

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022

On the 1st day of June 2022, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas met in regular session in the Council Chambers. Mayor Willis called the meeting to order. The following members of City Council were present: Mayor Cecil Willis Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Ken Mathew, and Council Members Alice Chen, Wen Guerra, Xavier Herrera, Don Jones, and Virginia Rosas. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, and City Attorney Art Pertile.

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

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. Executive session as authorized by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(A), pending or contemplated litigation; Section 551.071(2), authorized under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas. Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, Section 551.074 (1), to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.
City Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathew led the pledge to the United States flag. Mayor Willis led the pledge to the Texas flag.

4. Consideration of appropriate action on items discussed in Executive Session.
City Council did not go into Executive Session.

5. Council Reports.

Mayor Willis

- Congratulated the SMSD senior class and announced that the graduation ceremony would be held on Saturday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m.
- Announced that newspaper reporter Barbara Fulenwider had recently passed away.
- Spoke on the tragedy in Uvalde and advised that there would be a moment of silence after the Council reports were given.

Council Member Jones

- Advised that, as a former schoolteacher, arming teachers was not a solution. He also advised that there needed to be a resolution in which everyone could agree on.

Council Member Guerra

- Advised that it was the anniversary of the Houston hotel fire, that occurred on Highway 59, in which four firefighters lost their lives.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathew

- Advised that he was still emotional about what occurred in Uvalde and added that the funeral of the teacher and her husband, that had passed, was earlier that day. He also advised that many families were in a lot of pain and was in favor of the moment of silence.

Council Member Chen

- Advised that, on Tuesday May 24, nineteen students and two teachers were murdered; twenty-two families were affected. She also advised that several parents were concerned for their children's safety, and added that something needed to be done.

Council Member Rosas

- Congratulated the seniors, who would be graduating on June 4. She also advised that 123 students were also graduating with an Associate of Arts degree and added that many seniors received several awards.
- Advised that several cities held vigils for the tragedy in Uvalde. She also advised that she attended the BAPS vigil and added that the twenty-two lives that were lost affected the entire community of Uvalde. She advised that she would continue to send prayers, for healing to begin.

Council Member Herrera

- Advised that Mayor Willis, Council Member Rosas, and himself attended an event the day prior, at the Stafford Swimming Pool, for the Stafford Stingrays and congratulated them. He also thank Tricia Maldonado and Letty Almendarez for coordinating the event.
- Advised that Mayor Willis, Council Member Rosas, and himself attended the BAPS vigil. He also advised that he attended a vigil at the high school as well.
- Recognized the local VFW and advised that he attended the retiring of the colors. He also advised that it was a somber experience, which caused him to pause and reflect on Memorial Day.
- Advised that the Stafford MSD would be holding a job fair on June 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and would be hiring employees for various positions.

- Congratulated the class of 2022 and advised that his son and two nieces would be graduating on Saturday, June 4. He also advised that his son and a niece would be graduating with an Associate of Arts degree.
- Advised that Total Performance Fitness, located at 711 Avenue E, would be holding their grand opening on Saturday, June 18. He also advised that there would be special guests, including Texan players Jalen Pitre and Kendall Sheffield.

At this time, Mayor Willis asked for a moment of silence for the lives lost in Uvalde, Texas on May 24, 2022.

6. Public Comments.
None.

7. (a) Discussion of an ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas, amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 18 "Businesses" to repeal Article V. "Towing"; adopting a new Article V. "Towing"; providing a penalty for a violation of the ordinance in an amount not to exceed \$500; repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.
- Chief of Police Richard Ramirez advised that City Attorney Art Pertile and Police Staff made corrections to the ordinance. He also advised that, if adopted, the ordinance would go into effect on January 1, 2023. City Attorney Pertile advised that the proposed ordinance would include nine towing companies, with the possibility of adding three more.

Public comments were received from the following:

- Jonathan Elias, who lives at 1024 FM 1092, suggested that the word "steel" be removed from page thirteen of the ordinance, in regards to truck beds, as some truck beds were made of aluminum or other metals. He also suggested that the rollback, listed in the same section, be changed to fourteen feet or greater.
- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, asked if the lottery wording was removed. City Attorney Pertile advised that there would be nine towing companies grandfathered and three new. He also advised that there could be a lottery if more than three companies applied for the three new spots.
- William Long with Long's Towing, located at 1816 Staffordshire Road, thanked the Council for allowing them the opportunity to work with the City.

Mayor Willis asked if one of the companies decided to sell, would the company be removed from the list. City Attorney Pertile advised that the company would remain on the list if the company name remained the same. He also advised that the revisions would be made as technology advances.

(b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1225, amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 18 "Businesses" to repeal Article V. "Towing"; adopting a new Article V. "Towing"; providing a penalty for a violation of the ordinance in an amount not to exceed \$500, and Council Member Rosas seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, Herrera, Jones, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

8. Consent Agenda (Items i.-vii.). Any item tagged will be discussed and considered at the conclusion of this item or at the next regular City Council Meeting; any item approved will include payment of expenses.

(i) Approval of Resolution of City of Stafford, Texas authorizing the Mayor to execute a lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for postage services.

(ii) Approval of Investment Report for period ending April 30, 2022.

(iii) Approval of request by Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo for Fire Marshal personnel Samuel Helton to attend training on interviewing and interrogation at a cost of \$350.00.

(iv) Approval of Resolution of Third Amendment to Interlocal Agreement between Fort Bend County and City of Stafford for Fire Protection Services in the Unincorporated Areas of Fort Bend County.

(v) Approval of request from People Need the Lord Ministries to reschedule their event at the Stafford Centre from June 6-7, 2022 to June 28-29, 2022.

(vi) Approval of request by Chief of Police Richard Ramirez for Police Department personnel Luciano Lopez to attend FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute training at a cost of \$695.00.

(vii) Approval of request by Director of Information Technology Ryan Young for Dell Pro Support Mission Critical maintenance contracts.

Public comments were received from the following:

- Clifford Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, asked if training requests needed to go before the Council since each department has a budget. Mayor Willis advised that placing the information on the agenda will show which employees attend training as well as the type of training they are attending. Mr. Cowperthwait asked if it was mandatory to place on the agenda. City Attorney Art Pertile advised that, although not mandatory, the City had the discretion to present the agenda in this manner.

(b) Consideration of appropriate action on items (i.-vii.).

Council Member Rosas made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as presented, and Council Member Chen seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, Herrera, Jones, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

9. (a) Approval of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of May 04, 2022,

(b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

Council Member Chen made a motion to approve the minutes for the meetings held on May 04, 2022 with suggested changes, and Council Member Guerra seconded. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, Herrera, Jones, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

10. (a) Discussion of requests by Councilmembers for future agenda items.

(b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).


Council Member Herrera motioned to have an agenda item regarding a possible agreement with VFW 4010, and Council Member Rosas seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, Herrera, Jones, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Willis. Motion carried 6-1.

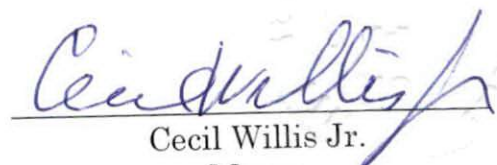
Council Member Herrera motioned to have an agenda item regarding a drainage study report, and Council Member Rosas seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, Herrera, Jones, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Willis. Motion carried 6-1.

11. Adjournment.

Council Member Herrera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m., and Council Member Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, Herrera, Jones, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Pro Tem Mathew. Motion carried 6-1.

ATTEST:


Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary


Cecil Willis Jr.
Mayor