

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA FE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SANTA FE CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 31, 2022 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Pittman.

Present: President Fidencio Leija, Jr, arrived at 6:03 p.m.
Director Ashley Carner, arrived at 6:05 p.m.
Director Bob Wylie
Director Matt Crable
Director Tamra Loftin
Director Gregg Vicknair
Director Robert Bracknell

Absent: None

Council Roll Call: Present: Mayor Bill Pittman
Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Noto
Councilmember Jason O'Brien
Councilmember Melanie Collins
Councilmember John Dickerson

Absent: Councilmember Dana Marks, excused

Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Selection of a new attorney for the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation and possible selection of a new attorney for the City of Santa Fe

David Olson, an attorney from Olson & Olson, LLP, introduced himself and his firm to Council and to Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Mr. Olson said the firm is a Houston-based firm that strictly handles only municipal business. He explained that, if his firm is selected to represent both EDC and the City, the EDC would have its own attorney, the City would have its own attorney; the two would not share one attorney.

Shana O'Neal, an attorney from Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal & Zech, P.C., introduced herself and the firm to Council and to the EDC. Ms. O'Neal explained the firm is based out of Austin; however, they now have a League City location that has been open for about a year and a half, and other offices around the state that work closely together to ensure that their clients' needs are met. In response to a question from Council, Ms. O'Neal said that, if selected by both the City and the EDC, Charles Zech would be the primary attorney for both entities.

Council and the EDC then discussed the presentations by the attorneys and their firms' respective suitability to serve as counsel for one of or both of the entities. Acting City Manager Alun Thomas and Finance Director/Economic Development Director Rudy Zepeda provided insight on both firms from their respective professional experiences.

2. Consideration and possible action: Approval of the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation's intent to support the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue's request for funding up to \$500,000 for a new Ladder Truck
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Chris Anderson presented the Item to Council and to the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation (EDC) explaining that the closest ladder truck to Santa Fe is a bucket truck in Alvin and a "straight stick" ladder truck which is in Hitchcock. Chief Anderson said that in the year 2022, ladder trucks had been used in Santa Fe through mutual aid agreements a total of 36 times. Chief Anderson said that, if purchase of the truck is authorized, no payments for the ladder truck would be made until it had arrived, which, if ordered today, would not be until approximately 2027. Chief Anderson led those present through a presentation that showed the requirement for a ladder truck to respond to fires in structures of 2,000 square feet or more, and showed photographs of various school building in the city as examples of buildings that would therefore benefit from a ladder truck. However, when Chief Anderson was asked if the Fire and Rescue would be asking the Santa Fe Independent School District (SFISD) to help with funding of the ladder truck, he informed Council and EDC that Fire and Rescue will not ask SFISD or the County of Galveston for any funds for the truck. Chief Anderson said that the District's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, a rating that determines how well the fire department can protect the community, would improve in the city limits of Santa Fe from a 2 to a 1 once a ladder truck goes into service, which would save property owners money on their insurance premiums.

Motion by Councilmember Noto, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, at 7:00 p.m. to recess the meeting for a few moments. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously. Motion by Director Crable, seconded by Director Wylie, at 7:00 p.m. to recess the meeting for a few moments. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

After a lengthy discussion with Chief Anderson, EDC President Fidencio Leija explained the EDC would have further discussion about the EDC's decision and any stipulations that it may wish to place upon approval of funding from the EDC.

3. Discussion and direction: Ownership and usage of Berringer-Tully Field, located at the northeast corner of Avenue M and 22nd Street

Mayor Bill Pittman explained to the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation (EDC) that the Berringer-Tully Field property is approximately 5 acres and has been brought to the City's attention by the seller, Santa Fe Independent School District (SFISD). Mayor Pittman explained the history behind the property, which includes its former use as a high school site, and said this would be a great place for a new park in the city. He continued, saying that citizens have made complaints that there are not many activities in the city for children, so he would like the EDC to discuss purchasing this property (which would cost approximately \$200,000) and eventually making it a park for the children to enjoy. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the EDC to consider the purchase at a future meeting, and to ask SFISD to not sell the land to anyone else until the EDC had reached a decision.

Motion by Councilmember O'Brien to adjourn. The motion passed and the joint meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



Rudy Zepeda, Executive Director



Fidencio Leija, Jr., President