

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2022 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 Brandon Noto
Councilmember Fidencio Leija
Councilmember Jason O'Brien
Councilmember Melanie Collins

The invocation was given by Pastor Lucas. The pledge of allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Councilmember Leija.

Mayor's and City Manager's Report:

- a. The minutes of 12/9/2021, 1/13/2022, 1/17/2022, 1/27/2022, 2/2/2022, and 2/3/2022 were approved as presented
- b. Finance Director Rudy Zepeda presented the December, 2021, quarterly investment report with an unrestricted balance of \$1,981,734 and a restricted balance of \$494,317.
- c. 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, plats reviewed, variance requests, pre-development meetings, and demolition activities
 - 2) Parks and Community Center –park maintenance and rental activities
 - 3) Municipal Court – cases filed, revenue collected, warrants issued and cleared, cases disposed, warrant round-up in progress
 - 4) Police – calls for service statistics, arrest statistics, traffic stops, citations, accidents, new CI cases, and use of force incidents
 - 5) Fire Marshal – burn permit issuance and inspection activities
 - 6) Library – patron and program attendance, circulation material statistics, and library expansion update
 - 7) Street – drainage projects, street maintenance and improvement activities, and sign and equipment maintenance
 - 8) Resiliency Center – no report
 - 9) Finance – no report

Citizen's Comments:

Councilmember Fidencio Leija of 6310 Tibaldo Lane announced his candidacy for a second term on Council. Mr. Tim Clark, a new member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, expressed concerns about (1) untimely document delivery of items for committee consideration, (2) lack of procedures for committee guidance, and (3) lack of full transparency of government business especially with the numerous closed door meetings. Mr. Rusty Schroeder of 11203 FM 1764 requested a full investigation into the January 20 incident so elected officials are not allowed to be treated differently than citizens. He commended the 911 dispatcher for professionalism and demanded change and transparency. Pastor Brad Drake said the Dayspring Church is celebrating 75 years of service and involvement in the community. Mr. Don Vickers of Elevate Hospital Systems thanked Council and SFEDC for their support of a new medical facility that is planned for development in our community. Ms. Christine Villere of 3015 Ave. F thanked the Planning and Zoning Commission for listening to the citizens about the proposed apartment complex, but complained about the city's lack of transparency and that they were not heard during this last project. Mr. Jerry Litjen of 1204 Avenue L requested consideration of a variance to be able to live in a manufactured home on the property where he has had a shop with antique tractors and cars.

Business:

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Public hearing and first reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Ordinance No. 02-03, commonly known as the City of Santa Fe Unified Development Code, or the Santa Fe Zoning Ordinance, 2002 Edition, the official zoning map adopted under Section 3.08, by changing the zoning classification from Manufactured Housing District (MH) to Agricultural Residential District (AR) for the property addressed as 19011 McKay Rd, Alvin, Galveston County, Texas, being a 3.69 acre lot described as Abstract 601, Section 13, Part of Lot 44 (44-7)

Community Services Director Stacey Baker said Mr. Hartman is requesting a zone change from MH to AR so he can replat the property into three lots and place site-built homes. She said the MH zone is restricted from any subdividing unless each lot is a minimum of two acres. Ms. Baker said the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval, and she said if the zone classification is changed, the property would still be subject to re-platting requirements. Mayor Tabor opened the public hearing at 7:42 p.m. Ms. Estrada of 19030 McKay Rd, said she lives in a mobile home and asked how this zone change would affect her property, and she was told it would not affect her property. With no other public comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:44 p.m. Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to pass the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Ordinance No. 02-03, commonly known as the City of Santa Fe Unified Development Code, or the Santa Fe Zoning Ordinance, 2002 Edition, the official zoning map adopted under Section 3.08, by changing the zoning classification from Manufactured Housing District (MH) to Agricultural Residential District (AR) for the property addressed as 19011 McKay Rd, Alvin, Galveston County, Texas, being a 3.69 acre lot described as Abstract 601, Section 13, Part of Lot 44 (44-7). The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution authorizing execution of an Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to change the eligibility to test for Sergeant

Police Chief Philip Meadows said the corporal position is new this year and this addendum will clarify language in the current collective bargaining agreement that an officer is not required to be a corporal in order to test for the sergeant promotion. Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Leija to adopt the resolution authorizing execution of an Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to change the eligibility to test for Sergeant. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 7, Personnel, Code of Ordinances, Section 7, Library, Subsection B, Gifts and Donations, to authorize certain printed materials to be donated to the Friends of the Library or similar organization

