

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 31, 2014 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 Ralph Stenzel.

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

Also in attendance: 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 2014/15 general fund operating budget

City Manager Joe Dickson summarized the revenue that would be collected based on different tax rates, specifically the current rate, effective tax rate, and tax increases. He said sales tax collections have increased reducing the amount appropriated from the fund balance. Councilmembers differed on whether to propose the effective tax rate or the current tax rate which equates to a 3.18 percent increase in the effective tax rate.

Mr. Dickson reviewed the proposed administration budget which includes the 2nd lease purchase payment on the new park maintenance facility purchased from the fire department and a replacement computer workstation for accounting. He said appraisal district and county tax collection fees have also been budgeted as in years past.

Library Director Brenda Cheatham said no new capital expenditures are proposed and maintenance is status quo; however, she has met with a county grantwriter to begin looking for available grant funds for future expansion of the library. She has also contacted a vendor who specializes in recovery of materials and collection of overdue fines, but we are still in our three-month trial program so there are no statistics to report at this time. Mrs. Cheatham also discussed the possibility of combining the funds budgeted for the part-time security officer and the part-time library clerk into a more specialized area of library services.

Mr. Dickson reviewed the proposed community services, park department, and community center budgets. He said funds have been proposed for a replacement computer workstation for the permit clerk, and funds have been restored for substandard structure abatement. We have continued to include funds for tree removal services and for storm water enforcement and inspections through the contract with the county and the drainage district. Mr. Dickson said the park department includes additional funds for maintenance, utilities, and extermination services to maintain the new facility we purchased from the fire department. Also included are funds for metal tables for the Joe A. Tambrella park and for holiday street banners and a Christmas wreath for City Hall. He said funds budgeted for the community center remain basically the same as last year.

City Manager Joe Dickson said the cost for animal control and animal shelter services are still being discussed with the Galveston County Health District staff and with Commissioners' Court. We have included a slight increase in the cost of those operations, but the additional funds requested by the district are still being debated.

Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Wagner to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary