

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 31, 2022 7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:59 p.m. by Mayor Pittman.

Council Roll Call: Present: Mayor Bill Pittman
Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Noto
Councilmember Melanie Collins
Councilmember John Dickerson
Councilmember Dana Marks

Absent: Councilmember Jason O'Brien, excused

Business:

Mayor Pittman introduced item 2 before item 1, and Council discussed the items in that order.

2. Discussion and possible direction: Mayor's and Councilmembers' goals for Santa Fe for the coming year

Mayor Pittman outlined some of his goals for and comments regarding the coming year, which included:

- Council should dress in formal attire (suit and tie for men) for the first meeting of the month, and dress in business casual attire for the second meeting. It was the preference of the consensus of Council that members wear a button-down shirt with a City logo on it for the second meeting, rather than a polo shirt.
- Absenteeism should be kept to a minimum; if members of Council will be absent from a meeting, they should first contact the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to inform them.
- During its meetings, Council should use titles and last names to address its members and City staff.
- Special care should be taken to avoid walking quorums. Although this is not currently an issue, walking quorums can easily happen, so must actively be guarded against.
- Texas Department of Emergency Management has offered its assistance to the City in the form of training for City Council. Councilmembers should inform the City Secretary of their availability to meet for such training.
- Members of Council are frequently invited to attend outside events, and should respond as soon as possible to the invitation, even if the response is to inform the requestor that they are unable to attend.
- Newly-elected or reelected members of Council should be sure to take the required Open Meetings Act training, and are encouraged to also take the Public Information Act training.
- City Department Heads' reports should continue to be presented to Council, but they should be presented in a way that the majority of Council agrees to. Following a brief discussion, Council directed that routine monthly reports be presented only in writing, but that reports that contain unusual or especially important information also be presented to Council orally during a Council meeting.
- Bayou Animal Services needs two members to be appointed to the board to represent Santa Fe.
- The City should consider acquiring ownership of Runge Park from Galveston County, which appears eager to transfer ownership. The County currently spends \$64,810 per year on maintenance of the park, and receives approximately \$88,000 every five years in revenue from the Little League and from park facilities rentals. The Council discussed this opportunity, with all members agreeing that the park has tremendous potential that the City could benefit from through the hosting of events such as cook-offs, concerts, etc.

Mayor Pittman said that the County has recently installed LED lights at the park, and is currently installing a \$50,000 septic system.

- The City should address the proliferation of shipping containers being used as storage buildings in the city limits. City Secretary Alun Thomas informed Council that the Planning and Zoning Commission began discussing this issue during its May 3, 2022 meeting, and that the Commission will meet again in July to continue addressing it. Once the Commission has reached a recommendation on how to address the issue, Mr. Thomas said, it will present the recommendation to Council.
- Many of the City's ordinances are old or outdated and need to be updated.
- The Council discussed a Code of Ethics that was then sent to the City Attorney for review. This should be placed as a discussion item on the next regular Council meeting agenda.

Council discussed the performance of City staff and departments:

- Police Department – traffic control needs to be improved to address speeding and reckless drivers, such as at the curve on Avenue J.
- Streets Department – performing well.
- Community Services – Council unanimously expressed its discontent with the department's performance, who are seen by the public as being unfriendly towards citizens, inconsistent, as prone to talking down to people, inclined to giving people the runaround, and slowing down or halting a permit or inspection process as a way to force property owners or developers to meet other unrelated codes. The unanimous opinion of Council was that the staff in the department needs to either improve immediately or no longer continue to work for the City.
- City Engineer – the new City Engineer will start work on June 14.
- Code Enforcement – more enforcement is necessary.

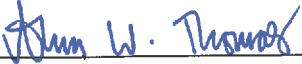
Acting City Manager Rudy Zepeda concluded the discussion by informing Council that Staff is working on a thorough revision of the personnel policies and procedures manual

1. Discussion: Conduction of City Council meetings, including expectations of members and a brief review of parliamentary procedures

Councilmember Noto gave a brief review of parliamentary procedures and Robert's Rules of Order and said that he is available for another workshop meeting on the topic if needed.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn the special meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

ATTEST:


Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary


BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR