

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2016 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6
SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Tambrella.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Jeff Tambrella
 Mayor Pro-tem Bubba Jannett
 Councilmember Corey Jannett
 Councilmember Joe Carothers
 Councilmember Bill Pittman
 Councilmember Charlie Coleman
 City Manager Joe Dickson
 City Secretary Janet L. Davis
 Absent: City Attorney Ellis J. Ortego, excused

Also in attendance were Director of Administrative Services Pam Wood, Police Chief Jeff Powell, Police Captain Philip Meadows, Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine, and Municipal Court Administrator Lisa Snider.

The invocation was given by and the pledge of allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by City Manager Joe Dickson.

Workshop: Discussion of 2016/2017 general fund operating budget

City Manager Joe Dickson reviewed the projects and goals that were prioritized last year.

1. Street improvements and drainage (ongoing); Cemetery Road (bridge done)
2. Keep Santa Fe Beautiful – cleanup Highway 6 (active with Keep Texas Beautiful)
3. Attract business: distribution center, restaurants, light manufacturing, retail (working with Buxton to attract, expand, and retain business)
4. Library expansion (new roof proposed)
5. Upgrade Thelma Webber Community Center (new floor and some kitchen upgrades complete; still working on additional upgrades)
6. Vacant lot at 4925 Main St (lot sold for \$10,300)
7. Parks Board coordination of activities with Chamber and SFISD (Heritage Festival, Back to School Bash, improved communication)

City Manager Joe Dickson reported that appraisals have increased again this year and the freeze adjusted taxable value is \$600,656,085, which includes 85 percent of values still under review. He said the effective tax rate has been calculated at \$0.3262, of which \$0.0437 is for debt service, and we anticipate a 96 percent collection rate. Mr. Dickson said if the effective tax rate is adopted, the total tax levy on a \$100,000 home would be \$326.20. He reviewed the tax increase scenarios to figure the tax levy based upon the current tax rate, which is the equivalent of a 5.76 percent increase in the effective rate, along with a 3

percent, 5 percent, and 7 ½ percent increase. Mayor Tambrella said he felt if we propose an increase this year, then our citizens will be as angry with us as they are with the appraisal district, and Councilmember Pittman agreed.

Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine reported that we did not go electronically with our burn permits because our current software is not compatible with the proposed new equipment needed. He said the City of Houston carries his commission so the city is saving money on dues and subscriptions. Mr. Dauphine said he still proposed funds for 20 hours per week but he is typically able to work less hours per week and still accomplish his work, saving the city money.

Director of Administrative Services Pam Wood reviewed the civil service proposed budget, stating that expenses are status quo, including entrance and promotional testing expenses.

City Manager Joe Dickson reviewed the animal services proposed budget expenses, which is a 9.5 percent increase in last year's budget. He said this new arrangement began rocky with Texas Animal Control Solutions, but is now working very well under Bayou Animal Services.

Municipal Court Administrator Lisa Snider said collections are on target and Marshal Wood is doing a great job with warrant collections. She said new budgetary requests in the department include a new computer, a vehicle camera, new graphics for the pass-down vehicle from the police department, and two new uniforms and a jacket for the marshal.

Police Chief Jeff Powell reviewed the budgetary requests, including the purchase of four new police vehicles based upon current mileage, down time, and repair/maintenance expenses. He said one of those new vehicles is proposed as a replacement for the K9 unit, and the other three are to replace the last of the Dodge Charges in the fleet. Chief Powell suggested we also look into the purchase of new computer equipment in the vehicles because the current laptops are five years old and beginning to go out of service due to incompatibility with the consortium software. Mayor Tambrella stated that the life expectancy of a laptop is 3 to 4 years and beyond that is an accident waiting to happen. Chief Powell said there is a proposed increase in K9 supplies for a new training bite suit to replace the currently worn-out suit. He said the League City Consortium expenses are expected to decrease and he said he has ordered a series of online training opportunities that are self-paced videos and courses, at an overall low cost, that officers have available to them to expand their knowledge. Chief Powell also described his plans for community engagement.

Motion by Councilmember Bubba Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Pittman to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

JEFF TAMBRELLA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary