

**CITY OF SANTA FE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 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 Pittman.

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

Absent: None

**Business:**

**1. Discussion and direction: Development of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for the City of Santa Fe, including proposed capital projects, grant expenditures, personnel costs, and adoption of a proposed tax rate**

Finance Director Rudy Zepeda explained to Council in this step of the budget process, the City will have to set a proposed tax rate that will need to be sent to the tax assessor. The tax assessor will publish the City's No New Revenue Rate, Voter Approval Rates, and the City's Proposed Rate. The notice will also include the date and time of the public hearing along with the date and time the Council will approve the rates. Mr. Zepeda explained that the rate the Council chooses will be the highest rate the City can then later adopt, noting that the Council can choose to go lower than the chosen rate but cannot exceed that chosen rate.

Mr. Zepeda went through all Capital Expenditures again with the Council with each tax rate to see what rate and eliminated items would get the budget closer to the balanced budget that Council desired. Councilmember Dickerson explained to everyone that he would like a balanced budget and there would need to be more items cut to do so. There was discussion about eliminating the part-time employees at the Mae Bruce Library, employees' Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA), and postponing the hiring of more dispatchers. After plugging the tax rates into his calculation spreadsheet and eliminating as much as possible, it was the consensus of Council became that it is impossible for the City to choose the "No New Revenue" rate, as the rate will ultimately bankrupt the City within the next few years.

After much discussion, the Council voted to set the "proposed tax rate" as \$0.261801, therefore, the tax rate set later cannot exceed this proposed rate. The actual tax rate will be decided on in the September 14, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to adopt a "proposed tax rate" of \$0.261801. The roll call vote resulted in a tie with Councilmember O'Brien and Councilmember Marks in favor, Councilmember Noto and Councilmember Dickerson opposed. In compliance with Section 3.01 of the City Charter, Mayor Pittman cast a tiebreaking vote in favor. Motion passed.

Motion by Councilmember Noto to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Natalie N. Arnett, City Secretary

  
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BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR