

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2022 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Bill Pittman.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Pro Tem Bill Pittman
Councilmember Brandon Noto
Councilmember Melanie Collins

Absent: Councilmember Jason O'Brien, excused
Councilmember Fidencio Leija, excused

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and to the Texas Flag: In the interest of time, this item was skipped.

Business:

1. New radio hardware for Galveston County Emergency Services District No. 1 and the City of Santa Fe. Acting City Manager Rudy Zepeda presented the history of the Item to Council, noting that the proposal before Council calls for a total project cost of approximately \$495,000, of which, approximately \$311,000 is the hardware cost. Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Chief Tommy Anderson said that the \$311,000 hardware cost does not include the required backroom radios, which would adjust that portion of the cost to closer to \$350,000. He then explained the technical setup of the regional radio communications network in detail and cautioned that the City's current Telex equipment is failing. The City's current communications consoles, he said, are increasingly difficult to service and do not provide the great depth of capabilities that more modern consoles do. Telecommunications Supervisor Leigh Scofield briefed Council on how the City's radio system interfaces with the City's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and emphasized how important it is to effective dispatching that the two systems interact harmoniously with each other. Chief Anderson and Ms. Scofield expressed their shared belief that continuing to participate in League City's regional consortium of dispatch centers would greatly benefit the City.


Council discussed the proposed expense, with some members questioning whether the City should consider saving money by leaving the League City consortium. In response to questions from Council concerning the proposed system's capabilities and predicted longevity, Ms. Scofield confirmed that the proposed new \$200,000 CAD system would also come with an electronic citation module for use by officers and would last well into the future – easily 10 years. Police Captain Robert Shores cautioned that leaving the consortium would actually be a more expensive option than remaining as a member. Fire Chief Anderson and Ms. Scofield said that the City could save approximately \$22,000 on annual servicing expenditures for the proposed new Motorola hardware by contracting with Harris County to provide the service. Harris County, they said, currently charges approximately \$13,000 per year for the service, although that cost may not include any future upgrades to the console.

Mayor Pro Tem Pittman read a short comment that had been sent to him in advance of the meeting by Councilmember Leija, who knew that he would be unable to attend this meeting. Councilmember Leija, as a former Radioman in the United States Navy, expressed his belief that good communications equipment and software is essential.


Mr. Zepeda discussed options for how the City could pay for the new hardware and software, recommending that the City expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the project. Santa Fe Fire and Rescue could reimburse the City for its portion of the upgrades later, in an amount to be determined by mutual agreement. Ms. Scofield informed Council that Police Chief Walter Braun had already signed for the League City hardware and software upgrades, which will be in Santa Fe within 18 months and live within 24 months, at which point the City of Santa Fe will have to have fully paid for the system. Police Captain Shores said that the total amount currently committed to is \$200,000, of which only 25% is payable now. Mayor Pro Tem Pittman said that Council needed to further work through the project with City staff.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Collins to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

ATTEST:



Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary



BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR PRO TEM