

**CITY OF SANTA FE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2024 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 Ronald "Bubba" Jannett  
Councilmember John Dickerson  
Councilmember Dana Marks

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Noto, excused  
Councilmember Jason O'Brien, excused

The Invocation was given by Pastor T.C. Judd from True Faith Community Church, 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:

Mayor Bill Pittman presented Julie Fornea from the Mae S. Bruce Library with the Mayor's Spirt Award.

City Manager Alun Thomas gave a brief update on the upcoming development off of FM 1764. Mr. Thomas thanked the Council for approving the fiber internet lines for City Hall and the Santa Fe Justice Center, as this will allow the staff to perform online tasks much more quickly, to better help the public. At the previous meeting there were concerned citizens about the drainage on their streets, Mr. Thomas said that he visited the streets after the rainfall on Saturday, February 3, 2024, and since then there has been some progress made in those areas. There were also some concerns about the drainage on McKay Road, the Streets Department went and cleared out debris from the ditches and culverts, and did some work right outside the city limits, as it leads to a canal that will help city and county residents with these drainage concerns. Mr. Thomas thanked Galveston County and Drainage District No. 1 for assisting with the clearing of the debris in those areas. There were concerns about the drainage on South Bellaire which is much more complicated, as it is a natural low point, however, some work has been done and there is still more to come. Staff received a request from a concerned citizen asking that the City install a flashing traffic light on 646 South and 28<sup>th</sup> Street, however, the City cannot fulfill the request as it is in the right-of-way of a State highway. The City has installed "stop sign ahead" signs on 28<sup>th</sup> Street to help improve safety at the intersection. The request was sent to the Texas Department of Transportation. Mr. Thomas encouraged citizens to let staff know about any concerns they may have so that the concerns can be addressed. Mr. Thomas thanked Communications Specialist Laurie Tollett for helping the Santa Fe Municipal Court during its busy time.

1. Swearing-in Ceremony for the promotion of Jerry Price to Police Corporal, sworn in by Police Chief Walter Braun.
2. Police – 2023 Racial Profiling Report, presented to Council by Police Chief Walter Braun.
3. Presentation and approval of minutes: 1/11/2024 regular meeting, 1/25/2024 regular meeting, 2/1/2024 joint meeting, and 2/1/2024 special meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.
4. 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 update, presented by Community Services Director Georgia Carmack.
  - 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, Police Walter Braun presented the racial profiling stats for last calendar year.
- 5) Fire Marshal – burn permit issuance, inspection activities
- 6) Library – patron and program attendance, circulation material statistics, fines and donations collected; library accreditation, Library Director Becky McClain let Council know that Mae S. Bruce Library received the 2023 Achievement of Library Excellence Award.
- 7) Street – drainage projects, street maintenance and improvement activities, equipment maintenance, presented by Streets Superintendent Billy Creppon.
- 8) Resiliency Center – counseling statistics, including new and continuing clients, for individual and family sessions

Citizens' Comments:

None.

Business:

**A. New Business:**

**1. Public hearing: Request to amend Ordinance no. 02-03, commonly known as the City of Santa Fe Unified Development Code, or the Santa Fe Zoning Ordinance, 2002 edition, the official zoning map adopted under Section 3.08, by changing the zoning classification from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to Single-Family Residential (R-1) at 14302 Peck Street, Santa Fe, Texas, legally described as ABST 611 I & I N RR SUR SEC 17 LOT 11 BLK 28 Arcadia Townsite, City of Santa Fe, Galveston County, Texas**

Building Official Ray Burgess let Council know that the application for the zoning change at 14302 Peck Street went to the Santa Fe Planning and Zoning Commission which unanimously recommended that Council approve the request. If Council approves the zoning change, the owner of the property will still have to go before the Santa Fe Zoning Board of Adjustment for other accommodations to the property. City Manager Alun Thomas explained that this property is a very small lot and said that Single-Family Residential (R-1) will better accommodate the property. If the Zoning Board of Adjustment were to deny the requested accommodation from the property owner, the zoning change, if approved by Council, would stay as R-1, and would not revert back to the Council.

Mayor Bill Pittman opened the public hearing at 7:22 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Bill Pittman closed the public hearing at 7:22 p.m.

**2. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Ordinance no. 02-03, commonly known as the City of Santa Fe Unified Development Code, or the Santa Fe Zoning Ordinance, 2002 edition, the official zoning map adopted under Section 3.08, by changing the zoning classification from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to Single-Family Residential (R-1) at 14302 Peck Street, Santa Fe, Texas, legally described as ABST 611 I & I N RR SUR SEC 17 LOT 11 BLK 28 Arcadia Townsite, City of Santa Fe, Galveston County, Texas; and providing for the incorporation of preamble, a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date**

City Manager Alun Thomas explained that approval of this ordinance would allow for the zone change from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to Single-Family Residential (R-1) at 14302 Peck Street. Per the City Charter, since there would be a fine for noncompliance, there must be two readings of the ordinance prior to its adoption. Mr. Thomas explained that the property is ultimately of no use zoned as NC and is more suited for residential.

Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to approve the first reading of the ordinance as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**3. Public hearing: Request to amend Ordinance no. 02-03, commonly known as the City of Santa Fe Unified Development Code, or the Santa Fe Zoning Ordinance, 2002 edition, the official zoning map adopted under Section 3.08, by changing the zoning classification from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to Highway Commercial (HC) at 12330 FM 1764, Santa Fe, Texas, legally described as ABST 1 page 11 pt of lot 19 (19-5) Thamans 1st Sub, City of Santa Fe, Galveston County, Texas**

Building Official Ray Burgess let Council know that the application for the zoning change at 12330 FM 1764 went to the Santa Fe Planning and Zoning Commission which unanimously recommended that Council approve the request. This property used to be a used car lot, but that business has since closed, and the property became rental property, which then caused the owner to lose his legally non-conforming ("grandfathered-in") status. Therefore, the owner would like to change the zoning to use the property as he chooses in the future, including as a used car lot. Mr. Burgess said that most likely there will need to be a Corridor Development Permit in the future which will require the property owner to meet other requirements of the City.

Mayor Bill Pittman opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Bill Pittman closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

**4. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, amending Ordinance no. 02-03, commonly known as the City of Santa Fe Unified Development Code, or the Santa Fe Zoning Ordinance, 2002 edition, the official zoning map adopted under Section 3.08, by changing the zoning classification from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to Highway Commercial (HC) at 12330 FM 1764, Santa Fe, Texas, legally described as ABST 1 page 11 pt of lot 19 (19-5) Thamans 1st Sub, City of Santa Fe, Galveston County, Texas; and providing for the incorporation of preamble, a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date**

City Manager Alun Thomas stated that this proposed zone change is in line with the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve the first reading of the ordinance as presented. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**5. Consideration and possible action: Appointment or reappointment of three members to the Park and Recreation Board to serve a two-year term to expire in February 2026**

City Secretary Natalie Arnett explained that there are three members of the Park and Recreation Board who have terms ending February 2024. Staff reached out to the current three members and all three members have opted not to renew their terms. Therefore, now three positions are vacant and need to be filled. Staff received four applications from individuals who are interested in becoming a member.

Motion by Councilmember Marks, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to appoint Kara Campbell, Peggy Fulmer, and Nina Cederburg as the new members of the Park and Recreation Board to each serve a two year term to expire February 2026. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**6. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution establishing procedures for the general city officers' election to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and ordering such election**

City Secretary Natalie Arnett explained that the approval of this resolution orders the City's general election and ensures that staff complies with State Law.

Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve and adopt the resolution ordering the Charter election.

Before roll call was taken, Mayor Bill Pittman told Councilmember Dickerson that the motion needed to be for the general election and not the Charter election.

Amended motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve and adopt the resolution ordering the general election. The amended motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**7. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution establishing procedures for a special city officer election to fill a vacancy in Council Position 1, to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and ordering such election**

City Secretary Natalie Arnett explained that the approval of this resolution orders the special city officer election to fill the vacancy in Council Position 1 and ensures that staff complies with State Law.

Motion by Councilmember Marks, seconded by Councilmember Jannett, to approve and adopt the resolution ordering the special city officer election. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

**8. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution establishing procedures for a special city election to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, on the adoption of amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter and ordering such election**

City Secretary Natalie Arnett explained that the approval of this resolution orders the City Charter election and ensures that staff complies with State Law.

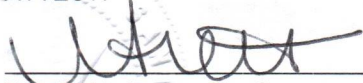
Motion by Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Marks, to approve and adopt the resolution ordering the City Charter election. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements:

City Secretary Natalie Arnett reminded everyone that staff is still accepting applications for anyone looking to run for City Council; the deadline is February 16, by 5:00 p.m. Also, anyone who is not registered to vote can fill out a voter's registration application and turn it in to the Galveston County Election office no later than 30 days before the election date. Terri O'Connell from the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce let everyone know that on February 14, 2024, the Chamber will be having their luncheon at Hidden Palms and tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. The next Chamber of Commerce "After Hours Mixer" will be February 15, 2024, at Loving Care Pet Hospital from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. "Sunrise Santa Fe" is February 28, 2024, at Lonestar Pharmacy, Armadilleaux Café, and Your Family Health Care at 7:45 a.m.

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

ATTEST:

  
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Natalie N. Arnett, City Secretary

  
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BILL PITTMAN, MAYOR