

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023

On the 20th day of June, 2023, at 5:00 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., Mayor Pro Tem Xavier Herrera, and Council Members William K. Bostic Jr., Virginia Rosas, Tim Wood, and Christopher Caldwell. Absent: Council Member Alice Chen. The following City Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Director of Public Works/Development Services Jose Pastrana, Director of Recreation Susan Ricks, and Olson & Olson Attorney Todd Stewart.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance.

Council Member Wood led the pledge to the United States flag. Mayor Willis led the pledge to the Texas flag.

3. Public Comments on items on the agenda.

None.

4. (a) Discussion of an ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas, canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the runoff election held on June 10, 2023 for Mayor.

Mayor Willis advised that the proposed ordinance was included in the packet.

Public comments were received from the following:

- Monica Riley, Council Member for the City of Missouri City, thanked Mayor Willis for his decades of service, leadership, and dedication. She also thanked him for his dedication to Fort Bend County and his kindness.
- Allen Owen, Former Mayor of Missouri City, advised that he had worked with Mayor Willis for thirty-two years. He commended the entire City Council for the time and dedication it took to serve. Mr. Owen thanked Mayor Willis for the years he gave to Stafford.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Herrera made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1252 as presented, and Council Member Rosas seconded the motion. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Herrera, and Council Members Bostic, Rosas, Wood, and Caldwell voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Comments from Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis Jr.

Mayor Pro Tem Herrera presented a plaque of recognition to Mayor Willis in honor and recognition of his valuable contributions and years of dedicated service to the City of Stafford residents and employees.

Mr. Willis thanked the Stafford citizens for allowing him to serve the community. He also thanked his family and congratulated Mayor Mathew. Mr. Willis suggested that the City Council remember the home rule charter and their oaths. He thanked and recognized City Staff, City Attorney Art Pertile, City Engineer Bob Jones, and Lawrence Vaccaro.

Mr. Willis advised that the credit rating was previously downgraded and added that on Friday, June 16, the City was upgraded from A3 to A2 due to the implementation of various financial policies. He commended Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah for getting the City's finances in order. Mr. Willis advised of Stafford's motto, "We are one", and added that nothing could be accomplished without the assistance of the citizens. He spoke on the legislature, home-rule cities, general law cities, and school districts. Mr. Willis advised that elected officials must be cognizant of unfunded mandates. He also suggested that everyone rally and unite around the City Council and help them succeed.

6. (a) Administer Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor – Ken Mathew.

The official oath was administered prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Robin Elackatt, Mayor of Missouri City, spoke regarding Mayor Ken Mathew, then administered the ceremonial oath to him.

(b) Comments from Mayor Mathew as well as Council Members.

Mayor Mathew thanked his friends, all other elected officials, and advised that he was humbled to be elected as the mayor. He also advised that Council Member Chen was unable to attend as she was at a family reunion. Mayor Mathew advised that this was a historical event. He thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis for his wisdom and advice. He also thanked all City Council Members and added that together they would make the great City of Stafford greater. Mayor Mathew spoke on Former Mayor Leonard Scarcella. He thanked all City employees for their hard work, dedication, and efficiency. Mayor Mathew thanked all Department Heads. He advised that the lifeline of the City was sales tax as the City did not collect property taxes. Mayor Mathew advised that his proposals were to:

- Revitalize the island area.
- Revitalize portions of Highway 90 and Murphy Road.

- Create a better fund balance.
- Have better services.
- Have better infrastructure.

Each Council Member congratulated Mayor Mathew on his election. They also thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis on his service to the City.

(c) Public comments on items (a) – (b).

Public comments were received from the following:

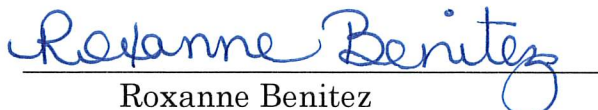
- Father George Mathews, with St. Thomas Church, congratulated Mayor Mathew on behalf of the clergy.
- Ron Reynolds, Representative for District 27, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis. He congratulated Mayor Mathew and presented a gift to him.
- Andy Meyers, Fort Bend Commissioner, Precinct 3, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis and congratulated Mayor Mathew.
- Manuel Hinojosa, SMSD School Board President, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis. He congratulated and welcomed Mayor Mathew.
- Judge Julie Mathew, Fort Bend County Judge, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis for his service. She also thanked Mayor Mathew for assisting her and added that she was proud to call him mayor.
- Liza Mendonca, who lives at 12343 Fern Meadow Drive, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis and congratulated Mayor Mathew.
- Clint Mendonca, who lives at 12343 Fern Meadow Drive, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis. He also thanked Mayor Mathew and advised that the Planning & Zoning Commission looked forward to working with him.
- Ash Hamirani, Vice-President of the SMSD School Board, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis for his service. He congratulated Mayor Mathew and added that he looked forward to working with him.
- S.K. Cherian, a long-time friend of Mayor Mathew's advised that he did not live in Stafford but worked in the City for all his life. He wished Mayor Mathew the best.
- Dinesh Shah thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis for his service and congratulated Mayor Mathew.
- Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, spoke on his relationship with Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis, that had begun fifty years ago, and thanked him. Mr. Longoria advised that he was going to be a thorn in Mayor Mathew's side like he was for Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis. He congratulated the City Council.


- Wen Guerra, the SEDC President, advised that he had known Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis and his family for thirty-eight years. He also advised that Mr. Willis and Former Mayor Allen Owen were his mentors. Mr. Guerra advised that he would do everything in his capacity to assist Mayor Mathew and added that he was proud of him.
- Damon Leonetti, a SEDC Director, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis and congratulated Mayor Mathew.
- Latafath Hussain, who lives in Rosharon, advised that he had known Mayor Mathew for a long time. He also advised that Mayor Mathew was a man of principal and vision with a great work ethic. Mr. Hussain advised that Mayor Mathew would stand on issues he believed in. He wished Mayor Mathew the best and added that the citizens of Stafford were lucky to have him as their leader for the next four years as Mayor Mathew would do a great job.
- Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, who also lives in Stafford, advised that he met the Willis family thirty years ago. He thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis for his service. Chief Ramirez congratulated Mayor Mathew.
- Nicki Willis, the daughter of Cecil Willis, advised that Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis had served the City for almost her entire life. She thanked him for his commitment and welcomed him to retirement. Ms. Willis wished Mayor Mathew the best of luck.
- Ken Floyd, who lives at 311 Fair Oak, thanked Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis for his service and commitment. He advised that Mayor Mathew was very trustworthy and a fair man with a servant heart. Mr. Floyd congratulated Mayor Mathew.
- Judge Sonia Rash, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3, congratulated Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis on his retirement. She also congratulated Mayor Mathew.
- Lawanda Banks, a Stafford resident, spoke regarding her friendship with Outgoing Mayor Cecil Willis and Former Mayor Leonard Scarcella as well as Mayor Mathew.

7. Adjournment.

Without any objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

ATTEST:


 Roxanne Benitez
 City Secretary


 Ken Mathew
 Mayor