

**CITY OF SANTA FE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 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: Councilmember Brandon Noto  
Councilmember Jason O'Brien  
Councilmember Dana Marks

Absent: Mayor Bill Pittman, excused  
Councilmember John Dickerson, excused

The invocation was given by Building Official Ray Burgess, and Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Noto 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. Proclamation celebrating the victory of the League City American Legion Post 554 baseball team in the 2023 American Legion World Series, presented to the team by Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Noto on behalf of Mayor Bill Pittman.
2. 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 cash flow, financial reports, investment reports, utility audit services, PEG channel development), and Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation project updates, presentation given by Finance Director Rudy Zepeda.
  - 2) Resiliency Center – counseling statistics, including new and continuing clients, for individual and family sessions.
  - 3) Presentation of the Board of Adjustment's Annual Report for Fiscal Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, presented by Community Services Director Georgia Carmack.
  - 4) Presentation of the Planning & Zoning Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, presented by Community Services Director Georgia Carmack.

**Citizens' Comments:**

Terri O'Connell, who lives at 12821 19<sup>th</sup> St., thanked Mayor Pro Tem Noto for being the auctioneer at Galveston County Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. Ms. O'Connell said there was an article in the *Galveston County Daily News* in which she was misquoted, and the newspaper will print a retraction. Ms. O'Connell encouraged everyone to go and vote; in 10 days out of the 9,200 registered voters in the city only 390 have come to vote.

Rusty Schroeder, who lives at 11203 FM 1764, thanked City Manager Alun Thomas, City Secretary Natalie Arnett, and the City staff for making it nice and bearable for everyone that has been at City Hall campaigning and voting. Mr. Schroeder also reminded everyone this Saturday, August 26, 2023, is Election Day and to come out and vote. He also expressed his concerns about there only being 403 voters. Mr. Schroeder let everyone know about "The Final Run at Behringer-Tully Field" on September 2, 2023, and commended Community Services Director Georgia Carmack for coordinating the event.

Bubba Jannett, who lives at 5136 Ave L, wanted to clarify the difference in the total number of votes that Ms. O'Connell and Mr. Schroeder gave – both totals were right, however, one was the total number of votes for City Hall and the other number of votes were total from both City Hall and Galveston County.

**Business:**

**Old Business:**

**1. Consideration and possible action: Second and final reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Subsection G, Detention Basins and Facilities, of Section 6.4, Drainage and Storm Sewers, of Chapter 8, Subdivisions, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances through the addition of additional conditions to the subsection; and providing a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date**  
Community Services Director Georgia Carmack explained that nothing has changed since the first reading of the ordinance.

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

**2. Consideration and possible action: Second and final reading of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, Texas repealing Section 15, Curfew for Minors, of Chapter 1, General Provisions, of the City of Santa Fe Code of Ordinances; and establishing an effective date**

City Manager Alun Thomas explained the State of Texas has made juvenile curfew bans illegal for municipalities as of September 1, 2023. The approval of this second reading of the ordinance will allow for staff to strike it from the City's Code of Ordinances and to still be in compliance with State Law by September 1, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve the second and final reading of the ordinance repealing the juvenile curfew as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**3. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Santa Fe, Texas approving an interlocal agreement between the City of Santa Fe and Region VIII Education Service Center for the City's participation in the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative; authorizing execution of the agreement by the Mayor; and designating the Finance Director as the City's "primary purchasing person" for the agreement**

City Manager Alun Thomas explained that TIPS is a cooperative purchasing program, which is a membership that would allow the City to purchase items at reduced rates while ensuring compliance with state purchasing laws. It does not cost the City anything to join the cooperative. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve the resolution approving an interlocal agreement between the City of Santa Fe and Region VIII Education Service Center for the City's participation in the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**New Business:**

**1. Public hearing: The City of Santa Fe City Council will receive public comments related to the following proposed tax rate for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023:**

Proposed Tax Rate:	\$0.261801 per \$100
Proposed M&O Rate portion:	\$0.236304 per \$100
Proposed Debt Rate portion:	\$0.254970 per \$100

Mayor Pro Tem Noto opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Rusty Schroeder, who lives at 11203 FM 1764, has been watching the budget workshops and has seen the Council going back and forth on what all to cut from the budget. He said he does not want to see a tax increase. He explained the \$25 a year potential increase will not hurt him, but he cannot speak for all the citizens in this town, and with the cost of living, property taxes, etcetera, some citizens might struggle with the tax increase. Citizens that have lived here for years, especially the elders and struggling to continue to live in Sanat Fe. He explained this is one of the reasons he is running for election to Council and so that the citizens can have a better understanding of the Galveston County Central Appraisal District. Mr. Schroeder said he appreciates the Council and he knows they have some hard decisions to make, but asked that they keep in mind the citizens who will struggle with an increase in taxes.

Mayor Pro Tem Noto closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

**2. Consideration and possible action: Request from Evening Investors, LLC for the acceptance of the infrastructure associated with the construction plans for water, sanitary sewer, force main and drainage facilities and paving & appurtenances to serve Centennial Oaks**

Building Official Ray Burgess commended the staff involved with this project, noting that the owner and developer have done an outstanding job staying in communication. It is with pleasure that Mr. Burgess recommended the approval of this subdivision. Mayor Pro Tem Noto commended Mr. Burgess for the list he created for the developers that shows all the requirements they need to meet.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien, seconded by Councilmember Noto, to approve the request from Evening Investors, LLC for the acceptance of the infrastructure associated with the construction plans for water, sanitary sewer, force main and drainage facilities and paving & appurtenances to serve Centennial Oaks as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements:


City Secretary Natalie Arnett encouraged everyone to please come out and vote Saturday, August 26, 2023, voting will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ken Read and his daughter, Kimberly, from Evening Investors, LLC, said it has been a pleasure working in Santa Fe. Mr. Read said the Building Official Ray Burgess is very organized and stayed in communication to make sure the project ran smoothly. Mayor Pro Tem Noto thanked Mr. Read for investing in Santa Fe and keeping the culture and heritage in mind with the development. Building Official Ray Burgess wanted to add that Building Inspector Jim Wedergren has done all the plan reviews and has been working with the builder of Centennial Oaks to get the project started.

Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings: The next regular Council meeting is currently scheduled for September 14, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Natalie N. Arnett, City Secretary

  
BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR