

MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 (arrived at 6:42 p.m.), and Council Members William Bostic Jr., Alice Chen, Wen Guerra, Xavier Herrera, and Ken Mathew (left at 8:19 p.m.). Absent: None. The following City staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia, Director of Public Works/Development Services Jose Pastrana, Senior Development Services Specialist Laura Morales, 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. Public Comments on items on the agenda.

None.

6. (a) Discussion of Garbage Collection Services.

Director of Public Works/Development Services Jose Pastrana provided a chart comparing costs and services in Stafford versus the surrounding cities.

Tony Emilio, Government Contracts Manager for GFL, advised that, based on complaints received from GFL and the City, GFL had a 99.98% success rate. He also advised that the current consumer price index change was 10.24%, but was requesting a 5.5% increase, from \$15.49 to \$16.34 per resident per month.

Mr. Pastrana advised that GFL did a good job and that it would not be cost-effective to go out for bids. He also advised that Staff's recommendation was to extend the contract for one year.

Senior Development Services Specialist Laura Morales advised that, for 2022 to date, the City received twelve complaints.

Council and Mr. Emilio discussed potential costs and the possibility of adding additional services, such as recycling, automatic trucks, commercial pick-up, and commercial roll-off containers.

The following public comments were made:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that he lives in the Kingsway subdivision and commended the GFL employees who service his area. He also advised that he was not in favor of automatic trucks.
- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, advised that the City should always go out for bids and added that it was the most proper and responsible way. He also advised that the City should not forget about their financial responsibility.

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

After discussion, Council Member Guerra made a motion to submit a Request for Proposals (RFP), review the market, with the addition of recycling, commercial pick-up, and garbage cans provided by the vendor, and Mayor Pro Tem Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic and Guerra voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Willis, and Council Members Chen, Herrera, and Mathew. Motion failed 3-4.

Council Member Herrera made a subsequent motion to extend the contract with GFL for garbage services, for a period of one-year, at an increased cost of 5.5%, and Council Member Chen seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, and Council Members Chen, Herrera, and Mathew voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic and Guerra. Motion carried 4-3.

7. (a) Discussion of appointment of Municipal Court Clerk and Deputy Court Clerks.

Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia advised that, according to the home rule charter, certain positions needed to be appointed by Council. She also advised that she wanted to ensure that all employees were officially appointed.

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

Council Member Chen made a motion to approve the appointment of the Municipal Court Clerk and Deputy Court Clerks, and Mayor Pro Tem Jones 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.

8. (a) Discussion of Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Citi Bank for a Commercial Charge Card Program.
- (b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

Council Member Mathew made a motion to approve Resolution No. 58-22, authorizing an agreement with Citi Bank for a Commercial Charge Card Program and allowing the Mayor to execute, 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 Bostic exited the meeting at 7:53 p.m.*

9. (a) Discussion of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, by adding a new Section 50-151 "Temporary Parking Zones"; authorizing the placement of signs, barricades, or officers in the area; providing a penalty of an amount of not less than \$1.00 and no more than \$200.00 for a violation hereof; repealing all ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing a severability clause.

Chief of Police Richard Ramirez advised that Staff researched this issue a few years ago prior to the pandemic.

*Council Member Bostic entered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.*

Chief Ramirez also advised that, if approved, the temporary parking zones would strictly be used on the first few days of schools.

Council and Chief Ramirez discussed signage wording, fine amounts, locations of signs, and notices to residents.

*Council Member Mathew exited the meeting at 8:11 p.m.*

*Council Member Mathew entered the meeting at 8:13 p.m.*

The following public comments were made:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that advanced notice would be needed. He asked what the process would be if vehicles were parked prior to the signs being erected. City Attorney Art Pertile advised that the vehicles would remain, but they would attempt to locate the owners and instruct them to remove the vehicles.

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

Council Member Herrera made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1230, adding a new Section 50-151 "Temporary Parking Zones"; authorizing the placement of signs, barricades, or officers in the area; providing a penalty of an amount of not less than \$1.00 and no more than \$200.00 for a violation hereof; repealing all ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing a severability clause, 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 an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, by amending Section 62-30 "Composition; Appointment"; providing a penalty of an amount of not more than \$2,000.00 for a violation hereof; repealing all ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing a severability clause.

Mayor Willis advised that one word was being eliminated from the previous ordinance.

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

Council Member Chen made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1231, amending the Code of Ordinances, by amending Section 62-30 "Composition; Appointment"; providing a penalty of an amount of not more than \$2,000.00 for a violation hereof; repealing all ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; and providing a severability clause, and Mayor Pro Tem Jones 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 Mathew left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.*

11. (a) Discussion of Proposal for City Staff to create a monthly electronic newsletter that will be delivered to subscribers and promoted on social media.

Council Member Bostic gave a PowerPoint presentation and requested that reminders be sent to residents for them to sign up for the electronic newsletter. He also suggested that reminders be posted on the City's Facebook page. Council Member Bostic requested that the quarterly newsletter be mailed two or three times a year. He commended Multimedia Communications Specialist Norma Salgado for her assistance.

Mayor Willis advised that newsletters were previously mailed to residents and commercial businesses. He also advised that most businesses send electronic newsletters and added that the City was spending \$10,000 annually on paper newsletters.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked how residents who live in apartments could be contacted.

Council Member Bostic suggested that something be placed on the City's website regarding sign-up for electronic newsletters.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones suggested that a one-time hard copy newsletter be mailed including the information on electronic newsletters.

The following public comments were made:

- Ray Thomlison asked how meetings could be viewed.
- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, asked if newsletters were on the City's website and added that he was in favor of a newsletter mailing regarding heavy trash.

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

No action was taken.

*Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 8:36 p.m.*

12. (a) Discussion of Create an Interlocal Agreement between the City and SMSD where Police / Fire Department / First Responders mentor and offer training to SMSD students.

Council Member Bostic suggested a SMSD Bridge Program, a first responder program for middle and high school students. He also suggested that there be no cost to Stafford residents and out-of-district students would be charged an attendance fee. Council Member Bostic advised that the program could be used as a recruitment tool and would provide an opportunity for the City and SMSD to develop a deeper collaboration in creating a future workforce.

*Council Member Herrera entered the meeting at 8:43 p.m.*

Council and Staff discussed program staffing, school safety, and if students should be allowed to handle firearms.

Chief Ramirez advised that SMSD was adding a new forensic sciences class and discussed the possibility of adding a telecommunicators program in which students would graduate with their telecommunicators license in which the City could recruit them.

Council Member Guerra suggested contacting Fort Bend ISD to create a joint law enforcement academy between SMSD, Fort Bend ISD, Lamar Consolidated ISD, and Needville ISD.

Chief Ramirez advised that many high schools have done away with law enforcement programs as the age, for someone to serve as a police officer, increased from nineteen to twenty-one.

*Mayor Pro Tem Jones exited the meeting at 9:01 p.m.*

Mayor Willis advised that the first step would be to meet with Dr. Bostic, the SMSD Superintendent, and inquire what the Texas Education Agency (TEA) allows; the next step would be for the Police and Fire Department Staff to meet with SMSD.

Council Member Herrera suggested that Council Member Bostic speak to the Fort Bend County EMS and Chief Di Camillo.

*Mayor Pro Tem Jones entered the meeting at 9:05 p.m.*

The following public comments were made:

- Ray Thomlison advised that he presented a similar first responder program to SMSD.
- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that it was a good idea and suggested that it be a county-wide program or a collaboration with Houston Community College (HCC). He asked where the program funding would come from.

Mayor Willis advised that Dr. Bostic and SMSD have a good relationship with HCC with 144 high school students graduating with their associate degree. He suggested that Council Member Bostic meet with HCC and Dr. Bostic.

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

No action was taken.

13.(a) Discussion of Explore forming a Chamber of Commerce within the City of Stafford that will be able to generate revenue while also offering a platform for collaboration between the city and businesses.

Council Member Bostic provided a presentation and suggested that a chamber of commerce be created for the City of Stafford. He also suggested that a committee be created to chose how membership fees would be allocated.

Council Member Herrera asked what the financial obligations to the City would be.

Council Member Bostic advised that the cost would depend on how much the City, SEDC, business leaders, and community contribute.

*Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 9:18 p.m.*

Council Member Guerra advised that an entity to promote Stafford businesses was needed.

City Attorney Art Pertile advised that it was previously attempted, however, many businesses already had memberships with the Fort Bend EDC, the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, or both and added that most businesses did not want to change their membership.

*Council Member Herrera entered the meeting at 9:30 p.m.*

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

Council Member Bostic made a motion for the Mayor to begin the process of compiling a list of Stafford businesses using information received from the City newsletters, Texas Comptroller, and certificate of occupancies, and Council Member Guerra seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, and Herrera voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

14. (a) Discussion of Plan for the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised that Council voted twice in favor of a City of Stafford Juneteenth Celebration for 2023. He also advised that he met with Mayor Willis on the day prior who instructed him to create an outline of the event. Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised that the tentative date for the event was Sunday, June 19, 2023 at the Stafford Centre and added that the next step would be to create the committee then plan accordingly. He also advised that he wanted to have the SMSD History Department, Sadie Williams, and the Missouri City NAACP provide history on William Stafford and the City. Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised that Morning Star would provide a dance performance and the Scott Joplin Trio would provide a musical performance. He also advised that Mayor Willis would provide closing remarks and requested feedback from the Council.

Council Member Guerra suggested that Mayor Pro Tem Jones contact Lorenzo Butler and Dr. Bostic for event promotion.

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

No action was taken.

15. Council Reports.

Mayor Willis

- Advised that on September 8 and 9, from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the railroad crossing at 90 and Stafford Road would be closed.

Council Member Guerra

- Advised that Rodolfo Rodriguez, a member of the Stafford Cowboy Hat Cult and a dear friend, passed away on September 3 and requested a moment of silence.
- Advised that, on October 14, Jalen Pitre's jersey number would be retired at Stafford High School.

Council Member Chen

- Recognized the Philippine Chamber of Commerce of Texas, which held their annual Philippine festival on Sunday, September 4. She advised that she

served as a beauty pageant judge. She also advised that everyone did an excellent job.

- Advised that the Fort Bend County Museum Crawl and History Fair would be held on Saturday, September 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. She also advised that it was the 200-year anniversary of Fort Bend County.

Council Member Bostic

- Recognized the Stafford Cobras and Stafford cheerleaders.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones

- Congratulated the Stafford High School football team for winning their first game.
- Commended SMSD for the National Report Card rating they received as many schools suffered due to the pandemic.

At this time, Mayor Willis asked for a moment of silence for Rodolfo Rodriguez.

16. (a) Consent Agenda (Items i.-xi.). 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 Investment Report for period ending July 31, 2022.
  - (ii.) Approval of training request by Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo for J. Lopez, J. Helton, and J. Villarreal to attend the 2022 Texas Fire Marshal's Conference in the amount of \$3092.50.
  - (iii.) Approval of training request by City Secretary Roxanne Benitez for R. Worthington to attend the Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA) Records Management On-Demand Webinar in the amount of \$85.00.
  - (iv.) Approval of training requests by Chief of Police Richard Ramirez for the following:
    - Ratification of Dignitary Protection Course / SWAT Training for M. Dostal, in the amount of \$00.00.
    - Intermediate Crime Scene Search Training for E. Garza, in the amount of \$199.00.
    - 2022 IACP Conference for G. Horn, in the amount of \$1,611.44.
    - 2022 IACP Conference for R. Ramirez, in the amount of \$1,611.44.
    - Pre-Employment Background Investigations Training for H. Shanklin-McCartney, in the amount of \$275.00.
  - (v.) Approval of training request by Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo for M. Cigala to attend a Public Information Act Seminar in the amount of \$75.00.
  - (vi.) Approval of training request by Battalion Chief Jose Magana for D. Merchant and D. Dixon to attend Heavy Rescue Conference in the amount of \$3,800.00.



(vii.) Approval of training request by Council Member Alice Chen to attend Texas Municipal League (TML) Conference in San Antonio on October 5-7, 2022 in the amount of \$435.00.

(viii.) Approval of training request by Code Administrator Scott McElrath for E. Abraham to attend TEHA Conference in the amount of \$1,300.00.

(ix.) Approval of training request by Senior Development Services Specialist Laura Morales for T. Cruz to attend a ICC Permit Technician Seminar in the amount of \$2,184.00.

(x.) Approval of training request by Code Administrator Scott McElrath for M. Vasquez to attend Property Maintenance & Housing Inspector Seminar in the amount of \$1,557.00.

(xi.) Approval of training request by Code Administrator Scott McElrath for M. Fouts to attend TEHA Conference in the amount of \$2,355.25.

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

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as presented, and Mayor Pro Tem Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, and Herrera voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

17. (a) Approval of Minutes from the July 20, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

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

Council Member Chen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the July 20, 2022 regular meeting as presented, and Council Member Bostic seconded. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, and Herrera voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

18. (a) Discussion of requests by Council Members for future agenda items.

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

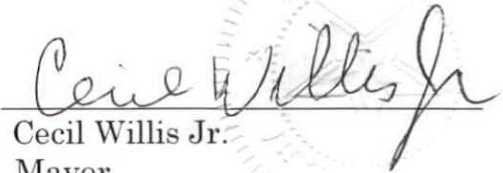
Council Member Bostic made a motion requesting an update regarding allowing the public to appear remotely, and Council Member Guerra seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, and Herrera voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Willis. Motion carried 5-1.

19. Adjournment.

Council Member Herrera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m., and Mayor Pro Tem Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones, and Council Members Bostic, Chen, Guerra, and Herrera voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

ATTEST:

  
Roxanne Benitez  
City Secretary

  
Cecil Willis Jr.  
Mayor

