

**SANTA FE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DATE: April 4, 2023, AT 7:15 p.m.
SANTA FE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by President Fidencio Leija, Jr.

2. **Roll Call:** Present: Fidencio Leija, Jr., President
Rudy Zepeda, Economic Development Corporation Director
Ashley Carner, Secretary/Treasurer
Gregg Vicknair, Director
Robert Bracknell, Director
Bob Wylie, Director
Tamra Loftin, Director

Absent: Matt Crable, Vice President

3. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Director Ashley Carner and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Fidencio Leija, Jr.

4. **Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

5. **Reports & Presentations:**

a. **None**

There were no reports or presentations given.
Director Tamra Loftin entered the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

6. **Business**

a. **Discussion with possible action on the funding assistance to the City of Santa Fe for the purchase of Berringer-Tully Park from the Santa Fe ISD**

Economic Development Corporation Director Rudy Zepeda advised the Board that input from the citizens of Santa Fe on the Comprehensive Master Plan indicated a need for more parks in the city. The Santa Fe City Council and Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation had been made aware of a property owned by the Santa Fe Independent School District, commonly referred to as Berringer-Tully Park, that the Santa Fe Independent School District would be willing to sell to the City of Santa Fe for public use. The Santa Fe City Council then asked for funding assistance from the Economic Development Corporation.

President Leija noted that the value of the 4.55-acre property at Berringer-Tully Field has been appraised at \$345,000.00 and that the Santa Fe Independent School District offered to sell the property to the City of Santa Fe for \$250,000.00.

In response to a series of questions by Director Bob Wylie on whether the City of Santa Fe would benefit from another park, Mayor Bill Pittman clarified to the Board that the majority of citizens who responded to survey questions in the first meetings of the Comprehensive Plan did overwhelmingly agree that the City of Santa Fe was in need of more parks. President Leija and Director Carner agreed that the citizens expressed their desire for a safe place for the youth of Santa Fe to gather. President Leija added that the Landscape Architects at Kimley-Horn had offered at the last Economic Development Corporation meeting to put together two plans for a potential park for that property to give a general idea of how the property might be used and the costs associated with each of those plans. Economic Development Director Rudy Zepeda explained that the cost for possible development for a park at that location would come from the Parks Budget.

Economic Development Director Rudy Zepeda explained that, if approved, the Economic Development Corporation would provide funding to the City of Santa Fe for the purchase of the property, which would then be owned by the City. If the Economic Development Corporation approves the funding this evening, the matter will then be discussed at the next City Council meeting next Thursday, April 13, 2023. If approved, then Economic Development Corporation would, as required by law, release the funds no sooner than 60 days from the April 13, 2023, decision by the Santa Fe City Council. Santa Fe Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Kevin Bott added that the sale would need to be finalized before the end of the Santa Fe Independent School District's current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2023. Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees President Rusty Norman emphasized that the intention of the Santa Fe Independent School District Board was to partner with the City of Santa Fe to provide a property for the City for public use. Mr. Norman added that if the sale of the Berringer-Tully Field property to the City of Santa Fe did not go through, the Santa Fe Independent School District would be forced to put the property for sale on the open market.


There was a motion to approve preliminary funding for Berringer-Tully Field made by President Leija, which was seconded by Director Ashley Carner, and passed unanimously.

7. Citizens' Comments

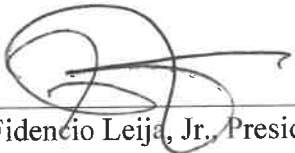
There were no citizens comments.

There was a motion by Director Bob Wylie to adjourn, with a second by Director Ashley Carner. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

ATTEST:



Rudy Zepeda, Executive Director



Fidencio Leija, Jr., President