8231 Broadway, Hilton Hotels, Workforce Solutions Office, East End location, 5104 Harrisburg, Homeland Safety and Manpower Safety, Workforce Solutions Northline location, Workforce

Solutions, Southwest Office, Stevens Transport would be hiring; that he wanted to congratulate the Texans and wish them well; that he would not be at Council next week, he would be attending the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Workforce Development meeting representing the City. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Mayor Parker stated that Council Member Green gave out a lot of information and asked if that was available at a website, and Council Member Green stated that he would post it on the website or they could contract his Council office. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Davis stated that yesterday they had an unfortunate incident in District B at North Forest High School and wanted to thank Superintendent Edna Forte and Board Member Doctor Williams for their efforts in trying to get the school district back in the right direction, that he wanted to remind the families that it took a holistic approach, not just the school, they had to come together to make it a better situation in the North Forest Independent School District; that the District B office would be participating in the Habitat for Humanity MLK Service Day in the Fifth Ward on Lyons Avenue and the MLK Parade with other Council Members; that he wanted to thank Ms. Caldwell and the Legacy Community Health Center on Lyons for providing not only HIV Testing and STD Screenings, but also family planning, social service counseling and vaccinations, that he would encourage the constituents and neighbors of District B and the community of Fifth Ward to go out and use that facility; that today was his second day of recognition of William Paul Thomas with his bow tie, that he wanted to thank him for all his work in helping him transition in to the office of District B; that as to the name "the magnificent seven", with all due respect to the statement that was made earlier, yes, he was a part of that, there were seven new Council Members, but they were individuals and they spoke as individuals. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Cohen stated that she was going to mention the various runs this weekend largely because she thought that on Saturday and Sunday both of them would at some point close off Allen Parkway, which was in her district and she did not want to take full responsibility for all of the people that were going to be annoyed, that it was just in the morning; that on Saturday, January 21, 2012, the Memorial Park Conservancy, CenterPoint Energy and Houston Marathon Foundation would plant 40 trees in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Houston Marathon, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Christi stated that he had missed No. 7 and stated that there were some homeowners near the sale of the 8,800 square foot tract, Sherwood Estates, that to him and District A they objected to it, but they were going to spend some time trying to convince them that it was a win win situation, and would exhort the Council and Mayor's office that as to the remaining 5 acres to maybe help them get a park there, and Mayor Parker stated that it was noted. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Burks stated that he wanted everyone to go to their computers and vote for Houston as the Tastiest Town in the South at Southern Living Magazine, the winners would be announced in April; that he wanted to recognize Martin Luther King's Birthday on Monday, that he and some fellow Council Members would be participating in the MLK Day Parade; that this was his second City Council meeting and he was enjoying it tremendously, it was getting better and better. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Bradford stated that the Harris County governing body had announced they were moving forward with a new forensic center, the Institute of Forensic Sciences, they knew that HPD did in fact have a backlog of evidence awaiting examination and there were currently several MOUs, Mutual Aid Agreements and other arrangements between City and County agencies, the County had announced that the land for the new Forensic Center, or in

short crime lab, had been acquired, that the crime lab issue, whether they were going to have an independent one in the City or whether they were going to join the County in a regional based crime lab was a very significant policy decision and it was his view that the local policy making body should be engaged in that decision, that to the extent that they could consolidate regionalized efforts they had a duty and obligation to do that, so he would strongly urge the administration to allow the Council as a body to engage in the discussion of pros and cons, that they should do what they could to insure that they did not have two crime labs in Houston, Harris County, Texas. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Sullivan stated that USA Today, January 2, 2003, "Pity Poor Houston Dubbed the Fattest City in the Country for the Third Year in a Row by Men's Fittest Magazine", so be careful on the Southern Living deal, they could get back on the list without even realizing it; that there were plenty of official Texans t-shirts at the HEB on Kingwood Drive at West Lake Houston Parkway; that he was out when Mayor Parker mentioned the water conservation issue, he appreciated that and was committed to that and wanted to thank her publicly for allowing him the chance to continue to work on some water issues. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that he mentioned the East Sunset Heights Association meeting last night, and was important to note that during the extensive meeting they had they did not have any frustrations or any negative comments about the Solid Waste Department, that Director Harry Hayes and Assistant Director Wright were present and after the meeting they were approached by several customers who related their appreciation and support of their "garbage man" and the great service they received on a weekly basis, that he wanted to commend the Solid Waste Department and the hard working men and women that served the City daily, especially the Buchanan Center Employees for a job well done. Council Members Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Noriega stated for any METRO bus riders, if they rode the 48 Navigation, 49 Chimney Rock or 30 Clinton routes, METRO was going to have meetings to talk about what they were going to do about those routes, the 48 Navigation meeting would be on January 11, 2012, at Holland Middle School Cafeteria, 1600 Gallhorn, the 49 Chimney Rock meeting would be on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at Westbury High School Lecture Hall, 11911 Chimney Rock and the 30 Clinton meeting would be Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at the Ellis Memorial Church of God In Christ Fellowship Hall, 412 Massachusetts Street, that in the past at the Council table she had been critical of Metro, that she was finding the new METRO much easier to work with and much more responsive and much more willing to listen to citizens; that there had been several comments about the crime lab and she wanted to mention that there were two levels of issues, one the resources and whether there was the money to have what they needed to do, and there was also a issue of justice, that when she had been out in the neighborhood what they talked about with an independent crime lab meant independent of influence by the police or independent of influence by the District Attorney's office and one of those entities belonged to the City and one to the County and she thought the fear was if the decisions about evidence were about wins, having either of those influences have some kind of extra ability to influence what went on they were concerned about it, independent was about governance, independent crime lab meant that they were free from either of those groups swaying any decisions, that she would point out that whoever ended up doing the work the independence issue was about the governance, it was an important piece of this as well and needed to be considered. Council Members Sullivan, Hoang, Gonzalez and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Adams stated that last week there was a lot of discussion about HPD and things they did wrong, but she wanted to highlight some of the things HPD had been doing, that Mayor Parker had a press conference with Chief McClelland and announced the dramatic drop in Houston's murder rate to a level not seen since 1965, that it plunged 26.4% to 198 murders for 2011, that an 8% decrease, preliminary figures, also showed that the City's overall violent

crime rate, which included murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault declined 7% through November 2011, that the decline in the murder rate was a part of the team effort, not only HPD but the Houston Fire Department, paramedics and emergency medical technicians; that she wanted to thank Mayor Parker for her committee assignment as Chair, and Council Member Laster as Vice Chair, that she thought they were going to work well together, that the Housing Sustainable Growth and Development Committee would review the administration and regulatory affairs of Solid Waste Management, Housing and Community Development and Planning and Development Departments, Homeless Initiatives, Veterans Affairs and items related to both domestic and international and economic development, that she wanted to encourage the Council Members, in order to receive information they had to be available and present at the committees, if they had a staff member to represent them she asked that those staff members take good notes so when they had dialog at the committee meetings they would be able to go longer and sometime they chose Council meetings to go into deep dialog to repeat something that had already been said, but they had the right to discuss it at Council; that to MacGregor Trails Community, they would be coming out to their area to discuss the flooding that occurred this week, to call their office for the date. Council Members Sullivan, Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

Council Member Burks stated that he wanted to remind everybody that April was the judging for the Tastiest Town in the South. Council Members Sullivan, Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

There being no further business before Council, the City Council adjourned at 11:06 a.m. Council Members Sullivan, Hoang and Rodriguez absent.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY.

MINUTES READ AND APPROVED

/S/Anna Russell

Anna Russell, City Secretary