

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024

On the 2nd day of July, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas met in the Council Chambers. The following members of the City Council were present: Mayor Ken Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Alice Chen, and Council Members William K. Bostic Jr., Tim Wood, Christopher Caldwell, Virginia Rosas, and Xavier Herrera. Absent: None. The following City Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Assistant Police Chief Kelly Wright, Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo, Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia, Director of Public Works/Development Services Kyle Jung, Senior Development Services Specialist Laura Morales, Code Compliance Administrator Scott McElrath, Police Captain Nathan Cohn, Police Captain Joe Williams, Fire Marshal Jon Lopez, and City Attorney Bridgette Begle.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Mathew called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance.

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

3. Public Comments.

Public comments were received from the following:

- Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, thanked the City Council for their service. He spoke on Independence Day and the Vietnam War. Mr. Longoria wished everyone a happy fourth of July.
- Lana Hoelsing, who lives at 327 N. Esplanade, advised that she had lived in the City for twenty-seven years. She also advised that the City Council could do a better job. Mrs. Hoelsing advised that the City needed good Police and Fire Departments but needed to do their due diligence. She advised that she was not in favor of a property tax.

4. (a) Discussion of a Resolution regarding an Agreement with Veronica V. Sopher for Personal/Professional Services.

Council Member Wood advised that he requested this item be added to the agenda. He provided some history and spoke on actions of the previous mayor, Leonard Scarcella. Council Member Wood explained the purpose of the item.

Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah answered questions from the Council Members regarding the proposed agreement.

(b) Public Comments on item (a).

Public comments were received from the following:

- Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, asked questions regarding the proposed agreement and previous actions by the City Council.
- Liza Mendonca, who lives at 12343 Fern Meadow, suggested cost-effective ways to educate the citizens about the facts.
- Johnny Baiamonte, who lives on 12819 Linda Street, asked about sales tax revenue. He spoke about street and drainage issues on Linda Street.
- Patricia Hodgkins, who lives at 623 Wheelhouse Drive, spoke about property taxes in neighboring cities. She asked would a phone number be provided so that citizens could call and ask questions.
- Lana Hoesing, who lives at 327 N. Esplanade Lane, spoke about a group of Council Members who were making decisions for everyone else. She requested that they receive the correct numbers.

(c) Possible Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve Resolution No. 39-24, as presented, and Council Member Rosas seconded the motion. Council Members Wood, Caldwell, Rosas, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Member Bostic. Motion passed 4-3.

5. (a) Update and Discussion regarding City issued debt (Certification of Obligation Series 2021), amount of funds spent to present, including how much has been spent in the current fiscal year, and the compliance requirements, per arbitrage rule, for spending and deadline(s).

(b) Discussion regarding current list of street repair projects.

(c) Discussion regarding adding street repairs for Cravens Road and Frank Lane to the top of list of street repair projects.

(d) Discussion regarding the process in which street repair projects could be done in an expedited way to keep the City in compliance with the arbitrage rule of spending eighty percent (80%) of funds by August 2024.

Council Member Wood advised that he requested that this item be added to the agenda. He also advised that he became aware of this when he became a member of the Finance Committee.

Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah provided some history regarding the certificates of obligation bonds. She answered questions from the Council Members.

Director of Public Works/Development Services Kyle Jung also answered questions from the Council Members.

Council Member Wood provided a PowerPoint presentation on City streets in need of repair.

Council Member Wood answered questions from other Council Members.

Ms. Shah also answered questions from the Council Members.

Bob Jones, with Jones Engineering Solutions, provided some history on previous street projects as well as previous City Council decisions.

Mr. Jones answered questions from the Council Members.

Council Member Rosas exited the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Council Member Rosas entered the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

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

Public comments were received from the following:

- Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, spoke of street erosion on Linda, Cravens, Rose Ann, James, and Frances. He suggested that the businesses located near those streets assist in repairing the streets. Mr. Longoria requested that sandbags be provided to residents during hurricane season.

Council Member Wood made a motion to allow Mr. Longoria to speak for an additional minute, and Council Member Rosas seconded the motion. Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Members Bostic, Wood, Caldwell, Rosas, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

- Mr. Longoria asked about the scope and costs for the project discussed in Agenda Item 4. Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah provided the proposed costs.
- Antonia Comardo, who lives on 13006 Frank Lane, advised that she and her neighbors houses flooded during Hurricane Harvey. She spoke on previous street repairs that were done in her area.
- Johnny Baiamonte, who lives on 12819 Linda Street, provided some explanation on the photographs presented by Council Member Wood. He suggested that the shoulders of the ditches be adjusted. Mr. Baiamonte spoke about drainage issues on Linda Street. He also suggested street improvements for Cravens Road.

(f) Possible consideration of appropriate action on items (a), (b), (c), and (d).

Council Member Wood made a motion authorizing the Director of Public Works to consult with the City Engineer to identify projects that could be done quickly, including Frank Lane, and Council Member Herrera seconded the motion.

After discussion, Council Member Wood amended his motion to direct the Director of Public Works to consult with the City Engineer and receive input from the City Council Members to create a list, including Frank Lane, of roads that could be addressed in road repairs within two months, and Council Member Herrera seconded the motion. Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Members Bostic, Wood, Caldwell, Rosas, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

ATTEST:



Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary



Ken Mathew
Mayor