Library Director Becky McClain said she is requesting that certain weeded materials under \$100 in value be permitted to be donated to the friends group or a similar organization. She said weeded materials must follow state library guidelines for proposed disposition and city manager approval of disposal items would still be required. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Leija to pass the first reading of ordinance amending Chapter 7, Personnel, Code of Ordinances, Section 7, Library, Subsection B, Gifts and Donations, to authorize certain printed materials to be donated to the Friends of the Library or similar organization and to dispense with the second reading. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing Mayor to execute Addendum to the Janitorial Services Contract to increase the billing amount for the library to include semi-weekly cleaning of the recent addition
Library Director Becky McClain said the 2000 sq ft addition to the library is finished and the additional cost for semi-weekly cleaning of the additional space is \$260 per month. Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Leija to execute the Addendum to the Janitorial Services Contract to increase the billing amount for the library to include semi-weekly cleaning of the recent addition. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing staff to execute the online auction contract with Lemons Auctioneers, LLP, for auction and disposal services for surplus property
Mayor Tabor said we have some unused vehicles and equipment that needs disposal and we have utilized the online auction services of Lemons Auctioneers in the past with successful results. Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to authorize authorizing staff to execute the online auction contract with Lemons Auctioneers, LLP, for auction and disposal services for surplus property. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

6. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing sale of surplus property at online auction conducted by Lemons Auctioneers, LLP
Mayor Tabor said staff has listed property that is no longer useful to the city and is requesting declaration as surplus and authorization to sell at a public auction. Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Leija to authorize the sale of surplus property at an online auction conducted by Lemons Auctioneers, LLP. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

7. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution approving the aerial spraying for the abatement of mosquitoes
Ms. Christine Villere of 3015 Ave F expressed concerns that the "no spray" list was not acknowledged and the spray killed her bees. Councilmember Pittman said we need to try to abate mosquitoes within the city but said protecting bees, fruit, produce, etc. is also a concern. Ms. Villere asked for additional time to conduct research on other methods of eradicating mosquitoes. She said the chemicals affect bees, cause environmental issues, and can cause neurological problems. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Leija to postpone this item until the next meeting. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

8. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing staff to open a new bank account for the tracking of the proceeds and expenditures from the issuance of certificates of obligation for road and drainage improvements
Finance Director Rudy Zepeda said this request is to open a new bank account at our depository bank, Texas First Bank, for accountability to accommodate the certificate of obligation bond proceeds. Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to authorize staff to open a new bank account for the tracking of the proceeds and expenditures from the issuance of certificates of obligation for road and drainage improvements. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

9. Consideration and possible action: Adopting of a resolution reviewing, amending, and approving the Code of Ethics & Conduct for public officials and employees of the City of Santa Fe, Texas

Mayor Tabor said the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation approved a strict ethics and conduct code for its members and that code has been modified to apply to Councilmembers, board members, and city staff. Councilmember Noto expressed concerns that this policy is inadequate as it does not address several areas of concern, specifically restricting political activity, addressing city attorney opinions, electronic communications, development of an ethics review board to pursue complaints, and the fact that a simple majority vote should not be able to remove a councilmember that the public has voted into office. Councilmember Leija recommended that once we develop this policy and adopt it by resolution, we also consider incorporating the provisions into a Charter amendment. Mayor Tabor said the City Attorney has requested additional time to provide comments following a full review of the proposed code prior to Council consideration and approval. Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to postpone action on this item. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

10. Consideration and possible action: Confirmation of Acting City Manager's appointment of a Police Chief

Police Chief and Acting City Manager Philip Meadows said his last day with the city is February 28, and the city's search committee has identified and recommended a member of our community who meets and exceeds the qualifications set forth for a police chief successor. Chief Meadows asked Council to confirm the appointment of Mr. Walter Braun who is currently the Police Chief of Santa Fe ISD and has previously served in a law enforcement capacity in the City of Galveston and for Galveston County. Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to confirm Acting City Manager Philip Meadows' appointment of Walter Braun as Police Chief. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

11. Consideration and possible action: Appointment of a City Manager


Mayor Tabor said he would like to continue interviewing candidates to provide information to Council on either an appointment of a new city manager or hiring a search firm to conduct recruitment. Councilmember Leija requested that Mayor Tabor look into the appointment of an interim city manager in case we need to pursue that route.

Announcements: SFEDC training 101 scheduled for February 17 at 6 p.m. at Santa Fe Fire and Rescue; Mr. Tommy Anderson, Fire Chief and President of WCID #8 said the water line on FM 1764 is a Gulf Coast Water Authority trunk line so there is no public access and the public cannot tap into it.


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 8:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary



BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR PRO TEM