

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 21, 2020 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Jason Tabor.

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

Also in attendance were City Manager Glen Adams, City Secretary Janet L. Davis, Police Chief Philip Meadows, Police Captain Robert Shores, Municipal Court Administrator Lisa Snider, City Marshal Robert Wood, Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine, Director of Administrative Services Stacey Baker, Community Services Director Diana Steelquist, and Building Official Marty Haley.

Workshop: Discussion of 2020/2021 general fund operating budget

City Manager Glen Adams opened the workshop stating that the city's policy recommends we maintain three months' operating expenses in reserve, so we would have approximately \$595,000 in flexibility in this proposed budget to consider funding one-time, non-recurring expenses. He also commented on the additional menu items which are areas that have been identified for funding either now or in the future when funds become available to sustain the expense.

Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine reviewed the proposed status quo budget and added that NFPA membership is necessary to update to the current fire codes.

Municipal Court Administrator Lisa Snider reviewed the proposed budget, including the final lease purchase payment on the marshal's vehicle and related equipment. She requested the prosecutor expenses be increased from \$13,860 to \$18,000 to cover anticipated municipal court proceedings when the court reopens under COVID precautionary measures, and she said the transaction fee expenses are covered by the fee charged to those that use the credit card service. City Marshal Robert Wood proposed adding a deputy marshal or two for traffic enforcement to help with the large influx of traffic in recent years. City Manager Glen Adams said we have plenty of speeders and we should be striving to change the behavior of drivers in order to protect the community and make it safer for residents. Councilmember Pittman asked why we cannot accomplish this with our current police force, and Chief Meadows said his department respond to many for calls for service, leaving little time for traffic enforcement. He said the police department currently participates in the STEP grant for traffic enforcement but the program is for a specific purpose and the funds are limited. Mr. Adams said staff is researching the benefits of becoming a court of record, and he said he is a proponent of additional training for our employees so they have the skill set to be successful in the job regardless of the situation.

Police Chief Philip Meadows reviewed the proposed budget including additional training funds from \$14,000 to \$20,000. He also reviewed the advantages of purchasing three additional fleet vehicles and related equipment now or replacing the entire fleet of eight plus two additional units and related equipment the following year through a five-year lease purchase arrangement. Chief Meadows said we also have six non-fleet vehicles utilized by the chief, captain, lieutenant, and investigators. He recommended we supply ammunition, in addition to the 100 round annual qualification, so each officer can become more proficient with their firearm. Councilmember Leija asked that we look into incentives to encourage police officers to reside within the community.

Director of Administrative Services Stacey Baker said additional training funds have been included in the proposed budget to cover the costs for civil service staff to attend the annual training in our region. She said the budget remains status quo with testing materials and legal expenses.

Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

JASON TABOR, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary