

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 28, 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 Pittman.

Roll Call: Mayor Pittman welcomed Assistant City Secretary Natalie Arnett to the meeting and congratulated her on her recent promotion.

Present: Mayor Bill Pittman
Councilmember Brandon Noto
Councilmember Melanie Collins
Councilmember John Dickerson
Councilmember Dana Marks

Absent: Councilmember Jason O'Brien, excused

The invocation was given by Pastor Brad Drake, and Police Captain Robert Shores then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag.

Staff Report:

1. 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) Finance – city finance activities (including cash flow, financial reports, utility audit services, PEG channel development, capital improvement plan), and SFEDC project updates

Citizens' Comments:

None.

Business:

Old Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Second and final reading of an Ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas amending Subsection B, In and Along Streets, Roads, or Highways, of Section 4, No-Parking Zones, of Chapter 9, Traffic Code, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances by the addition of a Part 5 requiring a minimum width of a traversable travel lane next to a stopped or parked vehicle, and providing a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas presented the item, noting that Council approved the first reading of the proposed ordinance during its July 14, 2022 meeting.

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

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Appointment or reappointment of one member to the City of Santa Fe's Civil Service Commission to serve a term that will expire June 2025

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas introduced the item and informed Council that Section 143.006 of the Texas Local Government Code provides that appointments to a city's Police Officers' Civil Service Commission shall be made by the municipality's chief executive and confirmed by the governing body of the municipality. The City's Civil Service Commission, he explained, has three members, and the term of Bill Reitmeyer expires this month. Mr. Reitmeyer has expressed his willingness to serve another term, and after speaking with the Civil Service Director concerning Mr. Reitmeyer's performance on the Commission, Mr. Thomas recommended that Council confirm his reappointment of Mr. Reitmeyer for another three-year term.

Mr. Thomas said that it is important to note that the Texas Local Government Code stipulates that a Commission member may not be reappointed to more than a third consecutive term unless the member's reappointment to a fourth or subsequent consecutive term is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of all the members of the municipality's governing body. If reappointed, Mr. Reitmeyer would be beginning his fifth term in office.

Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Collins, to confirm Mr. Thomas' appointment of Bill Reitmeyer to serve another three-year term (that will expire June 2025) on the City's Civil Service Commission. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Appointment or reappointment of one member to the City of Santa Fe's Civil Service Commission to serve the remainder of an unexpired term that will expire June 2024

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas introduced the item, again noting that Section 143.006 of the Texas Local Government Code provides that appointments to a city's Police Officers' Civil Service Commission shall be made by the municipality's chief executive and confirmed by the governing body of the municipality. The City's Civil Service Commission has three members, he said, and one member of which resigned from the Commission last year. In an effort to fill the position, the City publicly solicited applications for the Commission, and received three. Mr. Thomas recommend that Council confirm his appointment of Chris Harrison to the Commission. He said that he felt that Mr. Harrison is eminently qualified for the position and will be an asset for the City, given that he holds certifications as a Master Firefighter, Inspector, Investigator, and Peace Officer, and has a master's degree in organizational leadership. Additionally, Mr. Harrison is the only one of the three applicants with experience in civil service, having served in a civil service department for 23 years.

Motion by Councilmember Collins, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to confirm Mr. Thomas' appointment of Chris Harrison to serve the remainder of an unexpired term (that will expire June 2024) on the City's Civil Service Commission. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action: Approval of notice to Bayou Animal Services Corporation terminating the City's interlocal agreement for the provision of animal control and sheltering services with the Corporation effective September 30, 2022

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas explained the need for the termination, informing those present that the City currently pays approximately \$95,000/year to Bayou Animal Services Corporation for animal control and sheltering services and that the Corporation's proposed cost to the City for next fiscal year is approximately \$367,000. The significant increase in cost is too great for the City to afford, he said, so he recommended that Council approve the City providing notice to Bayou Animal Services Corporation terminating the City's interlocal agreement for the provision of animal control and sheltering services with the Corporation effective September 30, 2022.

Motion by Councilmember Marks, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve providing notice to Bayou Animal Services Corporation terminating the City's interlocal agreement for the provision of animal control and sheltering services with the Corporation effective September 30, 2022. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Approval of an interlocal agreement with Galveston County for the provision of animal control and sheltering services, effective October 1, 2022

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas explained that due to Council's action under Item 3, the City now needs animal control and sheltering services beginning October 1, 2022. The City has been in discussion with Galveston County to get a quote for such services, but has not yet received a final price proposal. He said that the proposal is expected to be around \$105,000 to \$110,000. He asked that Council consider approving execution of an interlocal agreement with Galveston County for animal control and sheltering services in an amount not to exceed a certain amount, which would allow staff to more quickly have such an agreement executed. Mayor Pittman lamented the high cost of animal control services and encouraged the public to maintain control of their pets, which will help the City reduce the number of stray animals in the city, and thereby reduce its animal control costs.

Motion by Councilmember Marks, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve execution by the City of an interlocal agreement with Galveston County for animal control and sheltering services in an amount not to exceed \$110,000/year, with the services beginning on October 1, 2022. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Consideration and possible action: Presentation of the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 City of Santa Fe budget, discussion regarding the budget process, and discussion of items contained in the proposed budget

Brett C. Bowers with HUB International, the City's health insurance advisor, presented the City's proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 employee benefits (health, dental, vision, long term disability, life, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance) to Council. Mr. Bowers noted that the City will need to make small changes to its plans in order to keep its costs under control for the next fiscal year. Vision and dental insurance plans will move from United Healthcare to The Standard, he said. He presented a new possibility for the City's health insurance plan, which would provide some additional benefits to some members of staff, but the consensus of Council was that its tradeoffs outweighed its benefits.

Council briefly discussed various parts of the budget, and Finance Director Rudy Zepeda reminded Council that small changes in the budget can significantly impact any projections made therein. Mr. Zepeda said that the proposed budget includes a proposed reduction of 2.7¢ from the No New Revenue ad valorem tax rate. In response to questions from Council, Mr. Zepeda agreed to have department heads review their respective departments' proposed budget for accuracy, and explained the proposed budget calendar.


Motion by Councilmember Marks, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 City of Santa Fe budget as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements: The City will host its first public engagement event for the Comprehensive Plan on August 2, 2022 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and express their opinions and ideas. On July 30, there will be a parade, starting at the high school, in honor of Wylie Cino, a four-year-old with brain cancer. R.J., who was involved in a major accident on July 23, is still in hospital, and we wish him well.

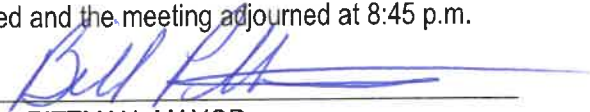
Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings: The next regular Council meeting is currently scheduled for August 11.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:



Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary



BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR