

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Jason Tabor.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Jason Tabor
Mayor Pro-tem Bill Pittman
Councilmember Fidencio Leija
Councilmember IV Hoke
Councilmember Jason O'Brien
Councilmember Corey Jannett

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro-tem Bill Pittman. The pledge of allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by City Manager Glen Adams.

Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: COVID-19, the impact on Santa Fe, and the City Council's recommended was forward

Mayor Tabor read a prepared statement about the reason for this special emergency meeting. City Manager Glen Adams said he has been putting out updates on the COVID-19 virus, which is statistically alarming, and he asked Council for comments, direction, and guidance for the city moving forward. Councilmember Pittman said the information is constantly changing, and he expressed concerns that those that don't have a Facebook account or text are not receiving our updates and recommendations. Councilmember O'Brien suggested we allow to-go orders at minimum and feels the numbers of those infected are not showing up in Galveston County due to the lack of symptoms and testing. Mr. Adams said that any one of us could be carriers of the virus and not even know. Councilmember Leija said we need to reach the general public more and suggested we develop a communication plan to include the statistics about the number of people we reach. Councilmember Jannett asked about the Blackboard Connect notification service, and Mr. Adams said we have cancelled that outdated service since the water district moved to a different service and declined to continue to share the cost with the city. Mr. Adams said we are trying to mitigate risk by reducing the number of people allowed at one time in the library and quarantining the returned books. He said he is asking businesses to evaluate their conditions and take measures to mitigate risks rather than waiting on the city to dictate actions. Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce President Gina Bouvier said local businesses are taking precautionary measures, like drive-thru and call-in services, while still providing much-needed services to the community. Councilmember Pittman said he would like for City Manager Glen Adams to be the point of contact for the city related to the COVID-19 pandemic and empower him to make decisions to protect the community and keep Council informed. Mr. Adams said he would like to bring our Resiliency Center Public Information Officer, Wendy Norris, on board fulltime for the time being to help us disseminate information to the community. Mayor Tabor said we are encouraging people to limit contact by staying home and Councilmember Hoke said education is crucial as we motivate our citizens to seek out information updated by the city and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), limit contact, and practice good hygiene to minimize or prevent the spread of the virus.

Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Leija to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

JASON TABOR, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary