

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 25, 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: None

The invocation was given by Pastor Jake Bigford, 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 by Mayor Pittman of the Mayor's Spirit Award, Mayor Bill Pittman presented the Mayor Spirit award to Ryleigh Pappas and thanked her for the endless amount of time she has put in to volunteer for the City of Santa Fe.
2. Presentation of the Masons' Annual Community Builders Award, Keith Austin, and other members of the John Mitchell Lodge No. 1401 AF & AM presented the Community Builders Award to Library Director Rebecca McClain for her devotion to the Santa Fe community.
3. 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, presentation given by Finance Director Rudy Zepeda.
 - 2) Resiliency Center – counseling statistics, including new and continuing clients, for individual and family sessions

Citizens' Comments:

None.

Business:

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 2026

Civil Service Director Tiffany Gerhardt explained to Council that Chairperson Terry Mills' term is ending in June of 2023, and she is not interested in serving on the board for another term. There were 2 applications received for the position, one from Beverly Pruitt, and another from Anthony Macaluso. Ms. Gerhardt discussed the applications with Police Chief Walter Braun and Acting City Manager Alun Thomas and Mr. Thomas decided that Anthony Macaluso, owner of The Gun Vault was the best option to appoint to the Santa Fe Civil Service Commission Board.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, to appoint Anthony Macaluso as a commission member of the City of Santa Fe's Civil Service Commission.

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas asked that Councilmember O'Brien amend the motion or make a new motion since the Acting City Manager makes the appointment and Council's role is to confirm the appointment.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the Acting City Manager's appointment of Anthony Macaluso to the City of Santa Fe's Civil Service Commission. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Attendance of Board of Adjustment members and alternate members, and possible changes to the Board's membership

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas explained the Board of Adjustment has repeatedly had issues getting a quorum of members to attend its meetings. The Board made some changes during its last meeting on January 16, 2023, by moving the meetings from the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. because the members believed this would alleviate the problem. However, that has not been the case. The attendance has been poor and there have been a couple of situations where there was no quorum and the meeting had to be cancelled. Mr. Thomas presented the Council with a chart of the members' attendance and commended Chairperson Dawn Sharp for attending every meeting. Two members' and the two alternate members' terms expire in July of 2023 (Wayne Bacot, Dawn Sharp, David Unger, and Craig Thornton-Wright) and the remaining three members' terms expire next year in July. Mr. Thomas' recommendation would be for Council to review the members' attendance records and possibly make changes, if necessary, as those terms expire in July, if Council chooses to do so. Currently, there have not been many applicants and the extra month or two would help to receive more applicants. He encouraged citizens to apply to be on a board. Council agreed to wait until July to make a decision with the board members so there will hopefully be more applicants from which to choose, if necessary.

3. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution of the City Council of Santa Fe, Texas, adopting proposed revisions and restatements of the Bylaws of the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation

Councilmember Brandon Noto explained to the Council that he had asked Acting City Manager Alun Thomas to include this item on the agenda. Mr. Noto said that he had done some research on the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and came across a provision in state law for cities under 20,000 in population that allows them to open up the residency requirements to the surrounding county and thought it could be an option for the City of Santa Fe EDC however, Councilmember Noto said after more research he does not believe it is the right direction for the City of Santa Fe.

Councilmember Noto motioned to withdraw the item from the meeting, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Awarding a depository services contract for the primary deposit accounts of the City of Santa Fe and the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda let Council know that the City's current depository with Texas First Bank of Santa Fe is expiring May 31, 2023, per the requirements to The Local Government Code, Chapter 105, City staff has taken on the task of soliciting for proposals for a new contract. There were two proposals received, one from Texas First Bank of Santa Fe and another from Texas Capital Bank. Based on the assessment and the current built relationship, it is evident that Texas First Bank of Santa Fe holds the advantage for the City of Santa Fe. The proposed contract is for 3 years.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to award the depository services contract to Texas First Bank as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Consideration and possible action: Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Houston, acting through the Houston Police Department on behalf of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and the City of Santa Fe; designating the Chief of Police as the primary point of contact for the program; and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City

Police Chief Walter Braun explained the program would provide a group of support that can help with investigations when it comes to crimes against persons for child related offenses. There is a funding source that will pay for equipment and training that the city will not have to pay for. Detective Cody Myers explained that by joining the taskforce, it would ultimately turn his one-person office into a 25-to-30-man team. Detective Myers explained he has the ability to reach out to any of the other members at any time, including Houston Metro surrounding agencies and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, making the available resources almost endless. The job requires extensive training and needed equipment that the taskforce will help with and take the weight off the department.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Houston and the City of Santa Fe as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas explained to Council that over the last couple of months, Detective Myers had been invited to work along with this Task Force, and Detective Jesse Cannon had been invited to work alongside the U.S. Secret Service. He said that the citizens should be very proud that the Police Department has police detectives who are so credentialed and competent that those prestigious organizations want them to assist, and that he too is very proud of their achievements. The Council also commended the detectives and the Police Department.

6. Consideration and possible action: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Santa Fe and the City of League City for participation in the management and ownership of the Gulf Region Information and Dispatch (GRID) System, which provides a computer-aided dispatch, records management, and mobile computer system, serving law enforcement, fire, EMS, and emergency communications; and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the City

Police Chief Walter Braun explained this is an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is revisited periodically. The Gulf Region Information and Dispatch (GRID) system is the dispatch system for the community. There are about 20 to 25 agencies on board with this system and they will be sharing the cost on a proportional basis. Council asked if the City has ever addressed the Galveston County Emergency Services District No. 1 (ESD) to see if it is willing to take on this cost. Chief Braun said that the City has not addressed the matter with the ESD, It was the consensus of Council that the City should see if the ESD was willing to assist with the financial cost of the agreement, as it too benefits from the City's participation in the system.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Santa Fe and the League City for the participation in the management and ownership of the Gulf Region Information and Dispatch and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the City as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

7. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Subsection C, Foundation Elevation and Location, of Section 18, Supplementary Regulations to the Building Codes, of Chapter 3, Construction Regulations, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances through the removal of certain lowest floor elevation requirements; and providing a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date

Acting City Manager Alun Thomas explained to Council that this is an item that had been brought up in a previous meeting about milling roads and could not be discussed at the time. The question at hand is if by milling roads, the City could be able to change the minimum elevation standard for the lowest floor of a structure. Building Official Ray Burgess discussed in detail the current building regulations regarding the elevation of buildings' foundations. After a long discussion and presentation about changes to the regulations and what any changes might affect, the Council decided to not make any changes.

8. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Subsection D, Windstorm Resistant Construction, of Section 18, Supplementary Regulations to the Building Codes, of Chapter 3, Construction Regulations, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances through the removal of the exemptions to the Subsection; and providing a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date

Building Official Ray Burgess explained that there is only one paragraph in this subsection that is needed, the windstorm requirements, as the City must follow the Texas Department of Insurance's requirements. Citizens must comply with these requirements when building a building that is over 200 square feet.

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

Mayor Pittman asked if items 9 and 10 could be considered together, and Council agreed.

9. Executive Session, closed to the public, pursuant to Chapter 551.074, Texas Government Code, regarding the appointment and employment of public officers or employees – Fire Marshal

10. Executive Session, closed to the public, pursuant to Chapter 551.072, Texas Government Code, regarding deliberations about real property – Avenue P Project Just Compensation Statements for drainage easements

Mayor Bill Pittman recessed the regular meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor Bill Pittman reconvened the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m.

11. Consideration and possible action: Matters discussed in Executive Session regarding the Fire Marshal

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to authorize Acting City Manager Alun Thomas to extend an employment offer to Ramon Coven for the Fire Marshal position. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

12. Consideration and possible action: Matters discussed in Executive Session regarding approval of Just Compensation Statements for drainage easements for the Avenue P Project

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the Just Compensation Statements for drainage easements for the Avenue P Project. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

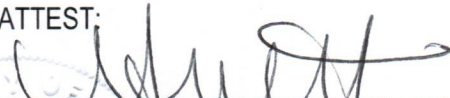
Announcements:


Councilmember Brandon Noto congratulated Santa Fe High School's graduating class of 2023, informing those present that the graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, May 26, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., and people who are unable to attend in person can watch it online. Assistant City Secretary Natalie Arnett reminded everyone about the Candidate Orientation on May 31, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Santa Fe City Hall for people who are interested in running for office in the August special election.

Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings: The next regular Council meeting is currently scheduled for June 8, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

ATTEST:



Natalie Arnett, Assistant City Secretary

BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR