

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

On the 2nd day of April, 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 (arrived at 6:31 p.m.), and Council Members William K. Bostic Jr., Tim Wood (arrived at 6:37 p.m.), Christopher Caldwell, Virginia Rosas, and Xavier Herrera (arrived at 8:53 p.m.). Absent: None. The following City Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez, Director of Public Works/Development Services Kyle Jung, Director of Human Resources Shanell Garcia, Chief of Police Richard Ramirez, Police Captain Nathan Cohn, Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo, and City Attorney Bridgette Begle.

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 6:30 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, and Section 551.074 (1), to deliberate the duties of a public officer or employee, to wit: Assistant City Secretary.

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

The City Council came out of executive session at 6:58 p.m.

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

3. Pledges of Allegiance.

Council Member Wood 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.

Council Member Rosas made a motion to approve the hiring of Teresa Howell as the Assistant City Secretary, and Mayor Pro Tem Chen 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.

5. Public Comments.

None.

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

Chief of Police Richard Ramirez spoke regarding the training the new officers received, introduced the new officers, and gave a brief history on each one. Chief Ramirez also introduced the department's newest telecommunicator, Amber Baxter. The official oaths of office were administered previously. Chief Ramirez provided a ceremonial oath to the following officers:

- Officer R. Boogman
- Officer B. Perez
- Officer E. Turcios
- Officer G. Wilson

7. Presentation: Recognition Letter to Faruk Taban, President of North American University.

Mayor Mathew read the recognition letter to North American University, located in Stafford, Texas, in appreciation of the Women's UCAA basketball national championship win.

8. (a) Discussion regarding appointments to the Drainage, Flood Mitigation, and Subsidence Committee.

Council Member Wood advised that he requested that this item be added to the agenda. He spoke regarding the process and requested that the applicants speak before the City Council. One of the applicants, Joe Longoria, spoke about the application process.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, recommended an onboarding process for all commissions.
- Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, recommended that a plan be provided at the first Committee meeting. He spoke regarding the lack of proper drainage in the City.

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

Council Member Rosas made a motion to appoint Joe Longoria and Esther De Ipolyi to the Drainage, Flood Mitigation, and Subsidence Committee, provide a congratulatory letter to each as well as a copy of committee resolution, and Council Member Wood seconded the motion.

After discussion, the vote was taken. Mayor Mathew, and Council Members Bostic, Wood, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Council Member Caldwell. Motion carried 4-2.

9. (a) Discussion regarding the creation of Battalion Chief - Training Officer position.

Fire Chief Larry Di Camillo spoke regarding the request for the creation of a Battalion Chief - Training Officer position.

Chief Di Camillo answered questions from the Council Members.

- (b) Public comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, spoke regarding previous personnel requests that were denied by Council, budget processes, and departmental needs.

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

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the request of Battalion Chief - Training Officer position, as presented, 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.

- 10.(a) Update and Discussion regarding Pike Road Improvements Project.

Council Member Wood advised that he requested this item be added to the agenda as he received correspondence from the owner of Texas Leaguer Brewing and their concerns.

Bob Jones, with Jones Engineering, provided an update on the Pike Road Improvements project.

Council Member Caldwell exited the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Council Member Caldwell entered the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Jones answered questions from the Council Members.

- (b) Public comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Joe Longoria, who lives at 12811 Linda Street, spoke regarding increased traffic on Cravens due to the closure of Pike Road. He also spoke regarding increased traffic in Vaccaro Manor. Mr. Longoria suggested that the construction done on Pike Road be applied to Cravens Road.

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

No action was taken.

- 11.(a) Review of All Existing 380 Agreements (including but not limited to the GRID and New Egg).

- (b) Discussion in Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding any non-compliance of existing agreements and possible consideration of resulting actions.

Council Member Wood advised that he requested that this item be placed on the agenda. He also advised that the City Council was not ready for action as they continue to work on it and requested that this item be placed on a future agenda.

(c) Public Comments on items (a)-(b).

None.

(d) Possible Consideration of appropriate action on items (a)-(b).

No action was taken.

12.(a) Discussion regarding re-allocating half of the current allocation to the Stafford Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) to a newly created fund or the General Fund.

Council Member Rosas advised that she requested that this item be added to the agenda.

Council Member Caldwell suggested that the item be placed on a future agenda.

(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 if the item would be postponed, not to postpone it so far that it would not be included in the budget.

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

Council Member Rosas made a motion to reschedule the agenda item to the May 7, 2025 Regular City Council meeting, and Council Member Caldwell 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.

13.(a) Discussion regarding employee efficiency audit and associated cost.

Council Member Bostic requested that item be postponed to the April 16 Regular City Council meeting.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, spoke against the item. He advised that the audit was for a larger city, a waste of money, and a waste of time.
- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, advised that the audit was not necessary as Department Heads did not have clear direction on what they are supposed to do. He suggested that the Mayor and Council provide the Department Heads with direction on what they expect. Mr. Thomas advised that it was a waste of time and money.

