

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF STAFFORD, TEXAS HELD  
BY TELECONFERENCE, GOTOMEETING AUDIO/VIDEO  
IN SAID CITY ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

On the 3rd day of March 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 Cecil Willis; Pro Tem Alice Chen, Councilmembers Ken Mathew, Virginia Rosas, Don Jones and Councilmember elect Xavier Herrera. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Nicola Browe (Assistant City Secretary); Shanell Garcia (Human Resources Director); Jose Magana, Battalion Fire Chief; Dorrance Roderick (Finance Director); Chris Riggs (Public Works Director); Richard Ramirez (Police Chief); Ryan Young (IT Director); Efrem Burns (Fire Marshal); 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. 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 thanked Councilmember Elect Xavier Herrera for coming this evening and congratulated him on being a strong citizen of the City and Fort Bend County.

Mayor Willis informed the citizens of Stafford that he hoped they were all being able to get back to some normality with the storm and that in an effort to help out our neighbors, the Food Bank and Congressman Al Green will be holding an event to distribute food and water on Saturday at the Stafford Centre.

Mayor Willis also noted that Governor Abbott has provided the mask mandate executive order and City staff are working through the appropriate protocols with an abundance of caution.

Mayor Pro Tem provided more specific details on the Winter Storm Recovery Event

to take place at the Stafford Centre, she thanked Congressman Al Green, Houston Food Bank and her fellow City Council Officials who are all dedicated to assisting the Stafford families that suffered during this winter storm. Mayor Pro Tem Chen also thanked Police Chief, Richard Ramirez and Battalion Fire Chief, Jose Magana for providing assistance with their team of employees. She concluded by thanking Constable Daryl Smith from Fort Bend Precinct 2 for his guidance and assistance for this event and requested that anyone interested in volunteering, should contact her or the City as soon as possible.

6. Public comments on items on the agenda.  
No members of the public addressed City Council.
7. (a) Discussion of an Ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the Special Election held February 20, 2021 for Council Position #5.

Art Pertile, City Attorney informed the City Council that in the packet they have the certified results from the Fort Bend County Elections Office and that Mr. Herrera was the candidate with the highest votes.

(b) Mayor Willis invited members of the Public to address City Council on this item. No members of the public addressed City Council on this item.

(c) Councilmember Guerra accepted the results of the Special Election as presented and confirmed that Xavier Herrera is the Councilmember Elect. Councilmember Jones duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmember Guerra, Mathew Rosas and Jones voted "yes"; None Against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

8. Administering the Oath of Office to the newly elected Council Position #5 – Xavier Herrera

(a) Mayor Robin Elackatt from Missouri City administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Councilmember Position # 5 Xavier Herrera.

(b) Councilmember Herrera thanked his campaign team, his friends and his family for their love and support and hard work. He added his deepest thanks to his fellow SMSD family and City Councilmembers who came out to support him on voting days.

(c) Mayor and Councilmembers each provided their congratulations to Councilmember Herrera.

9. (a) Public Hearing on the resolution of the Stafford Economic Development

Corporation for the management and maintenance of the City of Stafford infrastructure and recreation or community facilities improvements within the City of Stafford.

Art Pertile, City Attorney explained to the Council that this resolution is the first of the required City Council public hearings and that the second hearing will be at the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Willis opened the public hearing at: **8:13 P.M.**

A.J. Honore, 162 Kingsway, Stafford Mr. Honore provided his comments and thoughts regarding the City budget and the need to use money from the Stafford Economic Development Corporation and suggested that the money should be returned to the Corporation, once the City is back on its feet.

Mayor Willis closed the public hearing at: **8:15 P.M.**

(c) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

10. (a) Approval of a resolution of the City of Stafford authorizing the Mayor to enter into a One year extension of Depository Agreement with Frost Bank.

Art Pertile, City Attorney explained that this resolution is to continue the Agreement in place with Frost Bank as the Depository bank.

(b) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

11. Presentation by Councilmember Jones on National Domestic Terrorism Threat and roles of the Mayor and City Council in response to local emergencies.

(a) Councilmember Jones presented this item and hopes this will generate a discussion, as a community we should be concerned about a threat. He discussed the Insurrection at the Capital and stated the FBI have now named it Domestic Terrorism, and this brought about what we as a City have done to prepare for a Domestic Terrorism as we are under that watch at this time.

City Attorney informed the Council that like the District Attorney told

Councilmember Jones, there is nothing we can do about someone calling someone a name in this country, regardless of its cruelty, it is not regulated that way. It would be considered a hate incident, it is not a crime.

Richard Ramirez, Police Chief stated that there is an active investigation at this time.

Councilmember Jones expressed his desire to have a plan for local officials for Domestic Terrorism.

Art Pertile, City Attorney stated that there is most definitely a plan in place for the people of Texas.

(b) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to obtain the National Plan for Domestic Terrorism and the States Domestic Terrorism Plan. Councilmember Jones duly seconded the motion.

Council discussed the Governor's Plan in more detail and how the City can make it any different. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Councilmember Guerra and Jones voted "yes"; Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen, Councilmembers Mathew, Rosas and Herrera voted against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (2-5) and declared the motion failed.

Mayor Willis stated that he recommends that the literature that Councilmember Jones provided should be read and in discussion with the Attorney, If the city feels it can supplement the State plan then bring it back.

12. (a) 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 request to reschedule or transfer of fees for canceled events at the Stafford Centre as requested by clients or required by the city due to Winter Storm Uri and the damage sustained at the Stafford Centre, totaling \$48,473.00.

- ii. Approval of request to reschedule or transfer of fees for canceled events at the Stafford Centre as requested by clients or required by the city due to Winter Storm Uri and the damage sustained at the Stafford Centre, totaling \$35,415.00 with a reduction in fees of \$2,500.

Councilmember Chen provided her appreciation to the staff at the Stafford Centre and their efforts to minimize the storm damage, followed by their hard work to insure the Stafford Centre could open to for the dance competition.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll

for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

13. (a) Approval of the Statements.

Mayor Willis thanked Ms. Carrie Ditta for her due diligence in providing the statements for the meeting under the circumstances. He went on to advise Council that they approve the statements and that any items they have a concern with will be approved subject to himself, Ms. Ditta and the appropriate Department Head to verify the information.

Mayor Pro Tem Chen questioned item #14 there is a difference on labor costs from memo and invoice.

(b) Councilmember Herrera made a motion to approve the statements as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

14. (a) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Called City Council and SEDC meeting with corrections. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular City Council meeting with corrections. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

15. (a) Discussion of Mayors appointment of a City Council Committee to plan for in person and virtual meetings for the City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission and SEDC.

Mayor Willis stated he met with the Fort Bend County Mayors and at least 8 of those Cities, have gone back to in person meetings, therefore, he would like Councilmember Rosas, Jones and Herrera to form a 3 member committee to discuss the in person meetings. He appointed Councilmember Jones as Chair person.

Mary Ann Smith, Stafford Run Subdivision questioned if this would also cover

Parks Department.

(b) Councilmember Mathew made a motion to approve the appointment of the Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (7-0) and declared the motion approved.

16. (a) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to get a timeline for looking at the budget for 2021/2022. Councilmember Rosas duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones and Herrera voted “yes; Mayor Willis voted against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-1) and declared the motion approved.

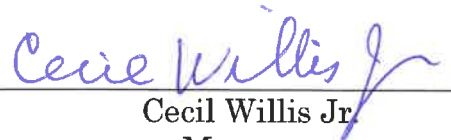
17. Councilmember Herrera made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, Jones voted “yes”; Councilmember Herrera against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-1) and declared the motion approved.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.

ATTEST:



Nicola Browe  
Assistant City Secretary



Cecil Willis Jr.  
Mayor