

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 22, 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

Absent: Councilmember Dana Marks, excused

Mayor Bill Pittman expressed his condolences to Councilmember Marks and his family, for the loss of his mother.

The invocation was given by Pastor Tim Gregory, 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, 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:

Old Business:

1. Public Hearing: Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation to the City of Santa Fe Texas for funding up to \$100,000 for the removal of substandard structures to promote economic development

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda let Council know that the funding had been approved by the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and it now must be approved by Council for EDC to release the funds. Building Official Ray Burgess informed Council that there are already two customers that will allow the City to raze the structures, and Mr. Burgess is working on a few more cases.

Mayor Bill Pittman opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor Bill Pittman closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

2. Consideration and possible action: First reading of a resolution authorizing the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation to award the City of Santa Fe Texas funding up to \$100,000 for the removal of substandard structures to promote economic development

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to adopt the resolution approving the funding by the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation for removal of substandard structures as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action: Possible painting or wrapping of traffic signal controller cabinets owned by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) within the city limits of Santa Fe, Texas

Communications Specialist Laurie Tollett explained that during the previous regular Council meeting on June 8, 2023, there was discussion about painting the 12 traffic control boxes at the intersections. Now, staff would like direction on who should do the paintings. There will be no additional cost to the City unless the City provides the paint and supplies needed in which each box would cost approximately \$200 each. Council recommended getting the information out to the community, then present submissions to Council so that it can choose the 12 best suited designs. Council also recommended that staff give the community a theme (representative of the City of Santa Fe) for which the paintings may pertain. Council would like for staff to find out from surrounding cities if supplies were paid for by the cities or by the painters themselves. Council would like the participants to be Santa Fe residents, unless there are not enough participants then staff could look outside the community to the wider Santa Fe area.

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Appointment or reappointment of two members and two alternate members of the City of Santa Fe's Board of Adjustment for a two-year term to expire July 2025

City Secretary Natalie Arnett let Council know that Wayne Bacot, Dawn Sharp, David Unger and Craig Wright each have terms that will expire July 2023. At this time, there have been two applicants interested in a position on the Board: Tim Clark, and Ron Dailey. Staff has spoken with Dawn Sharp, David Unger and Craig Wright, and each of whom have expressed interest in remaining on the board. Ms. Arnett encouraged the Council take the attendance of the current board members into consideration when choosing people for appointments or reappointments.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to reappoint Dawn Sharp as a member of the Board of Adjustment (BOA), David Unger as a member of the BOA and Ron Dailey and Tim Clark as alternate members of the BOA. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Appointment of a new member to the City of Santa Fe's Economic Development Corporation to serve the remainder of an unexpired term that will expire August 2023

City Secretary Natalie Arnett explained to Council that Robert Bracknell resigned from his position on the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation (EDC), his term was otherwise to expire August 2023. There has been one applicant that is interested in the position: Johnny Helpenstill. Ms. Arnett informed Council that the EDC has had issues lately making a quorum and making an appointment could make it easier for the EDC to obtain a quorum.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to appoint Johnny Helpenstill as a member of the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action: Approval of the purchase of a storage device from Apple Inc. for financial and cybercrimes investigations to be reimbursed by the United States Secret Service

Police Chief Walter Braun explained this would be a storage device for Detective Jesse Cannon, which he could then use the storage of confidential information and not be on the City's network. The cost of purchasing the device is a guaranteed reimbursable expense from the United States Secret Service.

Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to approve the purchase of the storage device from Apple Inc. as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Approval of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, Authorizing the City's purchase, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, of Behringer-Tully Field, located at 5207 Avenue M at the northeast corner of Avenue M and 22nd Street, and legally described as ABST 149 E MITCHELL SUR PT OF OUTLOT 262 (262-2) ALTA LOMA OUTLOTS, from Santa Fe Independent School District

City Manager Alun Thomas explained the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation has been working towards providing the City with \$250,000 for the purchase of Behringer-Tully Field from Santa Fe Independent School District (SFISD). The Santa Fe Independent School District wanted to sell the land to the City in hopes it would remain public land. SFISD has informed the City that it needs to close or receive the funds for the land by the end of its fiscal year, which is the end of June 2023. The EDC is currently in a 60-day public comment period, after which it must hold a public hearing, and then Council would need to approve two readings of a resolution to agree to the allocation of funds by the EDC. Currently, there is insufficient time to get the funds to SFISD in time should the City elect to wait until the funds are received from the EDC. This item, therefore, is to approve the purchase of the property with the City's funds and EDC can then reimburse the City for the purchase of the field. Santa Fe Independent School District's Chief Financial Officer, Alajandro Sanchez, explained that SFISD is trying to close before its fiscal year ends in June 2023, and make sure all requirements are met before then as well. City Manager Alun Thomas told Council that the public has requested more parks, this would help achieve one of the goals in the forthcoming Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to approve the purchase of Behringer-Tully Field as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, supporting the City of Santa Fe's application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Call for Projects

City Manager Alun Thomas said that one of the recommendations in the forthcoming Comprehensive Plan is to improve safe transportation options in the city. City staff has been working on a grant application with Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), the Transportation Alternatives Project, which focuses on alternate methods of transportation. The focus for the City is the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists to have a safe place to commute instead of walking or riding next to a major highway or busy roads. This grant would allow for a study to see how the City could improve those modes of transportation within the city. Assuming the City Council wishes to proceed, the grant would require a 20% match. The 20% match could be up to \$46,000, and the match must come from the City's funds. The staff has explored options to find assistance from other entities with the funds however, there are not any currently. The City has many alleyways and unimproved rights-of-way that are great options for these types of transportation. If awarded, then next year, the City could go out for another grant under the same state program to start building the network out. Following a long discussion, Council came to the consensus that the City cannot afford to pursue this grant due to having such a tight budget, but is open to reconsidering such an undertaking at a later time.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, to not approve the application of the Texas Department of Transportation 2023 Transportation Alternatives grant. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

6. Discussion and direction: Presentation of the first draft of the proposed City of Santa Fe Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2024-2028

City Manager Alun Thomas explained that City staff has been working on a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), that lists every capital purchase or project that staff believes the City will need to undertake over the next 5 fiscal years. These items have been given to Council over the past several budget meetings and are listed in the agenda packet with a description of each item, each item's cost, and justification for why each should be included in the CIP. There is no action needed at this time, however Council's thoughts and directions are appreciated. There is a scheduled budget meeting for Thursday, July 20, 2023, and changes that are made at today's meeting will be presented at this scheduled meeting. Finance Director Rudy Zepeda and Mr. Thomas answered many questions from Council regarding funding sources and the CIP's proposed expenses. Mr. Zepeda explained that any expenditure over \$2000 is typically considered a capital expenditure. Mr. Zepeda also explained that any of the items that will be purchased in Fiscal Year 2024 will go on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024, and other items will be moved to the budget of the year of which Council decides the item should be purchased. These items will be paid through sales taxes, property taxes and any other revenue the City has that year. Mr. Thomas explained this 5-year plan is a requirement of the City's Charter; it does not guarantee the purchase of the items just explaining the plan of the purchases and Council can add or subtract items. There is no action needed, this item was only to have a discussion and so the Council can review the information before the next budget workshop.

7. Consideration and possible action: Approval of the Parks and Recreation Board recommended funding of \$7,000 for the proposed Pocket Market Music Festival

City Manager Alun Thomas reminded Council that during its last regular meeting on June 8, 2023, Council was presented with a proposal for a music festival at Joe Tambrella Park. The City's Park and Recreation Board considered a request for funding from the host of the festival to sponsor the event in the amount of \$7000, and voted to ask Council to approve the expense. Mr. Thomas explained that the Texas Constitution limits the City's ability to fund such events unless there is a 3-part test that can be met:

1. The City must ensure that the predominant purpose is to accomplish a public purpose;
2. The City must contain public control of the funds to ensure the public purpose is accomplished and protect the public's investment; and
3. The City must receive a return benefit.

Therefore, if Council makes the finding the expenditure serves the public service and there is an agreement in place to ensure the funds are expended in furtherance of that public purpose, then Council can approve the expenditure. Park and Recreation Board Chairperson Rebecca Martinez proposed that the Park and Recreation Board take over the music portion of the event to ensure compliance with the law. At this time, there are 4 musicians lined out and the sound system, which total \$5,600. Ms. Martinez said they would like to have a total of 6 musicians, all different genres, for the 7-hour event. The event is planned to occur on September 30, 2023. Finance Director Rudy Zepeda said that there would need to be 3 bids for the sound company, to comply with the City's policies. Then, Council can choose the bid that it prefers. Ms. Martinez said that the Park and Recreation Board worked in conjunction with the Pocket Market (the company proposing the event) previously and would like to continue to do so to keep bringing the community out. The funds are in the budget for special events, so the funds are already there. Mr. Zepeda added that this total does not include overtime of officers who would need to work the event. Council expressed

its concerns about the traffic and number of people who would be attending the event, concluding that the best place for the event would be at Runge Park. Council agreed that the Music Festival is a great idea, but the logistics for the event will need to be worked out and possibly have a date change. Mayor Bill Pittman suggested there would be a need for a stage at Runge Park for the bands to ensure they are seen. Mr. Thomas asked Evelyn Hayes if the vendors who attend the Pocket Market are paying sales tax to the City. Ms. Hayes said it is recommended in her vendor rules, however, she does not ensure that her vendors do so. Council requested a list of the vendors from Ms. Hayes.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the request for the proposed Pocket Market Music Fest by the City of Santa Fe in the amount of \$7,000, find that the expenditures serve a public purpose and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the event host to ensure all funds from the City are spent in furtherance of the public purpose. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements:

City Secretary Natalie Arnett let everyone know that the last date to file for a position on the August 26, 2023, special election ballot is Monday June 26, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. sharp.

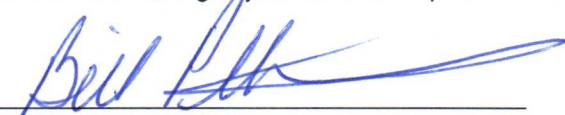
Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings: The next regular Council meeting is currently scheduled for July 13, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

ATTEST:



Natalie Arnett, City Secretary



BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR