

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF STAFFORD, TEXAS HELD
BY TELECONFERENCE, GOTOMEETING AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

On the 22nd day of September 2021, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas met in Special session in the City Council Chambers, in person and GoToMeeting Audio/Video in said City. Mayor Willis called the meeting to order. The following members of the Council were present: Councilmembers Mayor Cecil Willis; Mayor Pro Tem Ken Mathew, Councilmembers Wen Guerra, Virginia Rosas, Don Jones, Alice Chen and Xavier Herrera. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Richard Ramirez (Chief of Police), Larry DiCamillo (Fire Chief), Alka Shah, (Finance Director), Nicola Browe (Acting City Secretary); and Art Pertile (Olson & Olson, LLP).

NOTE: Items appearing in these minutes are in the order they were discussed, not necessarily in the order they appeared on the agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. Council Reports.

Mayor Willis recognized Fire Department Lieutenant Ricks and Firefighter Evanicky for their support to the citizens of Louisiana affected by the Hurricane.

Council then provided news facts and events to come within the next week.

4. Public comments on items on the agenda.
5. (a) Discussion of the Stafford Centre proposed FY2021 -2022 budget.

Mr. Bryan Blaum, President of FM Squared for the Stafford Centre provided city council with a presentation on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Willis invited members of the public to address city council on this item. No members of the public addressed city council.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve and adopt the Stafford Centre budget for FY2021-2022 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Mathew duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted

“yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

6. (a) Approval of expenditures in the Federal Asset Forfeiture Fund and State Asset Forfeiture Fund.

Richard Ramirez, Police Chief explained to city council that this report is required annually and provided them with planned expenditures.

Mayor Willis invited members of the public to address city council on this item. No members of the public addressed city council.

(b) Councilmember Herrera made a motion to approve the expenditures in the Federal Asset Forfeiture and State Asset Forfeiture Fund as presented. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

7. (a) Discussion of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Stafford, Texas, authorizing the mayor to execute a safekeeping agreement and Associated documents with Frost Bank for the purpose of establishing a safekeeping account for city securities.

Ms. Alka Shah, Finance Director provided city council with a background to the need for a safekeeping agreement and the steps she had taken to establish this.

Mr. Pertile, Attorney explained to city council that a safekeeping agreement provides the city with protection of city’s funds, by using another bank as collateral.

Mayor Willis invited members of the public to address city council. No members of the public addressed city council.

(b) Mayor Pro Tem Mathew made a motion to approve resolution to enter into a safekeeping agreement with Frost Bank as presented. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved

8. (a) Discussion of an ordinance approving and adopting the general budget of the City of Stafford, Texas for the FY 2021-2022; making appropriations for the City for such year as reflected in said budget; and making certain findings and containing certain provisions relating to the subject.

Mayor Willis began the discussion about the budget by reading an additional budget message outlining the positives for the city going forward into the next fiscal year based on the proposed budget.

Councilmember Jones stated that he has waited until this point to provide his opinion and position on the proposed budget. He read his opinions from a written statement requesting that he would be suggesting to city council to defer from voting on this budget to make sure there was opportunity missed that could have been capitalized on.

Councilmember Guerra stated that as Mayor Pro Tem he worked hard to provide a solid base of fiscal funding. He believes that the city's current infrastructure is in poor condition and he as President of the EDC will work with the EDC Directors, engineers, and staff to create a project to work on the streets, as some are like a gravel pit. He doesn't want to erode the fund balance of the EDC, but some neighborhoods have been overlooked for decades, and how can we ask for people to vote when we don't take care of them.

Councilmember Rosas stated that she was offended at Councilmember Jones comments as she always goes to the expert in the matter to ask question, she also talks with staff often and no one has expressed a feeling of negativity or that there is low morale.

*Councilmember Herrera exited the meeting at 8:18 pm.
Councilmember Herrera entered the meeting at 8:21 pm.*

She went on to state that it felt like a personal attack and to say the mayor has not vision is just plain inaccurate. We are Stafford we have experts in house we know what we need and can afford. With respect to this budget process, she is happy with the way it came together with staff and the finance committee working hard to get to this balanced budget.

