

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 25, 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: Present: Mayor Bill Pittman
Councilmember Brandon Noto
Councilmember Jason O'Brien
Councilmember Melanie Collins
Councilmember John Dickerson
Councilmember Dana Marks

Absent: None

The invocation was given by Pastor Tim Gregory from Santa Fe Family Worship Center, and Mayor Pittman 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 Section 23, Possession of Tobacco Products by Minors, of Chapter 1, General Provisions, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances by modifying the minimum allowable age for tobacco possession to twenty-one years of age, including e-cigarettes in the definition of tobacco products; and providing a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas introduced the item and informed Council that this is the second reading of the proposed ordinance. Passage of the ordinance, he explained, would bring the City into line with recent changes in state law regarding tobacco possession.

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

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Approving the No New Revenue Tax Rate and Voter Approval Tax Rate calculations prepared by the Galveston County Appraisal District

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda presented the No New Revenue Tax Rate and Voter Approval Tax Rate calculations that were prepared by the Galveston County Appraisal District and said that he has independently verified the accuracy of the calculations. The calculated No New Revenue Rate is \$0.238602 per \$100 valuation and the calculated Voter Approval Tax rate is \$0.276505 per \$100 valuation.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to approve the No New Revenue Tax Rate and Voter Approval Tax Rate calculations prepared by the Galveston County Appraisal District, as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible direction: City of Santa Fe's budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, discussion regarding the budget process, discussion of items contained or to be contained in the budget, and projects or expenses related to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act

Council discussed the budget, and Finance Director Rudy Zepeda and Police Captain Robert Shores addressed questions regarding the cost of the police radios that are included in the proposed expenditures. Following the discussion, Mayor Pittman thanked staff for their efforts at reducing superfluous or unnecessary expenditures over the years.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve the list of projects and expenses related to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, as attached to these minutes as Exhibit A. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Public Hearing: The City of Santa Fe City Council will receive public comments related to the following proposed tax rate for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022

Proposed Rate: \$0.238602 per \$100 of valuation
Proposed M&O Rate portion: \$0.210438 per \$100 of valuation
Proposed Debt Rate portion: \$0.028164 per \$100 of valuation

This year's proposed tax rate does not exceed the no-new-revenue tax rate. A motion to adopt an ordinance, resolution, or order setting the tax rate in September does not require the language about "tax increase" as stated in §26.05(b) of the Texas Property Tax Code

Mayor Pittman closed the regular session and opened a public hearing in accordance with Section §26.05(b) of the Texas Property Tax Code at 7:48 p.m.

Mr. Frank Trochesset of 3605 Avenue F said that it is difficult to argue with the numbers in the budget when the numbers are not necessarily accurate.

Mayor Pittman closed the public hearing and reopened the regular session at 7:48 p.m.

4. Consideration and possible action: Approving a proposed tax rate and setting September 22, 2022 as the date for public hearings on budget and tax adoption for the 2022-2023 fiscal year that begins October 1, 2022

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda presented the item and Council then discussed at length the effects of various tax rates on the City's budget, with the consensus of Council being that the citizens of Santa Fe expect and anticipate that Council will adopt the No New Revenue Tax Rate for next year.

Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to set the proposed tax rate at the No New Revenue Tax Rate of \$0.238602 per \$100 of valuation. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action: Authorizing the Mayor to execute a contractual agreement with the County of Galveston and the Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector for collection of Public Improvement District assessments on properties located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Santa Fe

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas and Finance Director Rudy Zepeda presented the item and explained that the proposed cost for PID assessments under the agreement (which shall exceed \$0.256 per parcel) is a far more cost-effective method of collection than if the City were to try to collect taxes on its own.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to authorize the Mayor to execute a contractual agreement with the County of Galveston and the Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector for collection of Public Improvement District assessments on properties located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Santa Fe. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

6. Consideration and possible action: Adopting a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Santa Fe formalizing procedures for grant payments for all federal grants, and establishing an effective date

Acting City Manager/City Secretary Alun Thomas explained that during a recent grant compliance review with the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the GLO recommended that the City formalize its grant payment procedures to ensure that the rigorous processes that the City currently uses continue to be used.