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

No action was taken.

14.(a) Discussion regarding limiting the budget pre-planning meeting, scheduled for May 14, 2025, to all City Departments, with the exception of Public Safety (Police, Fire, and Fire Marshal).

(b) Discussion regarding setting a budget pre-planning meeting for Public Safety on May 28, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Wood advised that he requested that these items be added to the agenda and stemmed from the Finance Committee meetings.

Council Member Caldwell suggested that each Department have ample time to present.

(c) Public Comments on items (a)-(b).

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Cliff Cowperthwait, who lives at 111 Squires Bend, advised that it was a brilliant idea so that the departments would not be rushed. He suggested that all departments create five-year plans. Mr. Cowperthwait also suggested implementing a plan to replace what has been taken from the Departments.
- Ray Thomas, who lives at 614 Go Man Go Drive, encouraged the Department Heads to listen to the Mayor regarding available funding.

(d). Possible Consideration of appropriate action on items (a)-(b).

Council Member Wood made a motion to change the scope of the May 14, 2025 budget pre-planning meeting to include all City departments, except Public Safety, and to schedule a budget pre-planning meeting for Public Safety on May 28, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Mayor Pro Tem Chen seconded the motion.

After discussion, the vote was taken. Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Members Bostic, Wood, Caldwell, and Rosas voted "Aye". "Nay" – None. Motion carried 6-0.

15.(a) Discussion regarding allowing the Stafford High School Army JROTC to utilize the Stafford Centre for their 2026 Military Ball.

Council Member Bostic advised that he requested that this item be added to the agenda. He spoke regarding this year's event, which was held in Richmond. Council Member Bostic suggested that they be allowed a discount to use the Stafford Centre.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

None.

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

Council Member Bostic made a motion to refer the request to the Stafford Centre and allow the Stafford JROTC Army to utilize the Stafford Centre for their 2026 Military Ball, and Council Member Wood seconded the motion. Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Member Bostic voted “Aye”. “Nay” Council Members Wood, Caldwell, and Rosas. Motion carried 6-0.

16.(a) Discussion regarding planning of the City’s first Business Symposium on April 30, 2025, and utilizing the Stafford Centre as a venue.

Council Member Bostic advised that he requested that this item be added to the agenda. He also advised that it was an event planned by the Stafford Economic Development Corporation and requested that the City receive a discount.

Council Member Bostic answered questions from the other Council Members.

(b) Public comments on item (a).

None.

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

Council Member Bostic made a motion to refer the item to the Stafford Centre Committee, and Council Member Wood seconded the motion. Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, and Council Member Bostic voted “Aye”. “Nay” Council Members Wood, Caldwell, and Rosas. Motion carried 6-0.

17. Council Reports.

Council Member Bostic

- Spoke regarding the passing of long-term employee, Otis Brown.

Mayor Pro Tem Chen

- Advised that Mayor Mathew and she attended the Awareness Field event for Child Abuse Prevention Month on Monday, March 31.
- Advised that SMSD Vice-President Ash Hamirani and his wife recently welcomed a baby girl.
- Advised that the Kick Start Stafford team won a competition the previous Saturday and will compete in a state competition in May.

Council Member Wood

- Offered his condolences to the family of Otis Brown.
- Wished a Happy belated Ramadan.
- Congratulated the SMSD boys and girls track teams.
- Congratulated the SMSD weightlifting team.

Council Member Herrera

- Wished everyone a wonderful Ramadan.
- Spoke regarding the University of Houston Basketball team being in the Final Four.

Council Member Rosas

- Offered her condolences to the family of Otis Brown.

- Offered her condolences to the family of Patrick Herman, a previous employee, whose father, Mark, recently passed. She provided the funeral arrangements.
- Advised that the Stafford Community Center was open and available to rent.
- Advised that BAPS was having a walk/run on Saturday, April 13 at 7:00 a.m. at Town Center.
- Advised that the SMSD Education Foundation would be holding a bowling tournament on June 6.
- Congratulated the Hamirani family on the newest addition to their family.
- Advised that Tax Day was on April 15.

At this time a moment of silence was held for the passing of Otis Brown and Mark Herman. Mayor Mathew spoke regarding Otis Brown and offered his condolences to both families.

18.(a) Consent Agenda (Items i.-i.). 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 the period ending February 28, 2025.

No discussion was held.

(b) Public Comments on item (a).

None.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Chen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, 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.

19.(a) Approval of Minutes from the March 19, 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).

Mayor Pro Tem Chen made a motion to approve the minutes, 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.

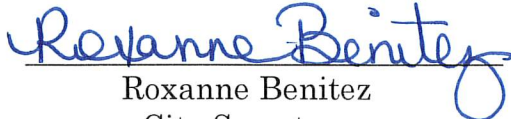
20. Council Member requests for future agenda items.


None.

21. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

ATTEST:


Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary



Ken Mathew
Mayor