

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2011 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 Ralph Stenzel.

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

Also present were Community Services Director Diana Steelquist, Street Superintendent Chris Beanland, and Library Director Brenda Cheatham.

The invocation was given by City Manager Joe Dickson, and the pledge to the U.S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Councilmember Jeff Tambrella.

Workshop: Discussion of proposed 2011/12 general fund operating budget

City Manager Joe Dickson reviewed the effective tax rate worksheet and tax increase options and provided updated sales tax revenue projections. He said that training and travel expenses were somehow inadvertently omitted from the working copy in administration, court, library, and streets, so those figures, totaling \$19,500, need to be added back in. He reviewed the reclassified wage and salary schedule and the average 3 percent wage increase that has been included in this proposed budget.

Library Director Brenda Cheatham review the proposed library budget, noting that this will be the final payment on the a/c units. She said the library is celebrating 25 years, so we need to be planning to re-roof, replace carpet, upgrade the electrical service and lighting, etc. in the next few years. Ms. Cheatham reviewed the state legislature cutbacks at the State Library and as such, we have lost the Lone Star Libraries Grant. She said the Houston Area Library System will probably go away following state budget cuts as the state appears to be shifting the burden to local entities. She reported that the summer reading program has concluded and it was a huge success with over 10,000 items checked out in the two-month period.

Community Services Director Diana Steelquist said the community services proposed budget includes a new computer this year and will need a new large format printer next year. She said the department may utilize a pass-down police vehicle for the building official. Ms. Steelquist provided an update on the Supreme Court ruling regarding the substandard building process, and said funds for the Galveston County Stormwater Pollution Plan and Dickinson Bayou Watershed have been included in the proposed budget. She said final payment on the mower has been included in the proposed budget and stated that we may need a new scag mower very soon. She also said the budget includes a full time building and grounds maintenance position, but the full time laborer vacancy was not filled and that position has been removed from the upcoming budget. Ms. Steelquist said the community center budget includes nothing new due to the current economic conditions, although new flooring is needed in the main room.

Street Superintendent Chris Beanland said the proposed budget includes the second payment on the new building, the final payment on the slope mower, and a first payment on a replacement pickup truck and a new paver. He stated that an additional slope mower and operator will be imperative once we annex more area. He said the street improvement funds have been reduced slightly, but we should still be able to resurface over two miles next year. With county bond funds the past two years, an additional two miles each year have been improved. Mr. Beanland said vehicle maintenance remains unchanged, and there is a possibility that new street sign regulations may be forthcoming.

Mr. Dickson reviewed the payroll cost comparison worksheets with proposed wage increases, the proposed revised salary schedule, and wage freeze options. Councilmember Abney stated that many school districts are freezing wages. Council seemed in favor of adding funds to purchase lapel cameras and to add a police officer position to help reduce the overtime and comptime.

The next budget workshop is scheduled for August 23, 2011, at 6 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember McCrary to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary