

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2011 6:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6
SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Ralph Stenzel.

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

Workshop: Conditional use zoning classification for a 150-foot tall tower in the Light Manufacturing (LM) District, located at 3525 FM 646 N, being approximately 9.535 acres described as Abst 1, Page 11, Lot 20, Thamans 1st Sub, City of Santa Fe, Galveston County, Texas

City Manager Joe Dickson said this permit was denied last month because of a concern about the location of the tower. CenterPoint has asked to return to discuss the request and to address Council's concerns. Mr. Roy Lemons, a designer with CenterPoint Energy Telecom Design Group, said the area was chosen by GE Communications for this smart grid communication tower following their review of available sites and substations, the coverage area, and the points of high density. They felt this would be the best strategic location based on above criteria for communication and coverage of smart meters.

Mayor Stenzel asked what area this tower would serve and if it needs to be at that exact location. He asked if it could be moved to the rear of the lot. Mr. Lemons said the substation engineering crew surveys the location for overhead and underground lines and designed the site plan accordingly. The tower will serve primarily this region, consisting of Santa Fe and the areas around it. Mayor Stenzel also asked why the height of the tower was changed from 100 feet to 150 feet. Mr. Lemons said the tower was reshaped based on a change from a repeater site to a tower control site allowing for a switch between grids if one grid becomes disabled. He said the closest area for other 150 foot towers is in Pearland and on El Dorado Blvd.

Councilmember Tambrella also expressed his concern with the location of the tower and asked if it could be moved to the furthest back corner of the lot and away from the main highway intersection. Councilmember Jannett also felt the tower should be move away from the main highway intersection, especially once the road widening is completed, to the back part of the lot. Mr. Lemons said a portion of

the property belongs to a substation group and part of the property belongs to the transmission group, and they do not locate towers on transmission property.

Councilmember Jannett asked what are the benefits of smart meters. Mr. Lemons said the tower will aid in the automation of electrical services in the community. More specifically, outages can be detected instantly at specific locations so repair crews can be dispatched immediately. Otherwise, someone has to determine where the outage is and what the problem is before a repair crew can be dispatched to the location. Among other benefits, such as uninterrupted power service between grids, customers will have the ability to monitor usage of their own electricity and turn appliances on and off remotely. Mrs. Dreyer asked if CenterPoint will shut off someone's electricity if they use too much, and Mr. Lemons said CenterPoint does not determine or regulate anyone's electricity usage.

Mr. Lemons will take Council's concerns back to the engineering staff to see if the site plan can be redesigned to move the tower away from the intersection.

Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember Abney to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary