

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 13, 2023 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Bill Pittman.

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

Absent: Councilmember Brandon Noto, excused

The invocation was given by Josh McDonald, Lead Pastor of Arcadia First Baptist Church, 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. Acting City Manager Alun Thomas gave updates on recent community development in Santa Fe, including those regarding Mulberry Farms, Maple Landing, Big Horn BBQ, Hubcap Grill, and the Comprehensive Master Plan Advisory Committee. Mr. Thomas also informed the Council that Finance Director Rudy Zepeda completed the audit for Fiscal Year 2022 and is in the process of drafting budget documents for the upcoming budget season. Mr. Thomas informed the Council that the digitizing and indexing of the City's records was going well and praised City Hall staff for their hard work.
2. Bill Pittman presented the Mayor's Spirit Award to Andrew Steiner, owner of Kat's BBQ, for his unselfish dedication to the Santa Fe community.
3. College of the Mainland President Warren Nichols gave a 17-minute presentation on the May 2023 Bond Referendum, adding that this is for informational purposes only, and not a request in support of voting for it.
4. Councilmember O'Brien motioned to accept and approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023, Special Meeting, the March 9, 2023, Regular Meeting, and the March 23, 2023, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks. The motion passed unanimously.
5. There were no 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.

Citizens' Comments:

None.

Business:

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Awarding of e-rate internet service for the Mae S. Bruce Library to Comcast

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas informed the Council that the E-Rate Program offers discounted internet service for schools and libraries and that Mae S. Bruce Library would benefit from this program. E-Rate

Solutions administered the City of Santa Fe's Request for Proposal (RFP) for 2023 and Comcast submitted the sole bid for these services. Mr. Thomas then recommended awarding the contract for E-Rate internet service to Comcast.

Motion by Councilmember Collins, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to award the contract for E-Rate internet service to Comcast as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Approving Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation's proposed transfer of funds to the City of Santa Fe in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 for the City's purchase of Berringer-Tully Field, located at the northeast corner of Avenue M and 22nd Street, from Santa Fe Independent School District for use as a public park; and establishing a 60-day public comment period on the proposed corporation expenditure.

Economic Development Corporation Director Rudy Zepeda informed the City Council that at the Special Meeting on April 4, 2023, the Economic Development Corporation approved the possible purchase of the property known as Berringer-Tully Field from the Santa Fe Independent School District for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00. Mr. Zepeda added that, upon preliminary approval, there would be a 60-day public comment hearing and subsequent Public Hearing, at which time the matter would be placed back on the City Council's agenda for consideration before being approved. Only after would the Economic Development Corporation be able to proceed with the funding of this purchase for the purpose of public use by the City of Santa Fe.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to approve the preliminary funding as presented. The motion passed 3-1 with Councilmembers O'Brien, Dickerson, and Marks in favor, and Councilmember Collins opposed.

3. Consideration and possible action: Standardization of firearms and related equipment used by officers of the Santa Fe Police Department, including authorizing the purchase and provision of such department-issued firearms and related equipment by the Department.

Santa Fe Police Chief Walter Braun advised the Council that, currently, each officer employed by the Santa Fe Police Department supplies his or her own firearms. Chief Braun emphasized that providing the officers with all the equipment that they need to successfully perform their duties would help improve officers' skills as they would be able to be trained on all the same equipment, thereby also limiting/decreasing liability issues. The cost benefits would include being able to purchase one caliber ammunition in bulk. Chief Braun said that he is not asking for financial assistance from the City's taxpayers; he is instead proposing using seized funds for the purchase of the 22 weapons, optics, lights, and holsters from Primary Arms, the lowest bidder for the weapons and lights. Chief Braun also asked for the approval of the purchase of the optics and holsters from Primary Arms, as they are the sole provider for that equipment.

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

4. Discussion and direction: Review of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget calendar and upcoming meetings

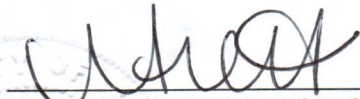
Acting City Manager Alun Thomas discussed the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget calendar, noting that there was originally a special meeting for setting up future meeting dates; however, due to scheduling conflicts, it was decided that this item be addressed at the City Council regular meeting next Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Council reviewed the schedule for the upcoming budget meetings and agreed that the schedule is still acceptable.

Announcements:

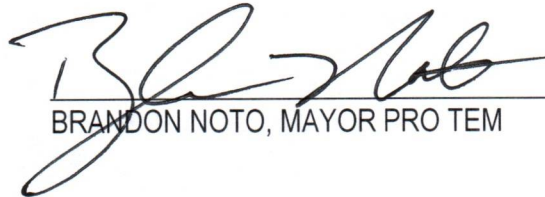
Mayor Bill Pittman reminded everybody about the Galveston County Fair and Rodeo that starts tomorrow, Friday, April 14, 2023, and that Mutton Bustin' will be held Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST:



Natalie Arnett, Assistant City Secretary



BRANDON NOTO, MAYOR PRO TEM