Motion by Councilmember Collins, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to approve the Resolution as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

7. Consideration and possible action: Reappointment of three members to the Board of Adjustment to serve an additional two-year term to expire in July 2024 and change the positions of two members

City Engineer Matt Johnson presented the item and recommended that Council reappoint Tommy Gass, Samuel "Jack" Helton and Alec Dobson as Board members for terms to expire in July, 2024 and move Alec Dobson from the Alternate 2 position to Position 3 and Wayne Bacot from Position 3 to the Alternate 2 position. He explained that the reasoning for moving Alec Dobson to Position 3 is so that he can serve out a full term as a regular member of the Board.

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

8. Consideration and possible action: Approving the purchase of a new telephone system and sixty-month telephone services contract for Mae S. Bruce Library

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda informed Council that the proposed new system would increase the number of telephones in the library from one to eight, and would cost the City slightly less money per month than the current

system. In response to a question from Council, Mr. Zepeda confirmed the installation cost for the proposed system.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve the purchase of a new telephone system and sixty-month telephone services contract for Mae S. Bruce Library, upon receipt of an executed contract. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

9. Consideration and possible action: Approving the retirement of Santa Fe Police Department's canine, Tor, and approving an agreement releasing ownership of and responsibility for the dog to Officer Jacob Danesi effective September 1, 2022

Police Chief Walter Braun informed Council that the Santa Fe Police Department's canine, Tor, is reaching the end of his useful service life, and the Department wishes to retire the dog and transfer ownership and responsibility for the dog to Officer Jacob Danesi. The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed agreement.

Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the retirement of Santa Fe Police Department's canine, Tor, and approve an agreement releasing ownership of and responsibility for the dog to Officer Jacob Danesi effective September 1, 2022. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

10. Consideration and possible action: Appointment of one member and one alternate member to the Galveston County Animal Advisory Committee effective October 1, 2022

Mayor Pittman said that, with the upcoming October 1 switch in animal service providers, the City needed to appoint a member and an alternate member to Galveston County's Animal Advisory Committee, with the term of office to begin on October 1, 2022. Council discussed its members' availability to attend the Committee meetings, which are held on Friday afternoons.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to appoint Mayor Pittman as the member, and Councilmember Dickerson as the alternate member, to the Galveston County Animal Advisory Committee effective October 1, 2022 to represent the City of Santa Fe. The motion passed the roll call vote with a vote of four to one. Those voting for: Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Noto, and Councilmember Marks. Those voting against: Councilmember Dickerson.

11. 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 Engineer


Council adjourned at 8:37 p.m. into 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 Engineer, and reconvened at 10:07 p.m.

Announcements: The Pocket Market is cancelled this Saturday.

Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings: None.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

ATTEST:



Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary



BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR

Exhibit A to the August 25, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved Cost Allocation Plan as of 8/25/22

	ARPA
Ave P Project	\$ 1,125,500
Fire PPE	\$ 75,000
Grant Administration	\$ 100,000
Street Paving	\$ 200,000
PD-Motorola Radio Upgrade †	\$ 511,000
Police Vehicles 11	\$ 724,782
Police Vehicles 5	\$ 329,446
Laserfiche	\$ 54,000
InCode Cloud Accounting	\$ 25,000
Library A/C Replacement UV	\$ 65,000
Fire Marshal Vehicle	\$ 65,889
Contingency	\$ 56,855
Total	\$ 3,332,473
ARPA Award	\$ 3,332,473
Remaining	\$ 0

- Storm Sewer Drainage
- Fire Department protective wear
- Grant Admin
- Annual Street Paving
- Emergency Response Communications
- Emergency Response Maintenance
- Emergency Response Maintenance
- Digital record management
- Remote work and record management
- Air filtration replace and upgrade
- Emergency Response Maintenance