

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

On the 5th day of February, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas met in regular session in the Council Chambers. Mayor Mathew called the meeting to order. The following members of the City Council were present: Mayor Ken Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Alice Chen, and Council Members William K. Bostic Jr. (arrived at 6:31 p.m.), Tim Wood, Christopher Caldwell, Virginia Rosas, and Xavier Herrera (arrived at 7:36 p.m.). Absent: None. The following City Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Director of Public Works/Development Services Kyle Jung, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Assistant Police Chief Kelly Wright, Police Captain Nathan Cohn, Police Captain Joe Williams, and Olson and Olson Attorney Charles Williams.

NOTE: Items appearing in these minutes are in the order they were discussed, not necessarily in the order they appeared on the agenda.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Mathew called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Executive session as authorized by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(A), pending or contemplated litigation; Section 551.071(2), authorized under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas.

The City Council went into executive session at 6:31 p.m.

The City Council came out of executive session at 6:42 p.m.

The City Council meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

3. 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.

4. Consideration of appropriate action on items discussed in Executive Session.

No action was taken.

5. Public Comments.

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Clay Foster, who lives at 10500 Fountain Lake Drive, spoke about dividing the half-cent in sales tax collected, allocated to the SEDC, into a quarter-cent to SEDC and a quarter-cent to the City, as well as creating a crime control district. He welcomed the newly hired police officers.

- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, spoke on the January 29 Annual Town Meeting and the State of the City address. He suggested a public dashboard for citizens.

Council Member Wood made a motion to allow Mr. Thomas 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, and Rosas voted “Aye”. “Nay” – None. Motion carried 6-0.

- Mr. Thomas continued to speak regarding a public dashboard for citizens.
- Clint Mendonca, who lives at 12343 Fern Meadow Drive, spoke regarding agenda item #12, the Parks Committee, and community involvement.
- Liza Mendonca, who lives at 12343 Fern Meadow Drive, spoke regarding agenda item #12 and the Parks Committee.
- Zachary LeVallies, who lives at 2022 Ruffian Lane, spoke regarding the Parks Committee and agenda item #12.

6. Swearing-In Ceremony: New Stafford Police Officers.

Chief of Police Richard Ramirez spoke regarding the extensive training the new officers received. The official oaths of office were administered previously. Chief Ramirez performed a ceremonial oath to the following officers:

- Officer B. Morales
- Officer S. Jones
- Officer J. Canes

7. Proclamation – Jalen Pitre.

The proclamation was read aloud, via pre-recorded video, declaring February 5, 2025 as Jalen Pitre Day.

8. Fifteen (15) minutes of History – City Historian Sadie Williams.

Sadie Williams, City Historian, provided history on the creation of the Stafford Municipal School District (SMSD).

At this time, Council Member Rosas made a motion to take Agenda Item 10 out of order, and Council Member Herrera seconded the motion. Mayor Mathew, and Council Members Wood, Caldwell, Rosas, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Council Member Bostic. Motion carried 5-2.

At this time, Council Member Wood made a motion to take Agenda Item 12 after Agenda Item 10, 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.

- 10.(a) Discussion regarding a report from Green for Life (GFL) on the following:
- Number of residents/businesses who are actively using the recycle bins, including number of bins distributed and number being collected each week.
 - Explore if collecting electronics, as recycled products, on a semi-annual basis is possible and estimated cost.

GFL representatives Suzanne Haboush and Michael Ruckers provided a report on the requested information. They also answered questions from the Council Members.

Council Member Caldwell exited the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

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

The GFL representatives continued to answer questions from the Council Members.

Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, spoke about a previous request he made for recycling in 2021. He also spoke in favor of recycling.
- Linda Allen, who lives at 3323 S. Sutton Square, spoke favorably about the recycling program.

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

No action was taken.

- 12.(a) Discussion of a Resolution rescinding the Parks Committee Resolution.

Council Member Rosas advised that she requested that this item be added to the agenda. She spoke on the creation of the Parks Committee and why it was the only committee to have a resolution. Council Member Rosas also spoke on the purpose of the proposed resolution.

Council Members spoke on the proposed resolution and addressed their concerns.

Council Member Rosas answered questions from the other Council Members.

Council Member Caldwell exited the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Council Member Caldwell entered the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Olson and Olson Attorney Charles Williams also answered questions from the Council Members.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, spoke against the agenda item. He commended Council Member Bostic on replacing the fountains in the City parks.
- Antonia Comardo, who lives at 13006 Frank Lane, advised that she was an original Parks Committee Member and provided some history on the City parks.
- Chief of Police Richard Ramirez provided some history on the Committees.
- Linda Allen, a Parks Committee Member who lives at 3323 S. Sutton Square, thanked Council Member Rosas for providing the background and history of the Parks Committee. She spoke against the agenda item.
- John Rose, who lives at 303 S. Esplanade Lane, advised that he was a founding member of the Parks Committee. He provided some history on the creation of the Parks Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Chen made a motion to allow Mr. Rose to speak for an additional minute, 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.

- Mr. Rose spoke about the City parks and park equipment.

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

After a brief discussion, no action was taken.

9. Presentation by Chief of Police on 2024 Racial Profiling Report.

Chief of Police Richard Ramirez provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2024 Racial Profiling Report.

Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Chief Ramirez answered questions from the Council Members.

Council Member Herrera entered the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Chief Ramirez continued to answer questions from the Council Members.

Council Member Rosas exited the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Council Member Rosas entered the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Chief Ramirez answered questions from the Council Members.

11.(a) Discussion of Mayor Mathew’s 2025 Message and Goals presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

No discussion was held.

(b) Public Comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that he saw the Annual Town meeting online and spoke regarding the five-minute time limit given to Council Members at the meeting.
- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, spoke regarding the 2024 Racial Profiling report and challenges the City faced recruiting police officers. He suggested implementing a high school police training program.

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

- Mr. Thomas spoke regarding implementing programs for future needs.

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

Council Members provided their comments on Mayor Mathew’s Message and Goals.

Council Member Wood exited the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Council Member Wood entered the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

No action was taken.

- 13.(a) Discussion of an Ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas providing for the holding of a joint general election with the Stafford Municipal School District to be held on May 3, 2025, for the purpose of electing two (2) Councilmembers.

City Secretary Roxanne Benitez spoke on the proposed ordinance.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

None.

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

Council Member Rosas made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1292, as presented, 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.

- 14.(a) Discussion regarding scheduling a date and time to hold the 2025 Candidates Forum.

City Secretary Roxanne Benitez and Council Members discussed the proposed date, times, and moderators for the 2025 Candidates Forum.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

None.

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

Council Member Caldwell made a motion to hold the 2025 Candidates Forum on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the SMSD Leonard Scarcella Administration building, 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.

15. Council Reports.

Council Member Rosas

- Advised that the Cops y Cafecito event would be held at Taquitos on February 20, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Advised that the Revenue Exploration Workshop would be held on Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Advised that Friday, February 14 was Valentines Day.
- Advised that Monday, February 17 was Presidents’ Day.
- Advised that February was Black History Month.
- Advised that February 9 was Super Bowl Sunday.

Mayor Pro Tem Chen

- Spoke on Black History Month and the purpose.
- Advised that she attended the Olson and Olson annual seminar and spoke on the event.

Council Member Wood

- Recognized Black History Month and the contributions of African Americans.
- Commended the Stafford High School basketball team that was undefeated 31-0.
- Congratulated the SMSD Swim and Tennis teams.
- Advised that February was the month of his wedding anniversary.

Council Member Bostic

- Advised that the appointments for Drainage Committee would be held at the February 19 City Council meeting.

Council Member Herrera exited the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

- Spoke on the recent aviation incidents that occurred in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia.

Mayor Mathew

- Provided a quote from Steve Jobs regarding death.

Council Member Caldwell

- Spoke on the history of Black History Month and contributions of Black individuals.

Council Member Herrera entered the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

- Advised that his wedding anniversary was on February 17.

16.(a) Consent Agenda (Items i.-viii.). Any item tagged will be discussed and considered at the conclusion of this item or at the next regular City Council Meeting; any item approved will include payment of expenses.

(i.) Investment Report for period ending December 31, 2024.

(ii.) Approval of training requests by Chief of Police Richard Ramirez for the following:

- Basic Telecommunicators Licensing Course, for A. Baxter, in the amount of \$450.00.

- Asset Forfeiture training, for M. Pait, in the amount of \$00.00.

- Basic Instructor Course, for D. Thompson, in the amount of \$200.00.

(iii.) Training requests by Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo, for R. Bautista, E. Skisak, C. Woods, and R. Roman, to attend the 2025 Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo Memorial Training Seminar, in the amount of \$1,200.00.

(iv.) Request by Chief of Police Richard Ramirez to allow take home vehicle for Officer Numa.

(v.) Training requests by Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo, for six (6) firefighters, to attend the 2025 Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo Memorial Training Seminar, in the amount of \$1,800.00.

(vi.) Resolution approving the designation of the official City newspaper.

(vii.) Resolution approving an agreement with Avenu Insights and Analytics for Sales and Use Tax Compliance Review Services.

(viii.) Resolution approving an agreement with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP for fire system inspection services at the Stafford Centre.

Mayor Pro Tem Chen provided comments on items (iv.) and (vii.).

(b) Public Comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, suggested that public security be provided to the Chief of Police and his family.

(c) Possible consideration of appropriate action on items (i.-viii.).

Council Member Herrera made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, with the spelling change, 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.

17.(a) Approval of Minutes from the January 15, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting.

No discussion was held.

(b) Public Comments on item (a).

None.

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

Council Member Rosas made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections, 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.

18. Council Member requests for future agenda items.

Council Member Rosas requested an agenda item to receive an update from the Public Works/Development Services Department on actions taken to address backlog of permits.

Council Member Rosas requested an agenda item regarding what it would take to create a dashboard for citizen input, complaints, responses, needs, and ideas.

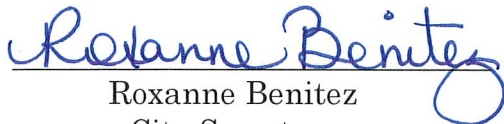
Council Member Caldwell requested an agenda item to schedule a pre-planning budget meeting between Council Members and Directors.

Council Member Wood requested an agenda item regarding an update from the Public Works Department on the progress and timeline for the 2025 Street Improvement project.

19. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

ATTEST:


Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary



Ken Mathew
Mayor