

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 11, 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 Pro Tem Brandon Noto.

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

Absent: Mayor Bill Pittman, excused

The Invocation was given by Pastor Jake Bigford from First Baptist Church of Alta Loma and the pledge to the U.S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Noto.

Mayor's and City Manager's Report:

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas updated Council on the ongoing developments and their progression. Mr. Thomas informed the Council that the Comprehensive Plan is near completion, and the first reading is currently scheduled to be presented during the June 8, 2023, regular meeting instead of May 25, 2023, regular meeting so that some changes could be made before the reading.

1. Presentation and approval of minutes: 4/13/2023 special meeting, 4/13/2023 regular meeting, 4/27/2023 regular meeting, were approved as presented.
2. 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), and SFEDC project updates
 - 2) Community Services – building permits issued, fees collected, inspections performed, development update
 - 3) Parks and Community Center – park maintenance activities, center rental statistics
 - 4) Municipal Court – cases filed, revenue collected, warrants issued and cleared
 - 5) Police – calls for service statistics, traffic crash analysis, use of force incidents
 - 6) Fire Marshal – burn permit issuance, inspection activities
 - 7) Library – patron and program attendance, circulation material statistics, fines and donations collected
 - 8) Street – drainage projects, street maintenance and improvement activities, equipment maintenance

Citizens' Comments:

Rusty Schroeder, who lives at 11203 FM 1764 Rd, reminded everyone that the last day to protest taxes is Monday, May 15, 2023, and encouraged everyone to check their appraisal and to protest if their appraisal is extremely high at the Galveston County Central Appraisal District. Ryan McCamy who lives at 1210 15th Street expressed his concerns about a Councilmember being related to a high-ranking individual at the Santa Fire and Rescue Department and feels this Councilmember should not be able to vote on the item to consider funding of the ladder truck.

Business:

A. New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Presentation and approval of the 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the period ended September 30, 2022

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda introduced Anna Gallardo a partner from the firm, Carr Riggs & Ingram, the City's auditors. Ms. Gallardo presented the 2022 audit, and explained there were no material weaknesses noted in the City's financials or any significant deficiencies, so the firm was issuing an unmodified opinion. Ms. Gallardo explained there were some improvement points which were to the City's controls and there were no other findings, issues, or disagreements with management for the Council to be aware of.

Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to approve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Public hearing: Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation's proposed contribution of funds towards the purchase of a new ladder truck for Santa Fe Fire and Rescue

Mayor Pro Tem Noto opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Rusty Schroeder who lives at 11203 FM 1764 Rd, received a copy of the public comments that were submitted to the City during the comment period and said that they are pretty close to even on the votes, however, he has concerns about the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) funding another taxing entity and feels the citizens should vote against the funding of a ladder truck so the EDC funds could go towards something more useful such as a building, property, or development along FM 1764, and not a piece of equipment. Mr. Schroeder said that he does not understand how a fire truck will bring in more business for the city and believes the funds towards water, buildings and developments is what will bring business to Santa Fe.

Mayor Pro Tem Noto closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

3. Consideration and possible action: Consideration and possible action: First of two readings of a resolution authorizing the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation to contribute funds towards the purchase of a new ladder truck for Santa Fe Fire and Rescue

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas informed the Council that he had received an email at 1:19 p.m. this afternoon, May 11, 2023, from Fire Chief Chris Anderson from the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue (SFFR), informing the City that the SFFR would like to temporarily withdraw the request for the funding of the ladder truck. Mr. Thomas explained that the SFFR would like to postpone the request until they have had a chance to evaluate the Comprehensive Plan and when there is a fully staffed Council. Mr. Thomas explained to Council that the request was to be paused or temporarily postponed and that council could still discuss the item. Councilmember Noto expressed his concerns that the City has spent a considerable amount of money pertaining to the funding of the ladder truck from staff time, and discussions with the City Attorney. He also expressed his concerns about the stated reasoning behind the needs for the new ladder truck (the safety of the citizens as the city grows), and he does not really understand how the safety of the citizens can or should be postponed because of a councilmember's resignation or because of the Comprehensive Master Plan, which has been in the works for a long time. Council agreed there has been a lot of money and time spent on the topic and said that it wished Fire Chief Anderson was in attendance to explain the reasoning for the requested postponement in more depth.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to postpone the agenda item indefinitely, noting that if the SFFR would like to pursue the item again later, it can do so. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Approving the purchase of a new computer server for use by the Watchguard police body cameras

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda explained to the Council that the Watchguard receiver is slowly failing. The staff had hoped to delay the purchase until the next fiscal year budget however, since it keeps failing, it is in the best interest of the community to replace the system sooner rather than later. There are some savings in the current budget and there is also additional money remaining in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of about \$400,000.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve the purchase of a new server for use by the Watchguard police body cameras. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Consideration and possible action: Awarding a contract for Library Information Technology Services to Enovators Technology Group (ETG)

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda explained that the library typically uses a different Information Technology Services provider that is separate from the City. The library has received 3 different quotes from the following, PC & Cable, ETG, and Nerds To Go, the Library has determined the best selection in service is with ETG, which guarantees 22 hours per year in the amount of \$2,300.76, approximately, which is the lowest bid, and which allows for unlimited additional hours as needed for no additional cost.

Motion by Councilmember Marks, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to award the contract for the Library's Information Technology Services Enovators Technology Group. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

6. Consideration and possible action: Authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contractual Agreement with the Galveston County Health District for water pollution control and abatement services for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Acting City Manager explained that the City is a member of the Galveston County Health District and is responsible for the quality of water in its jurisdiction. The City does not have a staff member that has the qualifications to test the water, so the City contracts with the Health District. The cost for the contract has increased slightly, it is at \$7,678.00 a year which is up \$169.00 from the current year.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to authorize the Mayor to execute the Contractual Agreement with Galveston County Health District as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

7. Consideration and possible action: Acceptance of a Letter of Resignation from Councilmember Melanie Collins

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas explained that Councilmember Melanie Collins, Position 3 Councilmember, sent in her letter of resignation which is effective the end of the day May 1, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to accept Councilmember Melanie Collins' letter of resignation. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Council thanked Melanie Collins for her service to the City of Santa Fe.

8. Consideration and possible action: Resolution establishing procedures for a special city officer election to fill a vacancy in Council Position 3 and ordering such election

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas explained since Councilmember Melanie Collins' resignation was accepted, there is now a vacancy on the Council. The Texas Constitution requires that the City conduct an election to fill the vacancy within 120 days of the resignation, so the proposed election date is August 26, 2023. Accepting and approving the resolution will establish August 26, 2023, as the election day for the replacement of Ms. Collins. Since there was not an election this year there is \$15,000.00 in the election budget which should cover the cost for the election however, he said that a special election is costly compared to a regular election.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve and adopt the resolution ordering the special election as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

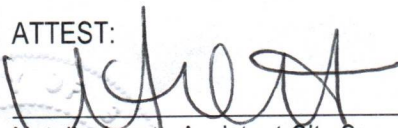
Announcements:

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas let everyone know that there will be a Candidate Orientation May 31, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for anyone who may have any questions or want information about how to run for a position on the Council, he also let everyone know there would be light refreshments.

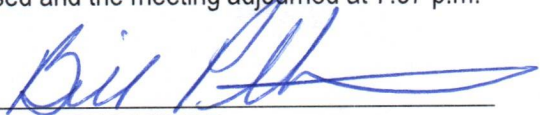
Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings: The next regular Council meeting is currently scheduled for May 25, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:



Natalie Arnett, Assistant City Secretary



BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR

