

**CITY OF SANTA FE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 6:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
12002 HWY. 6  
SANTA FE, TEXAS**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Ralph Stenzel.

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

The invocation was given by and the pledge to the U.S. Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by City Manager Joe Dickson.

**Business:**

**a. Public Hearing: Second public hearing on proposed tax increase**

City Manager Joe Dickson explained that the proposed tax ceiling of 5 percent does not mean that the tax rate has increased by 5 percent, but only that 5 percent is the maximum increase that Council can discuss. Council is scheduled to vote on the tax rate and proposed budget on September 22. Mayor Stenzel opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Scott Sharp of 3808 Anna Court said he is not in favor of a tax increase and he questioned the CDBG grant program and the city's net pension obligation on the retirement plan.

Mr. Michael Aldous of 2127 Cemetery Road asked if the employees will be taking pay raises. Council responded that the proposed budget freezes wages on January 1.

Mr. Brian Mallynn of 4420 Avenue T suggested we use the notification service to inform the citizens of public hearings and large contracts. He also asked if we do have a tax increase, will we lower those when the economic conditions change? He also expressed concern about the cost to operate the animal shelter.

Ms. Loretta Driscoll of 11907 Old Spanish Trail asked what we plan to use the tax increase for. City Manager Joe Dickson said any tax increase would be used to fund the general operating expenses of the city departments, specifically to reduce the appropriated fund balance. She also suggested we use the notification service to announce public meetings so more people would be aware of what is happening in our community. She said she cannot afford to pay any more expenses.

Mr. Matthew Driscoll of 11907 Old Spanish Trail agreed that we should use the notification service to inform the public of any public hearings. He expressed concern that employees will receive a pay raise at the expense of the taxpayers. He also asked why lapel cameras for the police officers need to be purchased this year rather than at a time when the economy is better.

Mr. Kenneth Jacob of 12729 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street said he opposed any tax increase, especially during these tough economic times.

Mr. James Burch of 13420 Bob White said property valuations have continued to increase, many people are out of work, and he opposes any tax increase.

Mr. Dan Sheeter of 15506 Pine Street said the poverty level in this town is 58 percent and we shouldn't be asking for a tax increase. He said tax values increase each year and although wages are increasing, the inflation rate continues to rise.

Mr. Klaas Tadema of 13218 Christi Lane inquired about property tax values increasing so we are already receiving more money. He also asked why we need to contribute funds for a dog catcher and why we need an additional police officer when other employers are letting people go.

Mr. Gary Burch of 4227 Avenue J said he hasn't received a wage increase in over six years and he cannot understand why we need a tax increase. He also commented that we need a better method of communicating with the public.

Mr. Ken Cox of 4103 E. Twin Dr. commented that he is pro police and he donated the K9 unit, but he suggested the police chief put on a uniform and patrol the community. He feels it is difficult to justify hiring an additional police officer when we have scheduling issues because of extended leave by current officers.

Mr. Warren Aldous of 11959 FM 1764 said the national average is one police officer for 100 residents. He also said property tax values have increased each year since 2006 when he purchased the property.

Mayor Stenzel closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

**b. Public hearing and discussion of proposed 2011/12 general fund operating budget**

Mayor Stenzel opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m. There were no additional comments.

*Minutes (cont.)*  
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Motion by Councilmember Jannett, seconded by Councilmember McCrary to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

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RALPH STENZEL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Janet L. Davis, City Secretary