

**CITY OF INGLESIDE ON THE BAY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 16, 2014**

- I. City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gillespie at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Alderman Ehmann gave the invocation.
- III. Mayor Gillespie led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call: Present were: Mayor Gillespie, Alderman Tucker, Merrick, Ehmann, Robbins and Gillespie.

- V. Minutes of Previous City Council Meeting of November 19, 2014 were approved as written.

- VI. Treasurer Report was given.

- VII. Citizen Participation
Ann Hubby handed out letters from her children stating they were against the variance request for 609 Huisache. She went on to state she is not happy with the request that was submitted. She felt codes were made to be followed, and that the city is not following the codes. She also felt emergency vehicles would have problems. She sees no reason to grant the request; there is enough room to build to the ordinance. Metal buildings are being built on lots without houses; we do not need any more eyesores in the city. She wished Council a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- VIII. Reports from Standing Committees

Item A: Planning & Zoning reported the variance requests were reviewed and the committee recommends approving both. They also are reviewing the permitting process.

Item B: Parks & Recreation reported the parade will be on Saturday, Dec 20th at 5 pm

Item C: VFD announced they would be at the head of the parade.

- IX. **New Business:** Discussion and Possible Action

Item A: Approve/Disapprove Variance request from Roland Garcia for Block 123 Lot 11, 609 Huisache Lane
Alderman Gillespie asked why the building inspector did not recommend the request and will the city be responsible for opening the alley? Mayor Gillespie stated the building inspector did not recommend approval only because it went against the ordinance and the city would be responsible to clear the alley. Roland Garcia stated the alley is currently encroaching on his property and he is asking for a 5 foot side set back instead of the 10 foot as required by ordinance. The property will be raised and cleared; he will clear the alley in the process of clearing the lot.
Mayor Gillespie asked the P&Z members what the vote was at their meeting. Idana Merrick responded the vote was: two abstained, one no and two yes. Idana Merrick and Mike Irwin both agreed that P&Z agreed to recommend approval of the request to Council.
Anne Carleton stated she had no problem with the request.

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Wayne Jewell stated the P&Z meeting had a lot of confusion and decided to pass the request on to Council and let Council decide.

Roland Garcia stated he had the impression from P&Z that they were recommending approval of the request. He felt that the committee is appointed by Council, they work for the betterment of the city. The abstention votes should have made a decision, instead of worrying about setting precedence. The house will not be an eyesore. He has a right to ask for the variance to make easier access to the rear of the property. The alley will not be used as a driveway.

Ann Hubby stated the property had the street for driveway access. Mayor Gillespie clarified that the drive way will be on the other side of the property, not next to the alley.

Rob Douglas stated he was not sure about the variance; he would build to fit on the property. It is not a good policy to grant variances.

Alderman Tucker asked if side set-backs would be set in stone and will the city not give on any requests. Neighboring cities have five foot or less side set-backs.

Mayor Gillespie stated each request needs to be looked at individually to determine the necessity. This particular request will be no problem for fire responders.

Alderman Merrick agreed that the request will not affect fire-fighting. Alderman Ehmman stated she saw no problems because of the alley. She clarified that the set-back would be five feet from the property line to the overhang of the building.

Alderman Robbins objected to the request because it seems everyone who is building wants a variance.

Alderman Gillespie stated this decision should not be based on past or possible future decisions. The fire truck can get in; he sees no problem with the request.

Alderman Gillespie made the motion to approve the Variance request from Roland Garcia for Block 123 Lot 11, 609 Huisache Lane. Alderman Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed with Aldermen Tucker, Merrick, Ehmman and Gillespie voting in favor. Alderman Robbins voted against the motion.

Item B: Approve/Disapprove Variance request from Jeff Johnson for Block 122 Lot 20, 601 Seagull Lane

Edie Bishop, representative for Jeff Johnson, stated the present porch was damaged in in disrepair; the owner would like to replace the present structure with a larger one. Wayne Jewell stated there is plenty of parking in front and back of the property. Idana Merrick stated P&Z recommends approving the request. Alderman Ehmman clarified that the ordinance covered stairs and balconies for the side set-backs; it did not state anything for front set-backs. Rhoda Poenisch stated she felt the request was a small thing, no neighbors will be affected, and the property is on the corner of Live Oak and Seagull across from the city's property and OxyChem.

Alderman Ehmman made the motion to approve the Variance request from Jeff Johnson for Block 122 Lot 20, 601 Seagull Lane. Alderman Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Mayor Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted & attested:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane Hosea", written over a horizontal line.

Diane Hosea
City Secretary

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard Gillespie", written over a horizontal line.

Howard Gillespie
Mayor