

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

On the 30th 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 (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), Christopher Caldwell, Virginia Rosas, and Xavier Herrera (arrived at 6:33 p.m.). Absent: None. The following City Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo, Assistant Fire Chief Jose Magana, 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, Police Captain Joe Williams, Director of Recreation Susan Ricks, Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia, Court Director Nicole Nguyen, Assistant Chief of Police Kelly Wright, and City Attorney Bridgette Begle.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Mathew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Chen 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:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that it was the last moment to adopt. He spoke on the different budget options. Mr. Cowperthwait advised that the City Council did not pay back the funds that were borrowed last time and was not expecting for them to pay it back this year. He also advised that he hoped there would be a way that the City Council pay back the funds as there would not be any funds to borrow next year.

4. (a) Discussion of an Ordinance approving and adopting the General Budget for the City of Stafford, Texas for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; making appropriations for the City for such year as reflected in said Budget; and making certain findings and containing certain provisions relating to the subject.

Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah advised that she provided the details that were voted on by the City Council at the previous meeting.

Ms. Shah answered questions from the Council Members.

Council Members spoke on their concerns with the fund balance, City's needs, and proposed budget.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

Comments were received from the following:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that the elected officials were elected to vote on items for them. He asked questions regarding the proposed budget. Chief Financial Officer Alka Shah answered his questions.
- Lana Hoelsing, who lives at 327 N. Esplanade Lane, advised that the City Council is there every year. She advised that the Council needed to make a decision.
- Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, asked how the City Council slept at night knowing that the Police and Fire Departments did not have sufficient equipment, vehicles, or manpower. He asked the Mayor why he kept repeating figures from 2021, 2022, and 2023. Mr. Longoria advised that the Mayor had to deal with the present. He suggested that the Council Members plan ahead.
- Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo spoke on the \$300,000 reduction in the Fire Department's proposed budget. He thanked the City Council for the adjustments that were made. Chief Di Camillo spoke on his concerns with the reductions. He also spoke on the vehicle maintenance and overtime line items.

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

Council Member Wood made a motion to adopt the budget, adding the restoration of overtime and vehicle maintenance for the Fire Department, and Council Member Rosas seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Wood made an amended motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1285, as presented, and Council Member Herrera seconded the motion.

After discussion, a record vote was taken in the following order:

Mayor Mathew – Yes

Mayor Pro Tem Chen – Yes

Council Member Bostic – Yes

Council Member Wood – Yes

Council Member Caldwell – Yes

Council Member Rosas – No

Council Member Herrera – Yes

Motion passed 6-1.

5. (a) Discussion of Police Department Classification and Salary Chart for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Chief of Police Richard Ramirez advised that the item was previously adopted and added that additional changes were made after adoption.

Council Member Caldwell exited the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

He also advised that readoption was required as six additional positions were frozen making it a total of sixteen frozen positions.

Council Member Caldwell entered the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Chief Ramirez advised that the item had to be approved with the modifications.

(b) Public Comments on item (a).

None.

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

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve the Police Department Classification and Salary Chart for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, 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.

6. (a) Discussion of Police Department Restricted Funds for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Chief Richard Ramirez advised that no discussion could be held in open session.

(b) Public Comments on item (a).

None.

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

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve the Police Department Restricted Funds for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, 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.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

Roxanne Benitez

Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary

Ken Mathew

Ken Mathew
Mayor