

**CITY OF SANTA FE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 21, 2012 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6
SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

City Manager Joe Dickson welcomed everyone at 6:05 p.m. He said we will have two presentations – one from Chief Campbell and the other from Municipal Court Administrator Cheryl Hopf. The presentations will be followed by closing remarks and then the discussion opened to public ideas and input.

Council in attendance were: Mayor Ralph Stenzel, Councilmember Joe Carothers, Councilmember Jim Abney, and Councilmember Jeff Tambrella.

Community members in attendance were: Frank and Winnie Corsaro, Jason Tabor, Gary Curtis, Roy Weiland, Robert Bear, Bob Burk, Fritz Barnett, Rick Smith, Paul Millo, Lisa High, Marcia Rozelle, Daniel Kivch, Larry and Karen Griswold, Don Carroll, Marta Carter, Dennis and Wanda Wagner, Joe Brantley, Aaron Griswold, Heather Burd, Brenda Loewen, Brenda Cheatham, Barry Cook, and Philip Meadows.

Police Chief Kenneth Campbell expressed his thanks for those that took the time to come and expressed his disappointment that we didn't have standing room only. He gave an overview of the history of the building currently housing the police department, noting that it was the Alta Loma Volunteer Fire Department, then city hall and the police department/municipal court, before it became solely the police department and municipal court. He said we have just outgrown the facility, and he reviewed the current issues with the sally port, lobby, parking, evidence room, dispatch center, booking area, jail and holding area, interview room, juvenile holding room, video recording and storage room, file storage, and offices for patrol, sergeants, detectives, and administrative personnel.

Municipal Court Administrator Cheryl Hopf described the size and condition of their current facility, which is the east end of the police department building. She duplicated the Chief's concerns that the space is too small, in poor condition, and not adequately secured.

Mr. Dickson said a mold assessment test of the building shows mold levels are high even though it doesn't meet the "hazardous" level. He said the building leaks when it rains, there are no sound barriers, and parts of the building have separated from the main facility.

Public discussion included comments that construction costs will not be any cheaper later and we should make sure we don't outgrow the building before we pay for it. Some felt a May election may be too soon to gather enough support, suggesting November would be a better time considering the expected voter turnout. Others felt a shorter time span can work to our advantage because the momentum needed to support a bond election does not slow down during the initial months. The consensus of those in attendance was that \$5,000,000 is not too much for a facility and we do not want to cut corners and serve our needs only for the immediate future. Building costs and interest rates are still low, and we desperately need a facility that will serve not only as a police department, but a safe haven, a refuge, and a justice center for accountability.

Our current ability to adequately serve the public in that existing facility is extremely limited. Making the public aware of the safety issue of the current building, the need for the new building, and letting the voters know exactly what this bond will cost them was among the most important issues to be addressed by a political action committee (PAC). Citizen involvement is crucial for the success of a bond election, and the city cannot spend public money to promote the bond issue. An anticipated time frame was discussed should the election be successful, specifically within months to sell the bonds and seek bids and about two years for completion of construction.

The consensus of the group was to move forward with a May election for a new public safety building.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary