

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

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Bill Pittman

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

Absent: Councilmember John Dickerson, excused

**III. Business:**

**1. Consideration and possible action: Dispatching services provided by the City of Santa Fe to Santa Fe Fire and Rescue**

Mayor Pittman stated that the City of Santa Fe recently purchased a new dispatch console for approximately \$500,000.00 with funds from its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. Police Captain Robert Shores estimated that another \$30,000.00 per year is required for maintenance, software, and renewal fees for the console.

City Manager Alun Thomas noted that for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 year-to-date, the City of Santa Fe has dispatched 481 fire calls and 1,842 Emergency Medical Services calls for Santa Fe Fire & Rescue (SFFR), totaling \$67,367.00, equating to what Finance Director Rudy Zepeda has calculated to be approximately \$29 per call cost to the City.


In response to a question by Mayor Pittman, Police Department Administrative Assistant Tiffany Gerhardt stated that, while the current dispatchers are handling their responsibilities adequately, she believed that the City would need to hire three additional dispatchers sooner rather than later in order to meet the need of the rapidly growing community, but ultimately would need to double the number of dispatchers in the near future.

Ms. Gerhardt added that the dispatchers' roles with emergency calls are limited due to lack of training and State-mandated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) certification, with Fire Chief Anderson asserting that, according to House Bill 786, which was passed in the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 2021, EMD training is not required by the State. Mr. Thomas advised that, while EMD training for telecommunicators is not mandated by the State, it should be an essential requirement for the City given the improved level of care that can be provided by the dispatchers prior to the arrival of first responders.

Mayor Pittman expressed concern about whether the City should incur the entire cost of dispatching services, including the calls for fire and EMS assistance outside of Santa Fe's city

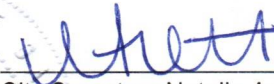

limits, since SFFR is its own taxing entity, with the ability to raise taxes to pay for dispatching services, if necessary. Chief Anderson responded by agreeing to take on some of the costs, asking Mayor Pittman for the dollar amount the City is requesting, but no consensus was reached during the meeting on what that amount should be.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



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MAYOR BILL PITTMAN



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City Secretary Natalie Arnett