

**CITY OF SANTA FE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 29, 2010 6:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
12002 HWY. 6  
SANTA FE, TEXAS**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor Ralph Stenzel.

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

Also present were Street Superintendent Chris Beanland, Library Director Brenda Cheatham, and Community Services Director Diana Steelquist.

The invocation was given by City Manager Joe Dickson.

**Workshop: Discussion of proposed 2010/11 general fund operating budget**

City Manager Joe Dickson directed Council to the latest working copy of the proposed budget indicating a deficit of \$335,250. He said we are still working with preliminary tax values to calculate property tax revenue based on the current tax rate. We should be able to better estimate the proposed tax revenue once the certified values are received and the effective tax rate has been calculated. There are no new employees and very few capital projects included in this budget. Mr. Dickson identified several items to consider cutting to reduce the deficit, specifically all elective travel and training, membership to the Galveston County Economic Development Alliance and the International City Manager Association, services for the associate court judge, the increase for attorney/prosecutor services, and a wage freeze. He also reviewed the goals that were established by Council in 2007, identifying those that have been achieved and those we are still working towards.

Library Director Brenda Cheatham reviewed the changes proposed in the department budget, specifically additional shelving, the second payment on the a/c units, and the removal of funds for a security officer since the Citizens on Patrol has been extremely helpful monitoring the activity around the library and park areas. She said there is also approximately \$228,000 being held in a trust from the Mae S. Bruce estate specifically for the library. No plans have been formulated yet for use of those funds.

Mr. Dickson reviewed the changes in the administration department proposed budget, specifically funds for a replacement computer, the second payment on the microphone system for the council chambers, reduced election expenses due to an off year and no general election anticipated, and an increase for city attorney services. He said the expenses are remaining about the same for tax collection services through the county as well as our share of expenses to the appraisal district. Councilmember Abney questioned the calculation of payroll in the various departments stating that the numbers appear to be higher than an average 3 percent wage increase. Staff will review the proposed payroll for further discussion at the next workshop.

Community Services Director Diana Steelquist reviewed proposed department budgets for community services, parks, and the community center. Expenditures for community services remains about the same as the previous year. Community park fee funds are proposed to be used to add amenities along the walking trail, and funds are budgeted for the second payment on the tractor. The second park employee is included full time in parks, no longer being shared with the street department. Major floor repairs at the community center have been postponed, and natural gas usage is expected to increase slightly due to the recent addition of the larger stove. The community center has transitioned from the water well to public water thanks to the new water line project in the area.

Street Superintendent Chris Beanland said the proposed departmental budget includes funds for the first payment on a new building, continuing payments on equipment previously purchased, and funds to improve approximately 2.56 miles of streets. Improvements through the county bond project will add another 1.04 miles of street improvements during the 2010/11 fiscal year.

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

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RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Janet L. Davis, City Secretary