

CITY OF SANTA FE

City Council Regular Meeting
February 26, 2009
Council Chambers at 7:00 PM
12002 HWY 6
SANTA FE, TEXAS

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Ralph Stenzel.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Ralph Stenzel
Mayor Pro-tem Bubba Jannett
Councilmember Jeff Tambrella
Councilmember Rebecca A. Darden
Councilmember Joe Carothers
Councilmember Pam Schwertner
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.

Planning and Zoning Business: None

City Business (Other):

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Consideration and possible action: First reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 6, Health and Sanitation, of the Code of Ordinances, by adding Section 10, Park Regulations; providing for a penalty; having a severability clause
Community Services Director Diana Steelquist said this ordinance is based upon our last meeting to enable enforcement of the park rules adopted by resolution at the last meeting. Staff has drafted a new section under health and sanitation to provide for park regulations and enforcement authority in all the city parks. Mr. Larry Alexander asked for assistance from the Council with the smoking issue at Runge Park. He said people are inconsiderate and smoke around the dugouts where the team members are. Council questioned the city's regulatory authority at a county park. City Manager Joe Dickson said he spoke with county's legal counsel, Harvey Bazaman, about this issue, and Mr. Bazaman said we could probably pass such an ordinance regulating smoking in the public parks. Mr. Bazaman said he would check with the county park director to see what is already in the county park rules, and if smoking is not addressed, he said he would be willing to take the issue before Commissioners' Court. Mr. Alexander said that just

posting signs prohibiting smoking beyond the parking lot would probably deter 90 percent of the people smoking in the area next to the bleachers and dugouts. Council agreed to work with the County on the smoking concern at Runge Park. Motion by Councilmember Darden, seconded by Councilmember Tambrella to pass the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 6, Health and Sanitation, of the Code of Ordinances, by adding Section 10, Park Regulations; providing for a penalty; having a severability clause. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action: Approval of recommended charter amendments from the Charter Review Commission

City Manager Joe Dickson said the Charter Review Commission has met over the last several months and has recommended some proposed amendments to the charter. Council met in a joint workshop with the Commission to review the proposed changes, and as a result of that workshop, the proposed language regarding Council vacancies, Council terms of office, and qualifications of municipal court judges has been changed. Mr. Dickson reviewed those changes, specifically the transition to three year terms of office if the proposition passes and the constitutional provision regarding filling vacancies for terms of office longer than two years. In addition, only the municipal court presiding judge would be required to be a licensed attorney. Other judges would not have to meet that requirement. Mr. Roney McCrary, Chairman of the Charter Review Commission, recognized the Charter Review Commission members and applauded their efforts doing research and discussing the current and proposed charter provisions. Members of the commission are: Wanda Wagner, Jay Gilbert, Cayce Dowell, Robert Bear, and Joyce Arnold. Councilmember Schwertner asked the members of the commission how they felt about the change in terms for councilmembers being proposed to take effect beginning this year. Chairman McCrary said that they discussed the change in the length of terms and it only makes sense to have it take effect now if it passes. Motion by Councilmember Darden, seconded by Councilmember Carothers to approve the recommended charter amendments from the Charter Review Commission. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action: Adoption of a resolution ordering a special election to be held in the City of Santa Fe, Texas, on Saturday, May 9, 2009, on the adoption of amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter and establishing procedures for such election

City Manager Joe Dickson said this resolution would order the special election to present the recommended charter amendments to the voters in conjunction with the May 9 general election of city officers. Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Tambrella to adopt the resolution ordering a special election to be held in the City of Santa Fe, Texas, on Saturday, May 9, 2009, on the adoption of amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter and establishing procedures for such election. The motion passed the roll call vote unanimously.

Announcements: The dedication of the second pavilion at the Joe A. Tambrella Park is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, at 3 p.m.

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

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

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