

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 13, 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 Bill Pittman
Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Noto
Councilmember Dana Marks
Councilmember Jason O'Brien

Absent: Councilmember John Dickerson, excused

The Invocation was given by Pastor Amy Peters and the pledge to the U.S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Mayor Bill Pittman.

Mayor's and City Manager's Report:

City Manager Alun Thomas updated Council on the ongoing property developments and their progression. Mr. Thomas informed the Council that Community Services Director Georgia Carmack has been working with the Park and Recreation Board and Evelyn Hayes on the upcoming Pocket Market Music Festival. The first Police Cadet graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy and there is now a second Cadet, Jordan Evans, that is now enrolled into the Academy. Mr. Thomas thanked the Streets department and Galveston County Drainage District No. 1 for their work completing the culverts at Centennial Oaks and Highway 6, this completion will improve drainage for the area. Mr. Thomas also thanked City Secretary Natalie Arnett for her hard work during the process of an off-cycle Special Election.

1. Presentation by Mayor Pittman of the Mayor's Spirit Award to the Fire Marshals from the City of Texas City for all their help during the time the city was without a Fire Marshal. Mayor Bill Pittman also presented Carlos Ponce with the Mayor's Spirit Award for his contributions to the City of Santa Fe.
2. Presentation and approval of minutes: 6/8/2023 special meeting, 6/8/2023 regular meeting, 6/22/2023 regular meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.
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) Community Services – building permits issued, fees collected, inspections performed, development updates were presented by Community Services Director Georgia Carmack. Councilmember Brandon Noto congratulated Ms. Carmack on her leadership position at the City of Santa Fe.
 - 2) Parks and Community Center – park maintenance activities, center rental statistics
 - 3) Municipal Court – cases filed, revenue collected, warrants issued and cleared
 - 4) Police – calls for service statistics, traffic crash analysis, use of force incidents
 - 5) Fire Marshal – burn permit issuance, inspection activities
 - 6) Library – patron and program attendance, circulation material statistics, fines and donations collected
 - 7) Street – drainage projects, street maintenance and improvement activities, equipment maintenance

Citizens' Comments:

Rusty Schroeder, who lives at 11203 FM 1764 Rd, reminded everyone to keep an eye on their neighbors when they are outside in the extreme heat. Mr. Schroeder let everyone know that there is lunch at H.I.S. Ministry every day, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Schroeder thanked City Secretary Natalie Arnett for keeping him informed on the Special Election.

Business:

A. Old Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Second and final 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

Building Official Ray Burgess let Council know he has received four commitments from four different property owners that have agreed to remove the substandard structures. Mr. Burgess said the City has gone out for bids with four different contractors for the demolitions and is waiting to receive those bids so he can provide them to Community Services Director Georgia Carmack for review. Councilmember Brandon Noto asked Mr. Burgess, once the property owner pays for the lien on the property, if that money would go back to the removal of more substandard structures or into the general fund. City Manager Alun Thomas explained the difficulties and administrative burden associated with keeping up with the received money and recommended that the funds go into the general fund. However, he noted, that is ultimately up to the Council to decide.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve and adopt the resolution of the funding for the removal of substandard structures as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

B. Old Business:

1. Introduction of Ramon Coven, the City of Santa Fe's new Fire Marshal

City Manager Alun Thomas introduced Fire Marshal Ray Coven to the Council. Fire Marshal Ray Coven let Council know he retired from the City of Pasadena Texas before coming to the City of Santa Fe, and that he would like to finish his career at the City of Santa Fe and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity. Council welcomed Mr. Coven as the City's Fire Marshal.

2. Public Hearing: Proposed Comprehensive Plan for the City of Santa Fe

Mayor Bill Pittman opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Bill Pittman closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

3. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe adopting a Comprehensive Plan for the City; finding facts; defining the relationship between the Plan and other ordinances of the City; and providing a savings clause, a severance clause, and an effective date

City Manager Alun Thomas explained the City has been working on a new Comprehensive Plan over the past year. Mr. Thomas said the consultants typed up the Comprehensive Plan with one change to a parcel of land on Cemetery Road where the Santa Fe Independence School District (SFISD) used to own the 15 acres. At the Planning and Zoning Commission's meeting the Commissioners noted that the SFISD no longer owns that property. The Comprehensive Plan has been updated to reflect the change. The consultants, Mike Shelton and Josie Ortiz, gave a brief presentation for the Council that explained the Comprehensive Plan in depth, and answered some follow up questions from the Council.

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

4. Consideration and possible action: Approving a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, eliminating and cancelling outstanding library fines for overdue library materials

City Manager Alun Thomas reminded Council that in March of 2021, the City Council stopped imposing fines for overdue materials, however there are 80 patrons who collectively owe \$800 in library fines which were accumulated from 2016 to 2020. Staff believes that it would be fair to eliminate these outstanding fines since the City no longer collects such fines.

Motion by Councilmember Marks, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the resolution eliminating and cancelling outstanding library fines as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

5. Discussion and direction: Status of the Avenue P Drainage Project

City Manager Alun Thomas explained that the City has been unable to secure the required easements along Avenue P for the drainage project that has been in the works, as the project was initially designed. Following some project meetings, the Project Engineer Chris Dougherty has proposed some alternative routing for the drainage channels however, this would increase the cost for the project by approximately \$1,000,000.

Gary Lawrence, a member of the audience, explained that Avenue P was supposed to expand at one time, but it will no longer happen. There are 6 undeveloped acres on the southern side of the street, and he wants to ensure that it does not get landlocked.

Councilmember Noto thanked Commissioner Joe Guisti and Galveston County for partnering with the City and helping the City out. Mayor Bill Pittman added that Galveston County Drainage District No. 1 has been doing a lot of the hard work out there also.

6. Consideration and possible action: Dissolution of the City of Santa Fe's Community Potluck bank account

City Manager Alun Thomas explained that in June of 2019, before the pandemic, the City opened a bank account called the Community Potluck. Since December of 2019 there have been 3 deposits and 1 expense leaving a balance of approximately \$487 in the account with no activity. Staff recommends closing the account and transferring the \$487.57 to a different General Ledger account called the Special Purpose Parks Fund account so the funds could still be used for special purposes.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to authorize the closure of the Community Potluck bank account and transferring the funds to the Special Purpose Parks fund account as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

7. Consideration and possible action: Approving a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, supporting the creation of a state trust fund intended to provide long-term funding for the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD), and requesting that Governor Abbott reconsider his opposition to HB 2416 and reevaluate it in a future special session of the Texas Legislature

City Manager Alun Thomas explained in 2021, the Texas Legislature created the Gulf Coast Protection District; the goal of that Protection District is to oversee the implementation of an integrated and comprehensive coast resiliency strategy for the upper Texas coast. In this Legislative session, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott vetoed House Bill 2416 which was passed by the Texas Legislature to create a trust fund to ensure that the protection district would be adequately funded. Mr. Thomas explained that Protection District has the opportunity to save lives, preserve our environment and help the Santa Fe community.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve and adopt the resolution supporting the creation of a state trust fund intended to provide long-term funding for the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) and requesting that Governor Abbott reconsider his opposition to HB 2416 and reevaluate it in a future special session of the Texas Legislature. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements:


Mayor Bill Pittman let everyone know if anyone was interested in becoming a police officer that the next entry level Police Officer Civil Service exam will be August 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Fe Justice Center, doors will be open at 8:30 a.m. Also, the City will be hosting a Hurricane Preparation Expo for the public this Saturday July 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Station 1. Santa Fe Fire and Rescue will be generously providing hotdogs and hamburgers for the event. City Secretary Natalie Arnett informed everyone that if they would like to vote at the August 26, 2023, Special Election that they would need to be a registered voter and there is approximately 2 weeks left to get registered to vote.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

ATTEST:



Natalie N. Arnett, City Secretary



BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR