

MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 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 Don Jones, and Council Members William Bostic Jr., Alice Chen, Wen Guerra, Xavier Herrera, and Ken Mathew. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo, Director of Public Works / Economic Development Service Jose Pastrana, 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 employee.

City Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

3. Pledges of Allegiance.

Council Member Chen led the pledge to the United States flag. Council Member Herrera 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

- Advised the Fire Department had been asked to assist in East Texas with the wildfires. He also advised that this was the third or fourth time they had been asked to assist.

Council Member Guerra

- Asked where the firefighters would be deployed in East Texas. Fire Chief DiCamillo advised that they had not yet received their deployment location.
- Advised that that Kathy Charter Deal, wife of Johnny Mack, passed away on July 4.

#### Mayor Pro Tem Jones

- Read a briefing from the Texas Department of Health and Human Services regarding COVID and the many variants of the coronavirus.
- Advised that there was a new coronavirus variant in the Dallas area and added that Dallas students would soon be returning to college here. He suggested that everyone be proactive.

#### Council Member Chen

- Advised that grand opening for Lazy Dog occurred last week. She also advised that they are open Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. She advised that you may bring your dog.
- Advised that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SMSD Party on the Plaza would be held on Saturday, August 6, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., to welcome the new school year. She also advised that there would be school supplies, food, games, and music.

#### Council Member Bostic

- Reminded everyone that it was hurricane season and to be proactive.

At this time, Mayor Willis asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Kathy Charter Deal.

#### 6. Public Comments on items on the agenda.

None.

#### 7. (a) Discussion of appointments to the Stafford Economic Development Corporation (SEDC)

Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised that currently, the committee was made up of two council members and five citizens and added that previously there were three council members and four citizens on the committee. He recommended that the committee resume to three council members and four citizens to be more balanced.

Council Member Guerra advised that there were a strong group of men and women currently serving, who assisted in bringing the GRID to light, putting Stafford on the map. He also advised that the members up for re-appointment were Ken Mathew, who has a background in finance, Lawrence Vaccaro, who is a former public works director and knows the City, and himself, who assisted in

creating the SEDC. Council Member Guerra suggested that the members be strictly residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised that there was an imbalance in the committees and would like to optimize the committees and provide what is best for the City.

Council Member Guerra advised that the committee was made up of qualified individuals.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised that the members should enhance the committee with their knowledge.

Council Member Guerra advised that all of the members were strong and assisted with bringing the GRID project to Stafford. He suggested that the committee remain the same for another year.

Mayor Willis advised that, in the past, the committee included three members of Council. He suggested that the committee be comprised of strictly Stafford business owners as the SEDC is strictly a recommendation committee. Mayor Willis advised that some changes could be made in order to make the committee more professional. He also suggested that Lawrence Vaccaro remain on the committee as he knows a lot about the City.

Council Member Guerra agreed with Mayor Willis and advised that Mr. Vaccaro was familiar with the evolution of the GRID project.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones agreed with Mayor Willis that improvement in professionalism was needed on the committee.

Council Member Herrera suggested that the committee members be selected individually.

Council Member Bostic asked if the committee could expand from seven members to nine. City Attorney Art Pertile advised that, per statute, only seven members were allowed.

Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, suggested that changes not be made at this time. He also advised that five citizens should not be responsible for the SEDC budget.

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

Council Member Guerra made a motion to appoint Ken Mathew, Lawrence Vaccaro, and himself (Wen Guerra) to the Stafford Economic Development Corporation, and Council Member Mathew seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones made an amended motion to appoint William Bostic to the Stafford Economic Development Corporation, and Council Member Bostic seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, and Herrera, voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Willis, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, and Mathew. Motion failed 3-4.

At this time, a vote was taken on the original motion made by Council Member Guerra. Mayor Willis, and Council Members Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Council Member Bostic. Motion carried 5-2.

8. (a) Presentation by Director of Public Works / Economic Development Services regarding plans and timelines of all Current Infrastructure Projects.

Director of Public Works / Economic Development Service Jose Pastrana gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding all current infrastructure projects. Mr. Pastrana advised that the priority of projects was based on need with the focus being on concrete streets and streets that were driven most.

Mayor Willis advised that street maintenance was typically performed annually but had not been done in the last two years due to the pandemic. He also advised that City Engineer Bob Jones researched which streets needed repair and Mr. Jones presented recommendations based on urgency.

Council Member Herrera asked if the street repairs would affect the utility lines. He advised that he was concerned about drainage in Vaccaro Manor on Linda. Council Member Herrera recommended that there be a balance between construction on residential versus commercial streets.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked what the timeline was. Mr. Pastrana advised that each project would take approximately five weeks with multiple projects done at the same time. He also advised that Lawrence Vaccaro was working on a master drainage plan and added that the streets in Stafford were good.

Manuel Hinojosa, who lives at 12807 Linda Street, thanked Mr. Pastrana for his presentation and asked the Council to invest in drainage as done in previous years. He recommended that the projects be inspected after completion.

Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, advised that he lived in his residence for forty-seven years and did not have any drainage issues until ten years ago. He asked that a meeting regarding drainage be held.

Tim Wood, who lives at 2022 Secretariat Drive, thanked Mr. Pastrana for his presentation and encouraged Staff to look at the urgent need of other projects.

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

No action was taken.

9. (a) Discussion of an Ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas adopting a new article as Article VI as part of Stafford's Code of Ordinances Chapter 50, relating to Purchasers and Sellers of Catalytic Converters; Declaring certain conduct to be unlawful and providing a penalty therefore; containing findings and other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

Mayor Willis advised that many surrounding cities had adopted this ordinance. Chief of Police Ramirez advised that, currently there were not any recycle shops in Stafford, but there were mechanic shops.

*Council Member Bostic exited the meeting at 8:26 p.m.*

City Attorney Art Pertile advised that there currently were no state statutes regarding this issue, however cities could regulate businesses in their own cities.

*Council Member Bostic entered the meeting at 8:28 p.m.*

Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, requested that proposed ordinances be posted online.

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

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1227, to adopt a new article as Article VI as part of Stafford's Code of Ordinances Chapter 50, relating to purchasers and sellers of catalytic converters, and Council Member Chen seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

10. (a) Discussion of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Stafford, Texas authorizing the Mayor to accept Texas General Land Office (GLO) funds allocated through the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Regional Mitigation Program.

City Attorney Art Pertile advised that this resolution, if approved, would allow the City to apply for state grant funding. He also advised that funds could be used for drainage projects. Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo advised that 50% of the funds must be used in areas where there is low to moderate income housing.

Tim Wood, who lives at 2022 Secretariat Drive, asked if the funding was tied to Hurricane Harvey. City Attorney Pertile advised that the funds could be used for damage due to Hurricane Harvey as well as future events. Mr. Wood also asked if the funds could be used for the section of Stafford that was in Harris County. Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo advised that the funds could not be used in that area as funds had been previously allocated for Harris County.

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

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve Resolution No. 37-22 authorizing the Mayor to accept Texas General Land Office (GLO) funds allocated through the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Regional Mitigation Program, and Council Member Chen seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

11. (a) Discussion of possible outlets for the public to attend and participate in meetings remotely.

Council Member Bostic advised that cities such as Garland, Houston, and Dallas have policies where residents can register and request to appear by phone or virtually. He suggested that the City allow participation remotely in order to get residents more involved.

Mayor Willis advised that currently, the Director of Multimedia Communications position was vacant. He also advised that he was not aware of any surrounding cities that were allowing residents to participate remotely. Mayor Willis suggested that Council Member Bostic present at a future meeting after the Director of Multimedia Communications position had been filled.

Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that some residents do not have the capabilities to access Zoom or Teams. Council Member Bostic advised that teleconferencing could also be an option. Mr. Cowperthwait advised that a limited number of people would be able to appear virtually and suggested that the Council wait until the Director of Multimedia Communications started before taking any action.

Tim Wood, who lives at 2022 Secretariat Drive, agreed with Council Member Bostic in that residents should get more involved. He also advised that he has the ability to appear in person, but participating virtually would be convenient.

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

Council Member Guerra made a motion to table the item until a future meeting, and Council Member Bostic seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

12. (a) Consent Agenda (Items i.-vi.). 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 request by Code Compliance Administrator Scott McElrath for Stockpiling License Renewals.

(ii.) Approval of request by Director of Information Technology Ryan Young for renewal of hardware maintenance contract for Palo Alto firewall devices in the amount of \$15,831.00.

(iii.) Approval of requests by Chief of Police Richard Ramirez for the following:

- SBLE Introductory Training for Police Department Personnel at a cost of \$00.00.
- Level I Call Record Analysis Training for S. Flagg at a cost of \$00.00.
- Level I Practical Kinesic Interviews & Interrogation Training for Police Department Personnel at a cost of \$00.00.
- Basic Instructor Course #1014 for J. McDougle at a cost of \$100.00.

- Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing and Positive Persuasion Online Training for N. Cohn at a cost of \$00.00.
  - Glock Armorer’s Course Training for H. Garcia at a cost of \$250.00.
- (iv.) Approval of requests by Chief of Police Richard Ramirez for the following:
- The Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute, Module 1 for N. Cohn at a cost of \$00.00.
  - Municipality 9-1-1 Equipment Course for Police Department Personnel at a cost of \$00.00.
  - Full Circle Training Solutions Standard NIBRS Training for R. Cross at a cost of \$429.00.
  - TCOLE Conference for N. Cohn at a cost of \$917.80.
- (v.) Approval of request by Director of Recreation Susan Ricks for sidewalk repair at the Civic Center in the amount of \$5,999.64.
- (vi.) Approval of request by Mayor Willis, Council Members Chen, Guerra, Bostic, and Herrera to attend the TML Region 14 Meeting in Galveston, TX on August 6, 2022, in the amount of \$500.00.
- (b) Consideration of appropriate action on items (i.-vi.).

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

13. (a) Approval of the June 15, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.  
 (b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

Council Member Chen made a motion to approve the June 15, 2022 meeting minutes with some modifications, and Council Member Mathew seconded. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

14. (a) Discussion of requests by Councilmembers for future agenda items.  
 (b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

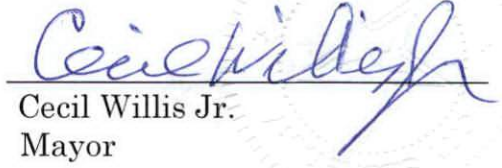
Council Member Herrera motioned to have a drainage presentation held at a future meeting, and Council Member Chen seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Mathew, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted “Aye”. “Nay” – Mayor Willis. Motion carried 6-1.

15. Adjournment.

Council Member Herrera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m., and Council Member Chen seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – Council Member Mathew. Motion carried 6-1.

ATTEST:

  
Roxanne Benitez  
City Secretary

  
Cecil Willis Jr.  
Mayor

