

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 27, 2021 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jason Tabor.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Jason Tabor
Mayor Pro-tem Bill Pittman
Councilmember IV Hoke
Councilmember Jason O'Brien
Councilmember Melanie Collins
Councilmember Fidencio Leija, arrived at 7:05 p.m.

The invocation was given by Pastor John Elliott of Gulf Coast Foursquare Church. The pledge of allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Councilmember Collins.

Mayor's and City Manager's Report: City Manager Glen Adams provided an update on the Trails of Santa Fe and the livable centers concept through HGAC

Planning and Zoning Business: None

City Business (Other):

Old Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Update on Mae S. Bruce park amenities from Keep Santa Fe Beautiful and acceptance of site improvements and maintenance responsibilities

Community Services Director Stacey Baker said Keep Santa Fe Beautiful is turning over approximately \$250,000 worth of site improvements along with maintenance responsibility of those improvements at the Mae S. Bruce park to the city. She said they would still like to pursue bollards and lighting for the park. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to accept the Mae S. Bruce park site improvements and maintenance responsibilities from Keep Santa Fe Beautiful. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Second and final reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Chapter 5, Fire Protection, Section 3, Fireworks, authorizing the use of fireworks at certain times; repealing certain provisions inconsistent with state law; providing for repealer, cumulative and severability clauses; and establishing an effective date

Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine said his years of experience and credentials have been called into question, and he said 30 days is too short of a time period to educate the public and to evaluate the effects of the change to these regulations so he is recommending we not change the ordinance to allow fireworks. Councilmember Pittman said this was just going to be a trial to see if the citizens could responsibly, safely, and timely discharge fireworks, so we either need to regulate it or enforce the prohibition. City Manager Glen Adams said the citizens will either overwhelm the front desk with permit requests or they won't bother to get one for a 30-day period opting rather to wait and see if there will be a year-long authorization option. Councilmember Lieja expressed his opposition to fireworks, stating

they are a safety issue and a burden on first responders. Councilmember Pittman said either permit staff or police will be overwhelmed with either way we go. Mr. Adams recommended tabling this item to January 1, and then run the sunset provision for one year. He said this would allow staff more time to educate the public. Mr. Bobby Wright of 4410 Avenue R asked Council to table this item to further discuss a workable solution regarding fireworks in the city. Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Tommy Anderson said he does not like fireworks but in favor of the enforcement aspect proposed by the fire marshal whereby the property owner where the fireworks activity occurs can be cited for violation of regulations. Councilmember Pittman said the permit would not be for the purpose of generating revenue but rather to have a record of where fireworks will be discharged. Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to dismiss the second reading of the amended fireworks ordinance. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Collins to amend the motion to table action on this item until a workshop in July. The amendment to the motion passed the roll call vote four to one with Councilmember Leija as the dissenting vote. The amended motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing the Mayor to execute the Master Equity Lease Agreement and related documents with Enterprise Fleet Management Trust for leasing fleet vehicles for city operations

Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to table this item for further discussion at a workshop. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing City Manager to create an additional Building Inspector position and authorizing funding for this new position

Community Services Director Stacey Baker provided additional permit information, as requested, including permit and development fees already collected, increased number of inspections, and comptime already accrued by our two inspectors. She said we have exceeded our revenue projections for this entire year and we average 75 to 100 phone calls a day. City Manager Glen Adams concurred that we are at a breaking point in this department. Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember Hoke to authorize the City Manager to create an additional Building Inspector position and to authorize funding for the position. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Consideration and possible action: Authorization to join the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP)

Councilmember Leija said an Economic Development board member recommended we reach out to BAHEP and join in the partnership opportunities they have to offer. Mr. Bob Mitchell, President of BAHEP introduced Dan Seal who further explained BAHEP's return on investment to cities and how they can help extend the city's reach to create new capabilities and relationships to bring the right kind of growth to our community. Mr. Seal said BAHEP recruits primary employers to the region and then indirect retail jobs usually follow. He said BAHEP helps prospective companies by providing the attributes of community partner members, and he provided a couple of examples of work they have done, specifically the Houston Space Port at Ellington Field, Pinnacle Park in League City, Baybrook Mall expansion, and a Nassau Bay redevelopment. City Manager Glen Adams said we need partnerships between the city, SFEDC, Chamber of Commerce, and BAHEP to develop an economic development strategic plan for the city and then BAHEP can help market Santa Fe so it can grow the way we want it to grow. Mayor Tabor said he supports the work BAHEP does and encouraged Council to get involved and benefit from BAHEP's resources. He said the annual cost of membership is \$7,609. Councilmember Pittman said he is concerned about mid-year budget allocations and recommended we wait until our summer budget workshops to discuss and allocate funds for membership. Councilmember Leija said we can discuss the funding allocation

between the SFEDC and the City. Council discussed membership and a pro-rata share of the investment fee through September 30, 2021, to align with our current budget year. Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to authorize the city to join the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP). The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Appointment/reappointment of members to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a three-year term to expire May, 2024

Community Services Director Stacey Baker said the term of Planning and Zoning Commissioners Wanda Wagner and Patsy Cook are expiring and neither member wants to continue to serve on this board. She said we have received applications from five members of the community who would like to serve on the board. Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember Hoke to appoint Wyndee Wagner-McGee and Ashley Gutierrez as members to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a three-year term to expire May, 2024. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing Mayor to execute an Agreement with the Galveston County Health District for continued existence of the District under the direction and supervision of a restructured Galveston County United Board of Health

City Manager Glen Adams said the Galveston County Health District is restructuring the board from thirteen members to five along with a change in the professional qualifications for members to serve on this board. Motion by Councilmember Hoke, seconded by Councilmember Leija to authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement with the Galveston County Health District for continued existence of the District under the direction and supervision of a restructured Galveston County United Board of Health. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action: Authorization to join the Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership (BayTran) to support transportation and mobility infrastructure investments

Mayor Tabor said we have been invited to join Bayran for a \$2,500 membership fee. City Manager Glen Adams recommended we consider this during our upcoming budget cycle. Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember Collins to table this item until it can be presented by BayTran during our budget workshops. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Discussion of property tax exemptions for the 2021/22 fiscal year and adoption of a resolution adopting certain property tax exemptions pursuant to Section 11.13 and Section 11.261 of the Texas Property Tax Code

City Manager Glen Adams said the city currently offers a \$15,000 exemption to taxpayers over the age of 65 or disabled along with the tax freeze for those same individuals. He said our property tax revenue is already really thin and we are too tight to offer additional exemptions considering the current inflation rate. Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to adopt the resolution adopting certain property tax exemptions pursuant to Section 11.13 and Section 11.261 of the Texas Property Tax Code. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements: Monday is Memorial Day to commemorate those who died during combat.

Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings

Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

JASON TABOR, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary