

**CITY OF SANTA FE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2009 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6
SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Mayor Ralph Stenzel.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Ralph Stenzel
Mayor Pro-tem Jeff Tambrella
Councilmember Joe Carothers
Councilmember Bubba Jannett
Councilmember Jim Abney
City Manager Joe Dickson
Absent: City Attorney Ellis J. Ortego, excused
Council, Place 5 is vacant due to the resignation of Rebecca Darden

The invocation was given by and the pledge of allegiance to the U. S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Councilmember Jim Abney.

Planning and Zoning Business: None

City Business (Other):

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution revising the fee schedule for building development permits

Community Services Director Diana Steelquist said this was brought to her attention when she first came to work here. Permit fees are generally based on values but the current method is too high especially on the higher end projects. As the value increased, the fees increased exponentially. The proposed method of calculating fees will reduce the costs of permits to be more comparable with those charged by surrounding communities. Councilmember Abney noted that Friendswood does not charge the ISD for permits, but Ms. Steelquist said she is not comfortable letting go of those funds since we do have plan review and inspection costs associated with issuing permits to the school. Motion by Councilmember Tambrella, seconded by Councilmember Carothers to adopt the resolution revising the fee schedule for building development permits. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution revising the fee schedule for building permits issued to SFISD

Community Services Director Diana Steelquist said the newly revised permit fee schedule significantly reduces the permit fees for the school facilities and she does not feel comfortable offering any other discounts, so this item is not an issue since item 1 above revising the fee schedule passed.

3. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution ordering a special election to be held on November 3, 2009, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, propositions for the issuance of public improvement bonds for various purposes and making other provisions related to the subject

Council discussed the number of propositions to take to the voters along with the proposition language. The first proposition will be in the amount of \$5,000,000 for a new police building. The second proposition will be in the amount of \$3,000,000 for library expansion. The third proposition will be in the amount of \$900,000 for a new street maintenance facility. Motion by Councilmember Tambrella, seconded by Councilmember Abney to pass the first reading of the ordinance ordering a special election to be held on November 3, 2009, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, propositions for the issuance of public improvement bonds for various purposes and making other provisions related to the subject and to dispense with the second reading. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution declaring intention to reimburse project expenditures

City Manager Joe Dickson said this resolution will authorize rolling the purchase price of the land into the bond and authorizing a reimbursement for the land purchase through bond funds. Motion by Councilmember Abney, seconded by Councilmember Carothers to adopt the resolution declaring intention to reimburse project expenditures. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously..

5. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, approving negotiated resolution between the Gulf Coast Coalition of Cities and CenterPoint Energy Entex ("CenterPoint" or "Company") regarding the company's cost of service adjustment ("COSA") filing; declaring existing rates to be unreasonable; requiring the company to reimburse cities' reasonable ratemaking expenses; adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the negotiated resolution and finding the rates to be set by the attached tariffs to be just and reasonable; adopting a savings clause; determining that this ordinance was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act; declaring an effective date; repealing any prior ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance and requiring delivery of this ordinance to the company and legal counsel

City Manager Joe Dickson said CenterPoint Energy Entex had applied for a cost of service adjustment totaling \$4.25 million which would increase a residential gas bill by approximately \$1.39/month. The previous agreement with CenterPoint stated they could not increase future cost of service adjustments more than 5 percent, or 65 cents, resulting in approximately \$1.9 million plus 16 cents for the previous rate case negotiation expenses. These terms have been negotiated and agreed to by both the Coalition and CenterPoint. Motion by Councilmember Tambrella, seconded by Councilmember Jannett to pass the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Santa Fe, Texas, approving negotiated resolution between the Gulf

Coast Coalition of Cities and CenterPoint Energy Entex ("CenterPoint" or "Company") regarding the company's cost of service adjustment ("COSA") filing; declaring existing rates to be unreasonable; requiring the company to reimburse cities' reasonable ratemaking expenses; adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the negotiated resolution and finding the rates to be set by the attached tariffs to be just and reasonable; adopting a savings clause; determining that this ordinance was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act; declaring an effective date; repealing any prior ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance and requiring delivery of this ordinance to the company and legal counsel. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

6. Consideration and possible action: Casting ballot for a member to serve on the TML-IEBP Board of Trustees – TML Region 14 for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2012

City Manager Joe Dickson said he has known Ron Crabtree, City Manager of the City of Deer Park, for many years and recommended that he be reappointed to the TML Board of Trustees for another term. Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Carothers to cast the ballot for Ron Crabtree as a member of the TML-IEBP Board of Trustees – TML Region 14 for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2012. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

7. Consideration and possible action: Appointment of a member to the City Council to serve the unexpired two-year term of Councilmember, Place 5, vacated by the resignation of Rebecca A. Darden

Mayor Stenzel said he received a letter from former Councilmember Pat McCrary offering to serve for the remainder of Rebecca's unexpired term. He said Ms. McCrary has stated that she will not seek election in May. Motion by Councilmember Carothers, seconded by Councilmember Tambrella to appoint Pat McCrary to serve the unexpired two-year term of Councilmember, Place 5, vacated by the resignation of Rebecca A. Darden. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements: None

Summary of action from this agenda, request for future agenda items, and scheduling future meetings

Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Carothers to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary