

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF STAFFORD, TEXAS HELD
BY TELECONFERENCE, GOTOMEETING AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

On the 6th day of January 2021, at 6:30 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas met in regular session by teleconference, GoToMeeting Audio/Video in said City. Mayor Willis called the meeting to order. The following members of the Council were present: Councilmembers Mayor Pro Tem Wen Guerra, Ken Mathew, Virginia Rosas, Don Jones and Alice Chen. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Tomika R. Lewis (City Secretary); Shanell Garcia (Human Resources Director); Patti Worfe (SEDC Executive Director); Dorrance Roderick (Finance Director); and Art Pertile (Olson & Olson, LLP).

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
2. The City Council went into 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; Section 551.074(2) a complaint by Councilmember Jones.

REGULAR SESSION BEGAN AT 7:00 P.M.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. Consideration of appropriate action on items discussed in Executive Session.

(b) No action taken on this item.
5. Council Reports:

Mayor Willis stated that Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo, resigned from his position as Chief of the Stafford Fire Department effective January 4, 2021.

Mayor Willis announced that he participated in a conference call with the Fort Bend County Judge, Mayors and other elected officials to discuss the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine in Fort Bend County. The County has received 1000 doses and this will be administered to front line health workers, over 65's and those with certain recognized medical conditions. It is anticipated that from February through

to July more vaccines will be available and administered, until that time he urged everyone to follow the safety protocols already set in place.

Councilmember Guerra asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Stafford resident, Joel Rodriguez.

6. Public comments on items on the agenda.

There were no public comments.

7. (a) Discussion of the selection of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Mathew made a motion to appoint Councilmember Don Jones as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted "yes"; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

(b) Designation of the order of succession in which other Councilmembers shall have the power to perform the duties of the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem in the event the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem are unable to act.

(c) Councilmember Rosas made a motion for the order of succession be Mayor Pro Tem Jones, Councilmember Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and then Chen. Councilmember Mathew duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted "yes"; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

8. (a) Discussion of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Stafford, Texas, authorizing a consultant agreement with John Pitts to assist the City of Stafford with participation in the Texas legislative process.

Mayor Willis stated that there are two agreements with Mr. Pitts for consulting services for both the City and the SMSD. Mr. Pitts has been working on the legislative the City agenda for legislative sessions for some considerable time and is very familiar with Stafford's agenda. He went on to advise that he is requesting legal counsel to change the start dates on both contracts to January 1, 2021.

John Pitts stated it is unusual to attend without seeing Mayor Leonard Scarcella and hopes that he would develop the same close working relationship with Mayor Willis. He stated that for the first three sessions, he worked for the School District, per the contract and for the last session, he worked for both the City and the School per the contract. In terms of the contract presented today, it is the same contract

and terms for which he has operated under for the last four sessions. Mr. Pitts went on to inform the Council of two bills that have been carried forward into this session that is of interest to municipalities and counties.

Councilmember Guerra made a motion to approve. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

(b) Discussion of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Stafford, Texas, authorizing a consulting agreement with John Pitts to assist the Stafford Municipal School District with participation in the Texas legislative process.

SMSD Superintendent, Robert Bostic stated he is glad he has been able to speak today, and he and Mr. Pitts have worked together on the School Districts legislative agenda for the last 7 years and he has achieved excellent results. Mr. Bostic feels Mr. Pitts representing the School and for the City is an outstanding investment.

Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

9. (a) Discussion of COVID-19 Paid Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

Human Resources Director, Shanell Garcia gave a brief overview of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and provided three options to the Council to accommodate employees who have contracted the Coronavirus and have to be out from work. The three options are submitted as part of these minutes.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve Option 1 with understanding that the results of the Commissioners court reserves the right for Council to change this option. Councilmember Jones duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

Councilmember Rosas made a motion to move to Item #11 for discussion. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the

vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

11. (a) Discussion of an ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas, providing for the holding of a Special Election to be held on February 20, 2021, for the purpose of electing one (1) Councilmember to fill a vacancy in City Council Position 5; and providing details relating to the holding of such election.

City Secretary, Tomika R. Lewis stated this is an ordinance calling the February 20, 2021 Special Election for Council Position 5. The filing period opened on December 13, 2020 and closes on January 11, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Early Voting dates and times have been set. February 8-13th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and February 15- 16th 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Art Pertile, City Attorney stated that the constitution governs this election, which states that it must be held within 120 days [*of the canvass of the vote on the General Election*].

(b) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to approve the ordinance calling for the Special Election on February 20, 2021. Councilmember Rosas duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

The Council reconvened into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.

The Council reconvened into regular session at 10:30 p.m.

10. (a) Discussion of Interim Fire Chief position duties and additional compensation for added duties to the Fire Marshal and Battalion Chief of Operations.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to add the temporary compensation as recommended by HR for the Battalion Fire Captain and Fire Marshal. Councilmember Mathew duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

12. (a) Mayor Willis introduced the Consent Agenda (Items “i through ii”) 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. Approval of refunds or transfer of fees for canceled events at the Stafford Centre as requested by clients or required by the City due to COVID-19, totaling \$8,000.

ii. Approval of Public Works Director, Chris Riggs request to approve bilingual compensation for Mariela Ponce at \$30 per month.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Councilmember Chen duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

13. (a) Mayor Willis introduced the consideration of statements.

Councilmember Chen #4: Craig mechanical – charged to 505-249 need total expenditure in this account.

Councilmember Chen #6: Invoice to Enterprise for \$29,665. – Description for this.

Councilmember Chen #37: Budget amendment for Item #37, \$1,700

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve. Councilmember Guerra duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

14. (a) Approval of the following September 16, 2020 City Council Meeting minutes:

Councilmember Guerra made a motion to approve the September 16, 2020 City Council Meeting minutes. Councilmember Rosas duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

15. (a) Discussion of request by Councilmembers for future agenda items.

(b) Mayor Pro Tem Jones made a motion to continue the need for a City Council Ethical Standards Committee. No second. Motion failed.

(c) Councilmember Chen made a motion to have the Finance Director provide a report on the Budget vs Actual Expenditure for each department as of today’s date. Councilmember Mathew seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew and Chen voted “yes”; Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmember Rosas voted against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (3-3) and declared the motion failed.

16. Councilmember Guerra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Chen seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis,

Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Chen voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the meeting adjourned.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:53 P.M.

ATTEST:

Assistant C. Sec. N. Browne

Tomika R. Lewis
City Secretary

Cecil Willis Jr

Cecil Willis Jr
Mayor