

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING – STAFFORD CITY COUNCIL AND
STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2022

On the 29th day of August 2022, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas and Board of Trustees of the Stafford Municipal School District (SMSD) met in the Stafford Civic Center in said City. In addition to the Council and Trustees listed below, the following City and SMSD Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Executive Assistant / Board Coordinator Sonya M. Austin, Communications & Marketing Coordinator Gracie Martinez, City Attorney Art Pertile, and SMSD Attorney Sarah Langlois.

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

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order.

A. Roll call of SMSD Trustees and Stafford City Council Members.

The following SMSD Trustees were present:

- President Manuel Hinojosa
- Vice-President Christopher Caldwell
- Secretary Ash Hamirani
- Trustee Jacqueline Jean-Baptiste
- Trustee Dawn Reichling
- Trustee Patricia Soza-Montelongo
- Trustee Suzette Thompson

The following City Council Members were present:

- Mayor Cecil Willis Jr.
- Mayor Pro Tem Don Jones
- Council Member Alice Chen
- Council Member Wen Guerra
- Council Member Xavier Herrera
- Council Member Ken Mathew
- Council Member William K. Bostic (arrived at 7:09 p.m.)

B. Announcement by the President and Mayor whether a quorum is present, that the meeting has been duly called, notice of the meeting has been posted for the time and manner required by law, and welcoming those in attendance.

A quorum of both the SMSD Board of Trustees and City Council was present.

C. Invocation.

Vice-President Caldwell gave the invocation.

D. Posting of the Colors – Stafford High School Army JROTC.
The Stafford High School Army JROTC performed the posting of the colors.

E. Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags - led by Major Yulanda Glutz.
Major Yulanda Glutz led the pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

F. National Anthem
Ayomiposi Bankole sang the national anthem.

2. Opening remarks by Mayor outlining the basic approach to follow for this joint meeting under Texas Education Code 11.303.
Mayor Willis explained the budget process regarding municipal school districts and read excerpts from Texas Education Code 11.303.
3. Opening remarks by School Board President concerning SMSD Strategic Vision Plan, the 2022-2023 budget, tax rates, and budget process.
President Hinojosa thanked those in attendance, the City of Stafford, Mayor Willis, and Council Members. He advised that the Trustees and City Council met on several occasions previously and efforts to reduce debt were made. President Hinojosa advised that, for the first time, the SMSD Magnet Program received an “A” rating from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
4. Presentation by SMSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic and Interim Chief Financial Officer Dr. Jesus Amezcua on proposed budget and proposed tax rate.
Dr. Bostic thanked the audience, SMSD Board, Mayor Willis, Council Members, and Staff. He advised that SMSD was the only municipal school district in Texas and provided a summary of what would be discussed. Dr. Bostic advised on challenges SMSD faced and Acting Chief Financial Officer Jesus Amezcua presented budget assumptions for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Dr. Bostic also advised that the Board and Council Members had discussed the proposed budget in length.
5. Presentation by Mayor of City's contribution to SMSD, and to City's and Stafford taxpayers' support provided in SMSD 2022-23 budget, and observations on budget and tax rate and other items.
Mayor Willis advised that there was a joint maintenance agreement with SMSD which was beneficial and added that the City Council and SMSD Board had worked together since its inception.
6. Presentation by the Board President regarding 2022-2023 proposed budget and other related items.
President Hinojosa provided a presentation on the 2022-2023 proposed budget.
7. Comments and questions by elected officials pertaining to presentations.

Each City Council and Board of Trustees Member spoke on the proposed budget and acknowledged everyone for their work and service.

Councilmember Jones exited the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Councilmember Jones entered the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Councilmember Bostic exited the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Councilmember Bostic entered the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

8. Public Hearing to receive comments regarding SMSD proposed budget and proposed tax rate.

President Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 8:21 p.m.

Vice-President Caldwell exited the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Lawrence Allen, who lives at 206 Carsen Hollow, commended the SMSD Board for their hard work. He recommended that all members practice fiscal management.

Vice-President Caldwell entered the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Mr. Allen advised that Stafford tax payers were generous in previously adopting two bond elections and asked that the members be prudent with funding.

President Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 8:27 p.m.

9. Discussion by SMSD Trustees, City Council, and SMSD Administration on comments regarding SMSD proposed budget and proposed tax rate and items 2-7 on the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones thanked Dr. Amezcua for the work he performed on the proposed budget.

City Attorney Pertile exited the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Council Member Mathew thanked Dr. Bostic, Dr. Amezcua, and President Hinojosa.

City Attorney Pertile entered the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Council Member Chen thanked Dr. Bostic and Dr. Amezcua.

Council Member Guerra advised that he appreciated both boards working together to achieve the goals.

10. Consideration, discussion and possible action(s) by SMSD Trustees and City Council to approve the 2022-23 SMSD budget and related actions.

A. Consider approval of 2022-23 SMSD budget by SMSD Board and related actions.

Secretary Hamirani motioned to approve the 2022-23 SMSD Budget, and Trustee Jean-Baptiste seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Caldwell, Secretary Hamirani, and Trustees Jean-Baptiste, Reichling, Soza-Montelongo, and Thompson voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Consider approval by the SMSD Board to suspend the rule requiring a motion and second to take further action.

Secretary Hamirani motioned to suspend the rule requiring a motion and second to take further action, and Trustee Jean-Baptiste seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Caldwell, Secretary Hamirani, and Trustees Jean-Baptiste, Reichling, Soza-Montelongo, and Thompson voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Call for a roll-call vote and brief comments from the members of the SMSD Board and members of City Council to approve the 2022-23 SMSD budget as presented.

The roll call vote was taken in the following order:

- Mayor Willis – Yes
- Trustee Thompson – Yes
- Council Member Bostic – Yes
- Trustee Soza-Montelongo – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Jones – Yes
- Trustee Reichling – Yes
- Council Member Mathew – Yes
- Trustee Jean-Baptiste – Yes
- Council Member Chen – Yes
- Secretary Hamirani – Yes
- Council Member Herrera – Yes
- Vice-President Caldwell – Yes
- Council Member Guerra – Yes
- President Hinojosa – Yes

11. Consideration, discussion, and possible action(s) by SMSD Trustees and City Council to approve and establish the ad valorem tax rate necessary for the support and maintenance of schools and the ad valorem tax rate necessary for the purpose of paying the interest and providing a sinking fund for the payment of bond indebtedness of the Stafford Municipal School District for the tax year 2022 to fund school budget year 2022-23 and related actions.

A. Consideration and possible action by SMSD Board of trustees to approve a tax rate of \$.8546 for the support and maintenance of schools for tax year 2022 and related actions.

Secretary Hamirani motioned to approve a tax rate of \$.8546 for the support and maintenance of schools for tax year 2022, and Trustee Jean-Baptiste seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Caldwell, Secretary Hamirani, and Trustees Jean-Baptiste, Reichling, Soza-Montelongo, and Thompson voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Consideration and possible action by SMSD Board of trustees to approve a tax rate of \$.2447 for the purpose of paying the interest and providing a sinking fund for the payment of bond indebtedness of the SMSD for the tax year 2022 and related actions.

Secretary Hamirani motioned to approve a tax rate of \$.2447 for the purpose of paying the interest and providing a sinking fund for the payment of bond indebtedness of the SMSD for the tax year 2022, and Trustee Jean-Baptiste seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Caldwell, Secretary Hamirani, and Trustees Jean-Baptiste, Reichling, Soza-Montelongo, and Thompson voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Presiding officers call for a vote from the members of the Board and members of City Council to approve the tax rate of \$.8546 for the support and maintenance of schools for tax year 2022 and related actions.

The roll call vote was taken in the following order:

- Trustee Thompson – Yes
- Mayor Willis – Yes
- Trustee Soza-Montelongo – Yes
- Council Member Bostic – Yes
- Trustee Reichling – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Jones – Yes
- Trustee Jean-Baptiste – Yes
- Council Member Mathew – Yes
- Secretary Hamirani – Yes
- Council Member Chen – Yes
- Vice-President Caldwell – Yes
- Council Member Herrera – Yes
- President Hinojosa – Yes
- Council Member Guerra – Yes

D. Presiding officers call for a vote from the members of the Board and members of City Council to approve the tax rate of \$.2447 for the purpose of paying the interest and providing a sinking fund for the payment of bonded indebtedness of the SMSD for the tax year 2022 and related actions.

The roll call vote was taken in the following order:

- Mayor Willis – Yes
- President Hinojosa – Yes
- Council Member Bostic – Yes
- Vice-President Caldwell – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Jones – Yes
- Secretary Hamirani – Yes
- Council Member Mathew – Yes
- Trustee Jean-Baptiste – Yes
- Council Member Chen – Yes
- Trustee Reichling – Yes
- Council Member Herrera – Yes
- Trustee Soza-Montelongo – Yes
- Council Member Guerra – Yes
- Trustee Thompson – Yes

12. Consideration and possible action by City Council to adopt an ordinance providing for the assessment, levy, and collection of ad valorem taxes by the City of Stafford, Texas, for the use and benefit of the Stafford Municipal School District for the tax year 2022 to fund the school budget year 2022-23; providing the date on which such taxes shall be due and payable; providing for penalty and interest on all taxes not timely paid; repealing all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and containing a severability clause.

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve an Ordinance adopting the tax rate for maintenance and operations for tax year 2022, 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.

Council Member Chen motioned to approve an ordinance adopting the tax rate for an interest and sinking fund for tax year 2022, and Mayor Pro Tem Jones seconded. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

13. Consider adoption of a Joint Resolution expressing intend to defease and redeem certain outstanding obligations of Stafford Municipal School District.

A. Presentation regarding Defeasance Resolution.

Dr. Amezcua advised that the purpose of the proposed resolution was to pay down the bond savings of \$1.7 million.

B. Comments from the public regarding Defeasance Resolution.

None.

C. Consider adoption of a Joint Resolution expressing intent to defease and redeem certain outstanding obligations of Stafford Municipal School District by the SMSD Board of Trustees.

D. Presiding Officers call for a vote from the members of the Board and Members of City Council to approve the Defeasance Resolution and related actions. Trustee Jean-Baptiste motioned to approve the Defeasance Resolution, and Secretary Hamirani seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Caldwell, Secretary Hamirani, and Trustees Jean-Baptiste, Reichling, Soza-Montelongo, and Thompson voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.

Council Member Herrera motioned to approve the Defeasance Resolution, and Council Member Chen 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. Brief closing remarks by SMSD representatives and City representatives.

The following Council Members and SMSD Trustees provided closing remarks:

- Trustee Reichling advised that she was looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year.
- Council Member Mathew advised that he was proud of the SMSD Administration, Staff, Dr. Bostic, and President Hinojosa. He also advised that he appreciated everyone who attended. Council Member thanked Mayor Willis, Dr. Bostic, and all others.
- Trustee Jean-Baptiste thanked Dr. Amezcua, President Hinojosa, Dr. Bostic, and the team of fourteen, which included the SMSD Board of Trustees and Council Members. She also thanked the community, administrators, and teachers.
- Council Member Chen advised that there were 3,453 SMSD students and added that more students were needed. She also advised that she was in favor of Dr. Amezcua's recommended recruitment plan. Council Member Chen advised that donations, grants, and scholarships were provided to SMSD schools and students. She commended Dr. Bostic on the rating received from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
- Secretary Hamirani commended Mayor Willis. He advised that they need to ensure adequate funding for schools. Secretary Hamirani wished everyone a wonderful school year.
- Council Member Herrera advised that he witnessed how the SMSD Board and City Council worked together for what was best for the students. He also thanked the parents for their support.

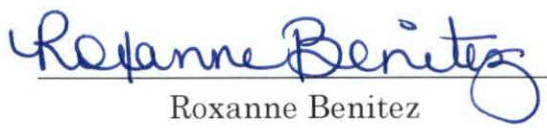
- Vice-President Caldwell advised that everyone on the SMSD Board and City Council worked as one cohesive unit. He also advised that they created a foundation for academic success fighting for the students, community, and administrators.
- Council Member Guerra advised that he shared the same concerns as the current and previous mayor. He also advised that he would continue to fight for the schools. Council Member Guerra commended the SMSD Board. He also advised that he was very supportive of schools.
- President Hinojosa thanked the audience and those watching. He advised that the SMSD Board and City Council were one.
- Dr. Bostic advised that forty (40) years ago, Stafford decided that they did not want to be like their neighbors and added that Stafford has done an outstanding job. Dr. Bostic advised that he would do what needed to be done for the students. He also advised that they would continue to be transparent. Dr. Bostic thanked the SMSD Board and City Council.

15. Adjournment.

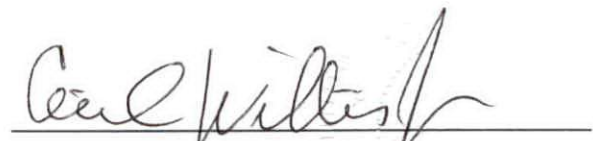
Trustee Jean-Baptiste motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m., and Trustee Thompson seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Caldwell, and Trustees Hamirani, Jean-Baptiste, Reichling, Soza-Montelongo, and Thompson voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

Council Member Herrera motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m., and Council Member Chen seconded. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, Herrera, and Mathew voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

ATTEST:



 Roxanne Benitez
 City Secretary



 Cecil Willis Jr.
 Mayor