Councilmember Chen stated she was so confused by Councilmember Jones comments. We have had several meetings on the budget and all the budget workshops, and you did not say anything before.

Councilmember Herrera stated that he respects the fact that both Councilmembers Guerra and Jones have reservations, but he applauds the city employees and offers his appreciation of their hard work, and from what he knows the employees do care what happens to the city. He went on to thank Alka for her diligence in this budget process.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathew stated that this is a stressful situation and has been for a couple of years now. He was not expecting we could make a balanced budget, but he is happy we managed to do so. He offered his appreciation to Alka for a

fantastic job.

Councilmember Jones responded that he hears everyone and loves their passion, but he was offering constructive criticism it was not personal attacks.

**(b) Public Hearing on proposed FY2021-2022 City Budget.
Mayor Willis opened the public hearing at 8:45 pm.**

Mary Ann Smith – Stafford Run Subdivision stated that she attended every budget meeting, and it was good, there was so much work conducted and everyone worked well together.

AJ Honore – 162 Kingsway, Stafford stated that he had sent an email to all of Council and staff, and he is requesting that the email and the attachments are placed within the city's minutes.

Mr. Honore spoke about his opinion on the budget process, lack of transparency, lack of items for the citizenry of Stafford, such as streets, parks. He felt that pride is being the obstacle in not going with other suggestions for revenues etc.

****** POWER OUTAGE MOMENTARILY******

Councilmember Jones made a motion to give Mr. Honore an additional 3 minutes of time. Mayor Pro Tem Mathew duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Jones, and Herrera voted "yes", Councilmembers Rosas and Chen against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (5-2) and declared the motion approved.

Mr., Honore spoke at length about his additional views of the budget and recommended that this budget should not be accepted and let it roll per the statute and that would give three months for new revenue sources to be found, to provide for our infrastructure.

Mayor Willis closed the public hearing at 8:52 pm.

Mayor Willis concluded this discussion with the statement that this budget process began and ended earlier than ever before, thinking ahead has always been the forefront of all budget positions and never has a department head been asked to hand monies back.

Art Pertile read through the Ordinance that accompanies the budget approval and the coversheet.

(c) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for the Budget for

FY2021-2022. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Rosas, Chen and Herrera voted "yes", Councilmembers Guerra and Jones against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (5-2) and declared the motion approved.

9. (a) Discussion of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Stafford, Texas, designating a representative and an alternate to the Houston Galveston Area Council 2022 General Assembly.

Council discussed the representatives and alternates for the General Assembly.

(b) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to appoint Mayor Willis as the representative and Councilmember Rosas as the alternate. Councilmember Rosas duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted "yes"; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved

10. (a) Approval of the City of Stafford Holiday Schedule for 2022.

Council held a brief discussion on MLK day, and Mayor Pro Tem Mathew made it known that he thinks that MLK should be made a holiday on the city's schedule.

Mayor Willis invited members of the public to address city council on this item. No members of the public addressed city council.

(b) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to approve the city's holiday schedule as presented. Councilmember Herrera duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted "yes"; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

11. (a) Approval of the Budget Workshop minutes of August 31, 2021.

Councilmember Chen made a motion to approve the minutes for the Budget Workshop of August 31, 2021, as presented. Councilmember Guerra duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted "yes"; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

(b) Approval of the Regular City Council meeting minutes September 15, 2021.

Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the minutes for the City Council meeting September 15, 2021, as presented. Councilmember Guerra duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted "yes"; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

12. Adjournment.

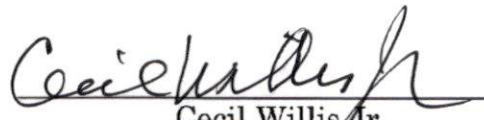
Councilmember Herrera made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, Jones, Chen and Herrera voted "yes"; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:27 PM.

ATTEST:



Nicola Browe
Assistant City Secretary



Cecil Willis Jr.
Mayor