

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 30, 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: Community Services Director Diana Steelquist, Street Superintendent Chris Beanland, and Library Director Brenda Cheatham

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

Community Services Director Diana Steelquist said the community services budget is based on historical expenses with increased training for stormwater certification for the code enforcement officer. The departmental budget also includes funds in the amount of \$3,500 allocated for substandard housing abatement. Ms. Steelquist said the budget for the community center includes new flooring with all other operating costs remaining basically unchanged from the current year. She said the park department budget includes maintenance expenses for the new maintenance building acquired last year as well as the proposed purchase of a used vehicle. Ms. Steelquist said we need to add funds for maintenance of the walking trail, possibly using the community park fees collected with each new building permit. Council discussed the possibility of constructing a "splash park" in addition to the girl scouts wanting to construct and donate a 10' X 10' ga-ga pit which is a short-walled area used for a game similar to dodge ball.

Library Director Brenda Cheatham said she has requested the reclassification of some personnel in the department. The proposal basically consolidates two part-time positions into one full-time position and then reclassifies the job duties of a part-time assistant librarian to include technology services, adult services, and other more technical duties than that of a library clerk. She said plans for a new roof were temporarily scrapped because we hope to re-roof the existing facility at the same time, possibly next year, that we use the Mae S. Bruce trust funds to expand the library. Ms. Cheatham said the existing roof leaks have been temporarily repaired and seem to be holding at this time.

Street Superintendent Chris Beanland said he has included additional funds for the lease purchase of a new excavator to replace the older excavator currently in use and costing a small fortune in maintenance costs. He said funds have also been added for the construction of guardrails on 2nd Street and on 4th Street and the street improvement line item includes a slight increase. Mr. Beanland reported that the mechanic position added last year has been very advantageous for reducing equipment downtime and for routine servicing and maintenance of our city fleet.

City Manager Joe Dickson said the administration budget includes the final lease purchase payment on the former EMS building, which we currently use for park maintenance. He said the liability insurance expense includes an increased premium for windstorm coverage on the new justice center, and there is an average wage increase of 3 percent throughout all the departments for non-collective bargaining personnel. Mr. Dickson said the tax budget includes an increase of approximately \$3,000 in the city's proportionate expense of the Galveston Central Appraisal District budget which is proposed to increase by almost \$1M. Council discussed adopting a resolution at our next meeting expressing our opposition to the GCAD proposed budget. Mr. Dickson also discussed revenue projections but was unable to provide any property tax information since the certified values had not yet been provided to the tax office for rate calculations. A budget workshop was tentatively scheduled for August 10 at 6 p.m. when the property tax rate calculations were expected to be available for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Bubba Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Carothers to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

JEFF TAMBRELLA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary