

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2015 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6
SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Tambrella.

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

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.

Also in attendance were Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine, Library Director Brenda Cheatham, Community Services Director Diana Steelquist, and Galveston County Tax Assessor-Collector Cheryl Johnson.

Business:

a. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution expressing opposition to the Galveston Central Appraisal District's proposed 2016 annual budget

City Manager Joe Dickson reviewed the Galveston Central Appraisal District's budget and noted many items that seemed out of line. Galveston County Tax Assessor-Collector Cheryl Johnson said she is concerned about proposed wages that do not appear appropriate. She said our budgets are much tighter and giving a large increase to select positions is not acceptable. There are also funds proposed for new software for a failing system and an increase in legal fees and travel and auto allowance. No answers have been provided from the district about who is receiving a car allowance and how mileage is paid. Motion by Councilmember Bubba Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Corey Jannett to adopt the resolution expressing opposition to the Galveston Central Appraisal District's proposed 2016 annual budget. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

b. Workshop: Discussion of 2015/2016 general fund operating budget, including effective tax rate calculations and property tax exemptions with Galveston County Tax Assessor-Collector Cheryl Johnson
City Manager Joe Dickson briefly reviewed the effective tax rate calculated by the county tax office based on certified values from the Galveston Central Appraisal District including 85 percent of values still under review. He said proposed tax revenue for the 2015/16 fiscal year was calculated based upon the effective tax rate, as well as increases of 3 percent, 5 percent, and the current tax rate which is equivalent to a 6.8 percent increase. Mrs. Cheryl Johnson explained the process of the effective tax rate calculations and

summarized the city's new exemptions and revenue reductions used in calculating the effective rate. She provided potential effects of additional exemptions along with a list of the city's top property taxpayers. Council discussed the revenue effect of various rates based upon tax rate increases and the possibility that the Galveston Central Appraisal District will certify values still under review at greater than 85 percent. Council discussed the Ford Interceptor as opposed to the Chevy Tahoe as the type of police vehicle proposed for purchase in the new fiscal year based upon the community's needs. Mayor Tambrella said the new economic development committee is working to bring in new and expanded business opportunities to help reduce the property tax burden of homeowners. Mayor Tambrella said he would prefer to promote growth and bring in funds through new and expanded businesses rather than increase the property tax rate. Council pondered their concerns about the appropriated fund balance and the fund balance in reserve.

Motion by Councilmember Bubba Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Carothers to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

JEFF TAMBRELLA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary