

**CITY OF SANTA FE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 11, 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 Fidencio Leija

The invocation was given by Pastor Greg Lackey of the Santa Fe Christian Church. The pledge of allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by the Cub Scouts.

**Mayor's and City Manager's Report:**

- a. The minutes of 2/11/2021 and 3/4/2021 were approved as presented.
- b. Presentation of departmental reports by staff, specifically a recap of the activities performed during the previous month and a report of upcoming activities, events, and projects on the horizon
  - 1) Community Services – building permits issued, fees collected, inspections performed, subdivision replats, online permitting system, and introduction of new inspector, Shelby Araujo
  - 2) Parks and Community Center – winterized city facilities; a/c unit installation at community center
  - 3) Municipal Court – cases filed, revenue collected, warrants issued and cleared, citations and warnings issued, cases disposed, and virtual court hearings through April with back to in-person court hearings beginning in May
  - 4) Police – calls for service statistics, traffic crash analysis, use of force incidents, arrests, citations, and report statistics, shift alignments, and average response time of 4.38 minutes
  - 5) Fire Marshal – fire incidents following winter freeze; burn ban in effect
  - 6) Library – circulation material statistics, door counts, and accreditation reporting certified
  - 7) Street – drainage projects and street maintenance and improvement activities
- c. Mayor Tabor presented Certificates of Recognition to those that provided volunteer services to the community during the aftermath of the winter storm by providing food, water, and services to those in need. Certificates were presented to members of Operation Honor Our Local Veterans, Andrew Steiner of Kat;s BBQ, WCID #8 employees, Clay Pope, Pentecostals of Santa Fe, Jackie Maness, Jr. of Environmental Services, Marty Haley of the City of Santa Fe, Robert Barnes, Juan Perez, and Joleen Cogburn of Boyd's Seafood.
- d. City Secretary Janet Davis presented the December, 2020, quarterly investment report with financial assets valuing \$2,390,979.

Citizens' Comments: Mr. Hans and Kelly Schellstede of 726 Ginger asked what the city's position is concerning the proposed mobile home subdivision near their property? They also asked where on Cemetery Road is the city limit and if the city has any plans for infrastructure on Cemetery Road? City Manager Glen Adams said we are unable to discuss this issue at this time. Ms. Cynthia Muecke of 806 Ginger asked why the city cannot discuss this issue? City Manager Glen Adams explained that it is not on the agenda for discussion.

**Planning and Zoning Business:** None

## City Business (Other):

### Old Business:

**1. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Chapter 9, Traffic Code, Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Texas, Section 14, Golf Carts, Subsection C, to require a license plate**

Police Lieutenant Greg Boody said we were advised by the Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector that the state legislature had passed HB 1548 of 2019 requiring golf carts to display license plates which provides registration of the owner of the cart. Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Hoke to pass the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Chapter 9, Traffic Code, Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Texas, Section 14, Golf Carts, Subsection C, to require a license plate. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

### New Business:

**1. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Chapter 3, Construction Regulations, Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Section 2, International Building Code, and Section 3, International Residential Code; and amending Chapter 5, Fire Protection, Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Section 1, Fire Code, to require smoke detectors to be combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and providing for penalties and severability**

Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine said the winter storm brought attention to this matter by the number of deaths related to carbon monoxide. He said references to smoke detectors in our building and fire codes will now read that detectors must be a combination of both smoke and carbon monoxide to help provide better protection to our citizens during periods of power outages. Mr. Dauphine said this requirement will apply to new structures and those with a change in occupancy but will not apply to existing detectors in existing structures. Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Hoke to pass the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Chapter 3, Construction Regulations, Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Section 2, International Building Code, and Section 3, International Residential Code; and amending Chapter 5, Fire Protection, Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Section 1, Fire Code, to require smoke detectors to be combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and providing for penalties and severability and to dispense with the second reading. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**2. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending the Traffic Control Device Inventory – Schedule III in accordance with Chapter 9, Section 2, Subsection D, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Texas, to add stop signs at designated school crossings on Warpath Avenue**

City Manager Glen Adams said the Santa Fe ISD has requested these stop signs on Warpath Avenue to protect the children crossing the street throughout the school day. He said the school district will install the stop signs and barriers, and purchase the supplies for marking the main crosswalk in front of the barriers. Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to pass the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending the Traffic Control Device Inventory – Schedule III in accordance with Chapter 9, Section 2, Subsection D, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Santa Fe, Texas, to add stop signs at designated school crossings on Warpath Avenue and to dispense with the second reading. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**3. Discussion: Acceptance of Walker Street to be deeded to the City of Santa Fe**

Street Superintendent Billy Creppon said the property owner between Tractor Supply and Walker Street wants to deed the portion of Walker Street that is on his property to the city. He said the school has also indicated they want to deed their portion of Walker Street to the city so the city can maintain it as a through street. Mr. Creppon said Mr. Little is looking for tentative approval before he spends money to have the property replatted. The consensus of Council is to accept the street once the easement is deeded to the city.

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

Councilmember Fidencio Leija said he is promoting membership in BAHEP at a cost of \$7,600 through the transfer of training and travel expenses already budgeted. City Manager Glen Adams said he concurs with the opportunities this membership network would provide to the city. Councilmember Pittman said this may be a great organization, but the city has an EDC which is for promoting economic development. Councilmember Leija said he feels BAHEP would represent and support the city and not the EDC specifically. Councilmember Pittman feels the city should wait for the May election results to determine if the community wants to expand the use of the additional sales tax before we join this economic partnership group. Councilmember O'Brien asked if we know about other cities' rate of return from their membership. Councilmember Leija said BAHEP is the hub for retailers to contact when they are looking to bring a wide range of industries and manufacturing to an area. Motion by Councilmember Hoke, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to table this item until after the May election. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**5. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending the number and text of the proposition being submitted at the special election on May 1, 2021, on the sole question of whether to authorize the City of Santa Fe, Texas, to use the current one-half of one percent (1/2 cent) local sales and use tax originally adopted by "Proposition 1" on May 5, 2001, for economic development projects designed to promote any new or expanded business enterprises and any other projects authorized under the law applicable to a Type B Corporation created under Section 505.003, Texas Local Government Code, as amended**

Director of Administrative Services Stacey Baker said the Galveston County Elections Division said Proposition 1 needs to be Proposition A, according to the office of the Secretary of State, and the proposition language needs to be shortened to fit on the ballot. She said the town hall discussions will be scheduled to inform the public what the proposition would allow the EDC to do with the existing sales tax funds for economic development projects. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to pass the first reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending the number and text of the proposition being submitted at the special election on May 1, 2021, on the sole question of whether to authorize the City of Santa Fe, Texas, to use the current one-half of one percent (1/2 cent) local sales and use tax originally adopted by "Proposition 1" on May 5, 2001, for economic development projects designed to promote any new or expanded business enterprises and any other projects authorized under the law applicable to a Type B Corporation created under Section 505.003, Texas Local Government Code, as amended and to dispense with the second reading. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**6. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution approving the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation budget amendment for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021**

Director of Administrative Services Stacey Baker said this resolution approves the EDC budget amendment to fund the Avenue P project contribution of \$65,000 that was not originally budgeted but was subsequently approved by the Council as a joint project between the city, DD#1, and the EDC. Motion by Councilmember Hoke, seconded by Councilmember Leija to adopt the resolution approving the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation budget amendment for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**7. Consideration and possible action: Appointment/reappointment of members to serve on the Park and Recreation Board for a two-year term to expire February, 2023**

City Manager Glen Adams said the terms of three current members of the park board have expired and all three have expressed their willingness to continue to serve for another term. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Leija to reappoint Rebecca Martinez, Chris Bozeman, and Miranda Shaffer as members to serve on the Park and Recreation Board for a two-year term to expire February, 2023. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**8. Discussion: Texas Power Switch Program**

City Manager Glen Adams said we learned from the winter freeze that some people may not be on the best plan for utility rates and this Power to Choose individual program would be made available to the citizens much like the P3 program applies to our city facilities. He said the City of Dickinson is currently supporting the program, which is an aggregate for our citizenry if they want to participate in the program. The consensus of Council is to support the program by allowing the citizens to participate in an auction in which power providers compete to provide a power rate to participants.

**9. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing Mayor to execute Addendum to the Depository Services Contract between the City of Santa Fe and Texas First Bank extending the term of the contract for an additional two years or authorizing staff to seek proposals for bank depository services for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2021**

City Secretary Janet Davis said the city's bank depository contract with Texas First Bank was approved for an initial term of three years beginning June 1, 2018, and ending May 31, 2021, with an option to extend the contract another two years. She said the city and the bank have a great working relationship and she recommended extension of the existing contract through May 31, 2023. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to authorize the Mayor to execute Addendum to the Depository Services Contract between the City of Santa Fe and Texas First Bank extending the term of the contract for an additional two years. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**10. Consideration and possible action: First and final reading of an ordinance amending the general fund operating budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021**

City Manager Glen Adams said multiple items were discussed during last night's budget update and this amendment will approve those expenditures and incorporate funding into the current operating budget. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Hoke to pass the first and final reading of an ordinance amending the general fund operating budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**11. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Chapter 5, Fire Protection, Section 3, Fireworks, authorizing the use and sale 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 this amendment s presented at the request of Council to consider regulating fireworks rather than prohibiting them. He said the legislature will no longer allow a city to regulate the sale and display of fireworks in the ETJ or possession in the city in the original packaging. Mr. Dauphine said our thought is to allow fireworks during certain times of the year by permit so we have information about the responsible party. He said this will enable residents to plan for certain events and times, specifically the five major holidays, and we hope to encourage compliance with the citizens and community by holding the property owner accountable if the display gets out of hand. Mr. Dauphine said this would also create opportunities for more mature behavior by acknowledgement of permit guidelines and criteria. He said city staff is looking at the possibility of requiring a brick and mortar building for the sale of fireworks in the city, and he said we need to determine when permits would be issued prior to an event and the effective duration of the permit. He said the police chief has reviewed these proposed amendments and the fire department is reviewing the draft regulations as well. Councilmember Leija said he would like to table this to receive more input from the fire department about these proposed changes to regulate rath than prohibit fireworks in the city limits. Mayor Tabor suggested a workshop with the fire department to discuss the fireworks issues and to educate the public. Motion by Councilmember Leija to table this item for a workshop with the fire department, police department, and other city staff. The motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to pass the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Chapter 5, Fire Protection, Section 3, Fireworks, authorizing the use and sale of fireworks at certain times; repealing certain provisions inconsistent with state law; providing for repealer, cumulative and severability clauses; and establishing an effective date and to schedule the second reading of the ordinance for consideration the second meeting in April. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**12. Executive Session, closed to the public, under Section 551.074, Government Code, to discuss the duties and employment of the Community Services Director**

Council adjourned at 8:50 p.m. into Executive Session, closed to the public, under Section 551.074, Government Code, to discuss the duties and employment of the Community Services Director and reconvened at 9:13 p.m.

**13. Consideration and possible action: Consent to City Manager's recommendation to terminate Diana Steelquist from the position of Community Services Director**

Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Hoke to consent to the City Manager's recommendation to terminate Diana Steelquist from the position of Community Services Director. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**14. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing City Manager to execute contract with SGR for interim services for a city planner**

Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with SGR for interim services for a city planner. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements: Hazardous waste disposal at Jack Brooks Park this Saturday; SFEDC town hall meetings on March 29 at 11 a.m. at Dayspring Church and on April 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the fire department

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 9:15 p.m.

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JASON TABOR, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Janet L. Davis, City Secretary