

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING – STAFFORD CITY COUNCIL AND
STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

On the 26th day of August 2024, 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 Board Room of the Scarcella Administration Building in said City. In addition to the Council and Trustees listed below, the following City and SMSD Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Assistant City Secretary Shandra Phillips, Executive Assistant/Board Coordinator Sonya M. Austin, City Attorney Bridgette Begle, 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 Ash Hamirani
- Secretary Jacqueline Jean-Baptiste
- Trustee Suzette Thompson
- Trustee Adam Sanchez
- Trustee Joyce Wilkins

The following City Council Members were present:

- Mayor Ken Mathew
- Mayor Pro Tem Alice Chen
- Council Member William K. Bostic
- Council Member Tim Wood
- Council Member Christopher Caldwell
- Council Member Virginia Rosas
- Council Member Xavier Herrera

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.

President Hinojosa provided 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
Skye Gibbs and Angel Martinez sang the national anthem.

2. Public Comment.
None.

3. Opening remarks by Mayor outlining the basic approach to follow for this joint meeting under Texas Education Code 11.303.
Mayor Mathew spoke on the City's requirement to approve the school budget and tax rate.

4. Consider adoption of (A) a Joint Resolution Approving and Ratifying Fiscal Year 2024 Defeasance and Redemption Certain Outstanding Obligations of Stafford Municipal School District; and Containing Other Provisions Related Thereto, and (B) a Joint Resolution Authorizing and Providing for the Defeasance and Redemption of Certain Outstanding Obligations of Stafford Municipal School District; and Containing Other Provisions Related Thereto.

A. Presentation regarding Defeasance Resolutions.

Clarence Grier and Marcus Dietz, with RBC Capital Markets, spoke on the proposed resolutions.

B. Comments from the public regarding Defeasance Resolutions.

None.

C. Consider adoption of a Joint Resolution Approving and Ratifying Fiscal Year 2024 Defeasance and Redemption Certain Outstanding Obligations of Stafford Municipal School District; and Containing Other Provisions Related Thereto.

1. Presiding Officers call for a vote from the members of the Board and members of City Council to approve adoption of Joint Resolution.

No discussion was held.

No action was taken.

D. Consider adoption of a Joint Resolution Authorizing and Providing for the Defeasance and Redemption of Certain Outstanding Obligations of Stafford Municipal School District; and Containing Other Provisions Related Thereto.

1. Presiding Officers call for a vote from the members of the Board and members of City Council to approve adoption of Joint Resolution.

Vice-President Hamirani motioned to adopt the joint resolution approving and ratifying fiscal year 2024 defeasance and redemption of certain outstanding obligations of the Stafford Municipal School District, and Secretary Jean-

Baptiste seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani, Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Thompson, Sanchez, and Wilkins voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 6-0.

Council Member Rosas made a motion to adopt the joint resolution approving and ratifying fiscal year 2024 defeasance and redemption of certain outstanding obligations of the Stafford Municipal School District, 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 carried 7-0.

5. Opening remarks by the School Board President concerning the 2024-25 budget, tax rates, and budget process.
President Hinojosa thanked the City Council for attending.
6. Presentation by SMSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic and Chief Financial Officer Dovran Ovezov on proposed budget and proposed tax rate.
Dr. Bostic provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding SMSD’s mission, history, and Staff. Chief Financial Officer Dovran Ovezov provided a PowerPoint presentation on the assumptions in the proposed budget and tax rate for 2024-2025.
7. Presentation by Mayor of City's contribution to SMSD, and Stafford taxpayers’ support provided in SMSD 2024-25 budget, and observations on budget and tax rate and other items.
Mayor Mathew spoke on the City having its own school district. He also spoke about the City’s relationship with SMSD.
8. Presentation by the Board President regarding 2024-2025 proposed budget and other related items.
President Hinojosa commended the SMSD Board of Trustees and Dr. Bostic. He spoke regarding the 2024-2025 proposed budget and concerns.
9. Comments and questions by elected officials pertaining to presentations.
All Board Trustees and Council Members spoke regarding the proposed budget and commended SMSD Staff.

Secretary Jean-Baptiste exited the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Secretary Jean-Baptiste entered the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

10. Public Hearing to receive comments regarding SMSD proposed budget and proposed tax rate.
President Hinojosa opened the public hearing at 8:31 p.m.

No comments were provided.

President Hinojosa closed the public hearing at 8:31 p.m.

11. Discussion by SMSD Trustees, City Council, and SMSD Administration on comments regarding presentations, SMSD proposed budget and proposed tax rate and items 3, 5-10 on the agenda.

None.

12. Consideration, discussion, and possible action(s) by SMSD Board and City Council to approve the 2024-25 SMSD budget and related actions.

- A. Consider approval of 2024-25 SMSD budget by SMSD Board and related actions.

Vice-President Hamirani motioned to approve the 2024-25 SMSD Budget, and Trustee Wilkins seconded the motion. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani, Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Thompson, Sanchez, and Wilkins voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

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

Vice-President Hamirani motioned to suspend the rule requiring a motion and second to take further action, and Secretary Jean-Baptiste seconded the motion. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani, Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Thompson, Sanchez, and Wilkins voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 6-0.

- 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 2024-25 SMSD budget as presented.

The roll call vote was taken in the following order:

- Vice-President Hamirani – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Chen – Yes
- Secretary Jean-Baptiste – Yes
- Council Member Herrera – Yes
- Trustee Thompson – Yes
- Council Member Rosas – Yes
- Trustee Sanchez – Yes
- Council Member Bostic – Yes
- Trustee Wilkins – Yes
- Council Member Wood – Yes
- President Hinojosa – Yes
- Council Member Caldwell – Yes
- Mayor Mathew – Yes

Motion carried 13-0.

13. 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 2024 to fund school budget year 2024-25 and related actions.

A. Consideration and possible action by SMSD Board of Trustees to approve and establish a tax rate on \$100 valuation for Stafford MSD for the tax year 2024 at a total rate of \$1.002121 to be assessed and collected by the duly specified assessor and collector as follows: \$0.786900 for the purpose of maintenance and operations and \$0.215221 for the purpose of debt service for the total tax rate of \$1.002121.

A roll call vote was taken in the following order:

- Trustee Wilkins – Yes
- Trustee Sanchez – Yes
- Trustee Thompson – Yes
- Secretary Jean-Baptiste – Yes
- Vice-President Hamirani – Yes
- President Hinojosa – Yes

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Presiding officers call for a vote from the members of the Board and members of City Council to approve the total tax rate of \$1.002121, \$0.786900 for the purpose of maintenance and operations and \$0.215221 for the purpose of debt service for the total tax rate of \$1.002121 for the tax year 2024 and related actions.

A roll call vote was taken in the following order:

- Vice-President Hamirani – Yes
- Secretary Jean-Baptiste – Yes
- Trustee Thompson – Yes
- Trustee Sanchez – Yes
- Trustee Wilkins – Yes
- President Hinojosa – Yes
- Mayor Mathew – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Chen – Yes
- Council Member Herrera – Yes
- Council Member Rosas – Yes
- Council Member Bostic – Yes
- Council Member Wood – Yes
- Council Member Caldwell – Yes

Motion carried 13-0.

14. 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 2024 to fund the school budget year 2024-25; 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 Rosas made a motion to approve an ordinance adopting the tax rate Tax Year 2024, as presented, and Mayor Pro Tem Chen seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken in the following order:

- Mayor Mathew – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Chen – Yes
- Council Member Herrera – Yes
- Council Member Rosas – Yes
- Council Member Bostic – Yes
- Council Member Wood – Yes
- Council Member Caldwell – Yes

Motion carried 7-0.

15. Consider adoption of a Resolution authorizing the issuance of Stafford Municipal School District Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes, Series 2024; and Containing Other Matters relating thereto.

Vice-President Hamirani motioned to adopt the resolution, as presented, and Secretary Jean-Baptiste seconded the motion. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani, Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Thompson, Sanchez, and Wilkins voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 6-0.

16. Consider adoption of a Resolution authorizing the issuance of Stafford Municipal School District Maintenance Tax Notes, Series 2024; and Containing Other Matters relating thereto.

Vice-President Hamirani motioned to adopt the resolution, as presented, and Secretary Jean-Baptiste seconded the motion. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani, Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Thompson, Sanchez, and Wilkins voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 6-0.

17. Brief closing remarks by SMSD representatives and City representatives.
All Council Members and Board Trustees provided their closing remarks.


18. Adjournment.

Secretary Jean-Baptiste motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m., and Trustee Thompson seconded the motion. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani,


Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Thompson, Sanchez, and Wilkins voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 6-0.

Council Member Herrera motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m., and Mayor Pro Tem Chen 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.

ATTEST:



Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary



Ken Mathew
Mayor