

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 23, 2023 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 Bill Pittman.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Bill Pittman
Councilmember Brandon Noto
Councilmember Jason O'Brien
Councilmember John Dickerson
Councilmember Dana Marks

Absent: Councilmember Melanie Collins, excused

The invocation was given by Pastor Brad Drake, and Mayor Bill Pittman then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag.

Mayor's and City Manager's 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 financial reports, sales tax, balance sheet, check registers, and investment reports if applicable), and SFEDC project updates as required
 - 2) Resiliency Center – counseling statistics, including new and continuing clients, for individual and family sessions

Citizens' Comments:

Matt Bell who lives at 3502 Avenue E ½, expressed his concerns to Council about vehicles travelling at high speeds and racing on FM 1764. He would like to see more police officers patrolling on FM 1764.

Business:

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month
Acting City Manager Alun Thomas told Council that annually, the City proclaims April Fair Housing Month, and that the proclamation is often a requirement of federal grants. Mr. Thomas explained that it makes citizens more aware of their rights against discrimination under the Fair Housing Act, which was granted under the Civil Rights Act in 1968.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve the resolution proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution approving the City of Santa Fe's application for and membership in the Texas Comptroller's Statewide Procurement Division's Texas SmartBuy Membership Program (formerly known as the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program), and authorizing the Mayor and the City Manager to execute all documentation pertaining to the City's participation in the Program

Civil Service Director Tiffany Gerhardt explained to the Council that this resolution would need to be adopted before the purchasing process could begin for state-required blood kits that test for intoxication in drivers.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to approve the resolution approving the City of Santa Fe's application for and membership in the Texas Comptroller's Statewide Procurement Division's Texas SmartBuy Membership Program as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Discussion and direction: Financial cost to the City of Santa Fe for managing parades, and possible future consideration of adopting regulations limiting parade routes to preauthorized routes


Acting City Manager Alun Thomas explained that, anecdotally, the number of parades are increasing and there are concerns about routes not being consistent and also routes that cross over the railroad tracks. Mr. Thomas told Council that the City spends a lot of money in overtime for staff to man the parades. Also, the City does not have many barricades, which affects the amount of staff needed for parades. Police Chief Walter Braun said that he would like Council to adopt a route going from the Santa Fe Junior High School to the Santa Fe High School or vice versa, there are fewer intersections in this route. There were complaints about businesses being affected by the last parade and Chief Braun believes that the designated route will impact fewer businesses and will also decrease the number of staff needed. Council expressed some concerns about the route from the Santa Fe Junior High School to Santa Fe High School being an extremely long route. Ultimately, Council agreed that it would be beneficial having a designated route however, they would like staff to contact the Little League and Softball organizations to get their opinion on the designated route.


Announcements: Mayor Bill Pittman encouraged everyone to attend the last Comprehensive Plan meeting, which is scheduled for March 30, 2023, at City Hall. Councilmember Dickerson reminded everyone about the survey posted online for the proposed ladder truck expenditure by Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation and encouraged them to send in their comments. Councilmember Noto reminded everyone that Galveston County Fair and Rodeo will start April 12, 2023, and the parade will be April 8, 2023.

Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings: The next regular Council meeting is currently scheduled for April 13, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ATTEST:


Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary


BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR