

**CITY OF SANTA FE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 12, 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 Pro Tem Pittman.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Pro Tem Bill Pittman  
Councilmember Brandon Noto  
Councilmember Jason O'Brien  
Councilmember Fidencio Leija  
Councilmember Melanie Collins

Absent: None

The Invocation was given by Pastor Ryan Williams and the pledge to the U.S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Councilmember O'Brien.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Pittman did not have a report for the meeting.

1. The minutes of the 4/14/2022 special meeting and the 4/14/2022 regular meeting were approved as presented.
2. 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
  - 2) Parks and Community Center – park maintenance activities, center rental statistics
  - 3) Municipal Court – cases filed, revenue collected, warrants issued and cleared
  - 4) Police – calls for service statistics, traffic crash analysis, use of force incidents
  - 5) Fire Marshal – inspection activities
  - 6) Library – patron and program attendance, circulation material statistics, fines and donations collected
  - 7) Street – drainage projects, street maintenance and improvement activities, equipment maintenance
  - 8) Resiliency Center – counseling statistics, including new and continuing clients, for individual and family sessions
  - 9) Finance – city finance activities (including cash flow, financial reports, PID development bond issuance, utility audit services, PEG channel development, capital improvement plan), SFEDC project updates, and FY2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Investment Report

**Citizens' Comments:**

Ms. Cheryl Kline of 3819 Shady Lane thanked Council and Staff for their efforts but said that the area near her home needs attention from the City. The ditch/easement behind her property is getting overgrown and needs to be mown. Ms. Kline expressed her frustration with Galveston County Water Control and Improvement District Number 8 (WCID #8), which has informed her that it will not service her grinder after October 1. She said that WCID #8 is not responsive to citizens' complaints, yet the District receives City benefits. Ms. Kline asked who would pay to connect her to WCID #8's water and sewer systems, and enquired whether the \$1,000,000 that she was told the City had to help with such expenses was actually being spent on such things.

Business:

**New Business:**

1. **Consideration and possible action: A resolution of the City of Santa Fe, Texas finding that CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC's application for approval to amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 25.243 to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; finding that the City's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the**

**meeting at which this Resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel**

City Secretary Alun Thomas introduced the item and explained that the City is part of a coalition of cities that shares legal services for addressing these types of rate requests from CenterPoint Energy. The coalition's legal counsel, he said, has recommended that the City pass the proposed resolution, which will have the effect of denying CenterPoint's requested increase in its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Collins, to approve and adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**2. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an Ordinance amending Subsection 1, Designation of the Floodplain Administrator, of Section D, Administration, of Section 19, Flood Hazard Area Regulations, of Chapter 3, Construction Regulations of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances, to change the City's Floodplain Administrator to the City Engineer; providing a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date**

City Secretary Alun Thomas presented the item, noting that the City's Code of Ordinances currently designates the City Manager as the City's Floodplain Administrator. He said that on April 14, 2022, Council approved a City Engineer position that will oversee developments, planning, and zoning, and that the City Engineer will necessarily have specialized knowledge that would make them a better candidate for the often-technical role of Floodplain Administrator. The proposed Ordinance would make this change and allows for the City Manager to fill the role of Floodplain Administrator during times when the City Engineer position is vacant.

Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to approve the first reading of the Ordinance as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**3. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an Ordinance deleting Subsection C, Oversize/Overweight Permit, of Section 10, Truck Traffic, of Chapter 9, Traffic Code, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances and adopting a new Subsection C, Permits for Oversize, Overweight, or Manufactured Home Loads, of Section 10, Truck Traffic, of Chapter 9, Traffic Code, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances; and providing a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date**

City Secretary Alun Thomas presented the item and explained that the Ordinance is being proposed by Staff to address an ongoing problem of oversized loads such as manufactured homes causing damage to City property, such as knocking over stop signs on narrow streets. Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine elaborated on the reasoning behind the Ordinance and addressed questions from Council.

Motion by Councilmember Leija, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to approve the first reading of the Ordinance as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**4. Consideration and possible action: First and final reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending the general fund operating budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021**

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda introduced the item and explained the proposed amendment to the budget.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to adopt the Ordinance on first and final reading, as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**5. Consideration and possible action: Approval of a subscription-based site license fee for the One Solution software by Central Square used by Santa Fe Police Department's mobile computer terminals**

Police Chief Walter Braun presented the item to Council. The software licenses, he explained, are intended for use in the computers that will be installed in the Department's 11 new patrol vehicles. Due to the large number of mobile computers that the Department uses, switching to the subscription-based pricing model would save the Department \$17,600 (not including maintenance costs) due to its allowance of unlimited installations of the software.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the subscription-based site license fee for the One Solution software by Central Square used by Santa Fe Police Department's mobile computer terminals, as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

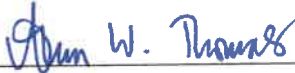
**6. Executive Session, closed to the public, pursuant to Chapter 551.074, Texas Government Code, regarding the appointment and employment of public officers or employees – City Manager**


Mayor Pro Tem Pittman explained to those present that, in the interest of transparency, this item would be discussed in public, but said that some Executive Session discussions would still need to take place in private in the future. The Executive Session began at 7:35 p.m., and Council developed a grading system for the City Manager position applicants. At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Pittman, apparent Councilmembers-Elect Dickerson and Marks were invited to join the discussion. It was the direction of Council that Acting City Manager Rudy Zepeda and City Secretary Alun Thomas pre-grade the applicants according to Council's criteria and present the results of the grading to Council at a future meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Pittman closed the Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.

Council announced that the Santa Fe Memorial Run is coming up; Santa Fe High School's recognitions went out today; thanked all of the scholarship sponsors; the FFA performed well at the Galveston County Fair and Rodeo, with \$317,950 in sales from the livestock auction.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Leija, to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary

  
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BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR