

MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024, at 6:30 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 (arrived at 6:42 p.m.). Absent: None. The following City Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez (left at 9:30 p.m.), Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo, Director of Public Works/Development Services Kyle Jung, Senior Development Services Specialist Laura Morales, Code Compliance Administrator Scott McElrath, Fire Marshal Jon Lopez, Police Captain Nathan Cohn, Director of Recreation Susan Ricks, Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia, Court Director Nicole Nguyen, Assistant Chief of Police Kelly Wright, and Director of Information Technology Ryan Young.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Mathew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Mathew spoke on Patriot Day and asked for a moment of silence.

At this time, a moment of silence has held.

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. (a) Discussion of items related to the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Council Member Rosas made a motion to have the Mayor go through the budget line by line and explain the adjustments he made, and Council Member Caldwell seconded the motion.

After discussion the vote was taken. Council Members Rosas, Wood, Caldwell, and Herrera voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Member Bostic. Motion carried 4-3.

The City Council discussed various budgeted line items.

At this time, Council Member Wood made a motion to discuss the public safety departments first, Police Department, Fire Department, and Fire Marshal's Office, and Council Member Rosas seconded the motion. Council Members Rosas, Wood, Caldwell, and Herrera voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Member Bostic. Motion carried 4-3.

Chief of Police Richard Ramirez provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding current and future spending.

Chief Ramirez answered questions from the Council Members.

*Council Member Caldwell exited the meeting at 8:10 p.m.*

*Council Member Caldwell entered the meeting at 8:15 p.m.*

*Council Member Bostic exited the meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

*Council Member Bostic entered the meeting at 8:26 p.m.*

*Council Member Rosas exited the meeting at 8:40 p.m.*

*Council Member Rosas entered the meeting at 8:41 p.m.*

The City Council discussed various budget line items.

Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding budget implications for Fiscal Year 2025.

Chief Di Camillo answered questions from the Council Members.

Chief Di Camillo also provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the budgetary needs of the Fire Marshal's office.

Chief Di Camillo answered questions from the Council Members.

*Council Member Caldwell exited the meeting at 10:14 p.m.*

Some Council Members spoke on their concerns regarding the budget.

*Council Member Caldwell entered the meeting at 10:22 p.m.*

(b) Public comments on item (a).

Public comments were received from the following:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, spoke about Council Members yelling at each other. He advised that the City Council held several workshops, yet no action had been taken. Mr. Cowperthwait suggested that the City Council move money to where it was needed, close the Civic Center, close the parks, and find money. He also suggested that the City Council find where the money was being poorly spent and move it to where it was needed. Mr. Cowperthwait advised that Council Members were not doing their jobs. He spoke on walking quorums and warned against it.

Council Member Wood made a motion to allow Mr. Cowperthwait to speak for an additional minute, 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.

- Mr. Cowperthwait advised that Council Members assumed the property tax was going to go through, and Plan B would be implemented. He also advised that it would have been a 50/50 chance that the property tax would have been approved. Mr. Cowperthwait advised that the City Council had several weeks to review the budget to see what budget cuts could be done to give the public service departments what they needed. He also advised that the City Council failed.

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

No action was taken.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Roxanne Benitez  
City Secretary

  
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Ken Mathew  
Mayor