

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Mayor Jason Tabor.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Jason Tabor
Mayor Pro-tem Bill Pittman
Councilmember Corey Jannett
Councilmember Fidencio Leija
City Manager Joe Dickson
City Secretary Janet L. Davis
Absent: Councilmember Jason O'Brien, excused
Councilmember IV Hoke, excused

Public Hearing: First public hearing on proposed tax increase

City Manager Joe Dickson said Council is proposing, for public discussion purposes, a 7.5 percent increase in the effective tax rate of \$0.3154 which would equate to a property tax rate of \$0.3391. He said the current tax rate is \$0.3262 which would be a 3.43 percent increase to the effective rate. Mr. Bubba Jannett of 5136 Avenue L said not all the Council proposed a 7.5 percent increase, and he asked what we propose to do with the revenue. Councilmember Leija responded that he would support an increase in the police force to deter crime and narcotic activities, a homestead exemption, increased retirement benefits for city employees, Runge Park community facilities, and street improvements. Councilmember Leija also said Texas City has refineries, Galveston has tourism, League City has retail industry, and we have rooftops to generate revenue. . Mr. Jannett said we partner well with the county and could utilize a continued partnership with them for milling services as part of our street improvement program, and he also supports expanded infrastructure in order to expand our sales tax base. Mr. Jeff Tambrella of 12017 – 24th Street said the city has one of the highest property tax rates in the county considering all the services provided and the tax rates for those services. He said he favors partnering with the county for milling services and asked why the city is taking over Runge Park when the citizens already have use of the park under the county. Mr. Tambrella said the police department is fully funded but may not be fully staffed due to employee turnover, and he encouraged Council to shop local and keep working on economic development to minimize the tax load on rooftops. Councilmember Pittman provided the total tax rate for cities in Galveston County which ranks us the third lowest. Ms. Deedra VanNess of 12617 Harriett Lane reminded Council of the lingering impact from Hurricane Harvey stating we have a community that is still struggling.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at which time there will be a second public hearing on the proposed tax increase.

Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Jannett to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

JASON TABOR, MAYOR

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary