

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

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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 City Secretary Janet L. Davis
	Absent:	City Attorney Ellis J. Ortega, excused Council, Place 5 is vacant due to the resignation of Rebecca Darden

Workshop:

a. Discussion of design and budget for bond initiative projects, specifically a public safety building, library expansion, street improvements, and public works facility

City Manager Joe Dickson said there has been discussion about the number of propositions the Council wants to include in the order calling the election, so this workshop is for Council to discuss grouping the projects together on the ballot or listing each project in a separate proposition. Mayor Stenzel restated that Council has agreed that these projects are all good projects, but they equate to a lot of money.

Councilmember Tambrella feels we should consider holding off with the bond election until next year at this time. He said that most agree that everything discussed is needed but the cost is the main concern. He feels that we could cut some of the square footage of the public safety building to make a more efficient building that we could actually afford and get passed. He said we can reduce the office space and not reduce the functionality and that redesign could result in a cost savings. Mayor Stenzel said the design of the public safety building takes into account future expansion to accommodate our growing needs. He said he wants to make sure we still move forward and are not solely focused on the possibility of failure.

Councilmember Abney said now is the time for construction because the costs are relatively low. He said he feels the May election date may be better than waiting until November, 2010. He said Council has identified the need for all four projects even though we may not receive public support for all four. He feels the police facility is the number one priority, but he does not want to separate court and renovate the existing building. He said he would be inclined to keep the public safety building and the library expansion projects and seek approval for a street maintenance facility and street improvements at another time.

Mayor Stenzel said the reason for all the propositions is to let the public decide. He feels Council should not limit the choices. Mr. Dickson said the streets are being kept up, but a new maintenance facility is needed. He said we could revisit the proposed budget and allocate funding for a new building at the existing location.

Councilmember Carothers said he is leaning towards only two propositions. One for the public safety building and one for library expansion, with the priority being the public safety building. He said he is not sure that 11 cents is going to pass by the voters. Mayor Stenzel said we have maintained a low tax rate for many years, but it is time to move forward and let the citizens decide if they want to pay for a new facility. However, if we focus on two propositions, then we may be more successful.

Councilmember Jannett said he is in favor of combining the street facility and street improvements into one proposition and pulling off the library expansion project. Mr. Bobby Wright of Avenue R said anything over 10 cents is going to get progressively harder to sell. He agreed there is not a bad project on the table but he feels we can function without the court in the police building and control the costs by reducing the size of the building. Mr. Ted Gillis of Cemetery Road feels the library expansion will not pass on its own. Mr. Barry Cook, former Police Chief, feels that the building could be reduced to save costs in order to have a successful bond election. He said a new public safety building was in his long-range plan when he was Chief and he will definitely support the bond proposal. Mr. Ted Landry of Avenue P felt everything should be separated and said the people will vote for what they think is necessary. He said he does not feel we need an expanded library.

The consensus of Council was to put three propositions on the ballot. The first proposition for a police facility, the second proposition for library improvements, and the third proposition for a street maintenance facility.

Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Tambrella to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary