

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 28, 2015 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 Jeff Tambrella.

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

Also in attendance: Director of Administrative Services Pam Wood, Police Chief Kenneth Campbell, Court Administrator Lisa Snider, and Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine.

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.

Workshop: Discussion of 2015/2016 general fund operating budget

City Manager Joe Dickson said when this budget process began with staff a few months ago, the deficit needed from the fund balance was \$636,371. Through his discussions with department heads and a more extensive review of proposed revenue, that deficit was reduced to \$393,895. This workshop is intended to discuss the proposed departmental expenditures with the department heads who can provide a more detailed explanation of what the department needs to provide services and to operate on a daily basis.

Police Chief Kenneth Campbell said he originally proposed the lease purchase of new police vehicles since we skipped a year in the rotation. That request has been reduced to 4 vehicles and the vehicle of choice for most agencies is currently the Tahoe. The chargers have turned out not to be a good police unit despite the positive reviews when they were originally introduced. Chief Campbell said he is also proposing a new car video system where uploading videos from the car to the server is seamless and accomplished just by diving into the police department parking lot. This eliminates the perception that videos can be altered during the transfer process because no person is involved in the uploading activity. He briefly discussed the advantage of pocket video cameras but is hoping for future grant funding that will assist us with that purchase. Chief Campbell said this budget also includes funds to purchase a burn barrel for narcotics destruction, a video camera for a new mugshot capture system, and replacement tasers, in addition to normal operating costs.

Municipal Court Administrator Lisa Snider reported that Judge Getty has increased fine amounts by about 10 percent effective August 1, 2015. She also discussed the advantage of purchasing electronic ticket writers that upload all the information from the ticket into the municipal court system. This will reduce the amount of staff time needed to input information and will reduce errors in interpreting handwriting and entering data manually. She said the municipal court technology funds will cover almost the entire purchase over a 3-year period.

Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine said he has included the purchase of a computer tablet for electronic permit processing in the field. He also suggested we consider charging a nominal \$10 fee for each burn permit and increase the duration of the permit from 30 to 60 days. Mr. Dauphine also suggested we begin charging fees for daycare and group home inspections mandated by the state as well as for false fire and burglar alarm calls. He felt that commercial burn permit fees are in line with fees charged by other communities, and he reported that there are no longer any TCEQ licensed trench burners in Galveston and Harris County. When Mr. Dauphine was asked about his stance on fireworks, he responded that he does not feel a blanket prohibition is appropriate for celebratory fireworks. Council discussed the possibility of permitting the sale of fireworks and adding an entertainment tax and perhaps permitting discharge during certain periods of the year.

Director of Administrative Services Pam Wood said the civil service budget is status quo except for increased legal fees.

City Manager Joe Dickson said the water pollution monitoring and animal control and shelter services expenses remain the same for the upcoming year, even as we begin our new service agreement with Texas Animal Control Services instead of the Galveston County Health District.

Motion by Councilmember Bubba Jannett, seconded by Councilmember McCrary to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

JEFF TAMBRELLA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary