

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

On the 22nd day of August 2022, at 3:00 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas met in the Council Chambers. The following members of City Council were present: Mayor Cecil Willis Jr., and Council Members Alice Chen, William K. Bostic Jr., Xavier Herrera, and Ken Mathew. Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Don Jones and Council Member Wen Guerra. The following City staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Director of Finance Alka Shah, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo, Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia, Director of Information Technology Ryan Young, Director of Multimedia Communications Robert Frith, Director of Public Works / Development Services Jose Pastrana (arrived at 3:11 p.m.), Senior Development Services Specialist Laura Morales (left at 3:12 p.m.), Director of Recreation Susan Ricks (left at 4:05 p.m.), Assistant General Manager Rebecca Hathorn (left at 4:05 p.m.), and FMSquared President Bryan Blaum (arrived at 3:33 p.m.; left at 4:05 p.m.).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance.

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

3. Budget Workshop on proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget of the City of Stafford, with a suspension of the rules, including the following:

(a) Layout of Budget by Mayor, Cecil Willis Jr.

Mayor Willis read his annual budget message. The Council discussed funding for possible payroll increases for employees and funding sources for the increases. They also discussed whether increases should occur prior to receipt of the compensation study.

Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

(b) Presentation by Finance Department.

(c) Other items related to the FY 2022-2023 Budget.

Director of Finance Alka Shad presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023, which totaled \$31,911,073.00.

Council Member Herrera entered the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Ms. Shah advised that the current fund balance for hotel occupancy taxes (HOT) was \$1,055,000.00. She also provided a summary of the proposed revenues and expenditures for the General Fund. Council and Staff discussed the following:

- Grant Funding
- Remaining Certificate of Obligation Bond Funds
- Professional Services expenditures

Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Council Member Herrera entered the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Council and Staff discussed line items in detail, for each of the following departments:

- Mayor and Council
- Administration
- Multimedia Communications
- Finance
- Information Technology (IT)
- Development Services
- Parks & Grounds
- Streets & Drainage
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Public Works
- Facilities Maintenance
- Humane Services
- Code Enforcement

Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Council Member Herrera entered the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

- Police Department

(d) Public comments on items (a-c).

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, thanked everyone for their time and effort and asked if the hotel occupancy tax and municipal sales tax funds had individual accounts. Ms. Shah advised that yes they had individual listings.

- A.J. Honore, who lives at 162 Kingway, advised that he was there representing himself and other citizens and asked for an additional three minutes to speak.

Council Member Herrera made a motion to allow Mr. Honore to speak for an additional three minutes, and Council Member Chen seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Herrera, and Mathew voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Honore commended the Staff on the work done on the budget. He also advised that he did not want the City to allocate funds in the same manner as in the past as the City would not sustain using the same practices. Mr. Honore advised that several years ago, a consultant was paid \$100,000 for a proposed five-year capital improvement plan, the plan included \$35 million in proposed improvements, and was never presented. He also advised that he was not in favor of the City collecting property taxes.

- Virginia Rosas, who lives at 619 Elm View Court, advised that she was disappointed the Council Members who voted against the budget last year, were not present. She suggested that Director of Recreation Susan Ricks be given a more appropriate title. Ms. Rosas requested that City Council wait until the compensation study was received prior to administering employee pay increases. She commended Director of Finance Shah for her work and suggested that Ms. Shah and Jonathan Davis be compensated once the compensation study had been received as they saved the City thousands of dollars.

(e) Consideration of appropriate action on items (a-c).

No action was taken.

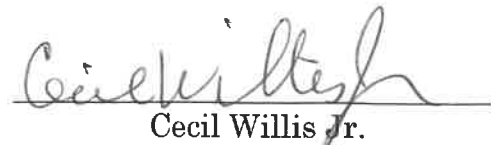
4. Adjournment.

Council Member Herrera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m., and Council Member Bostic seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – Council Member Mathew. Motion carried 4-1.

ATTEST:



Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary



Cecil Willis Jr.
Mayor