

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF STAFFORD, TEXAS HELD
BY TELECONFERENCE, GOTOMEETING AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

On the 24th day of February 2021, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas met in regular session by teleconference, GoToMeeting Audio/Video in said City. Mayor Cecil Willis called the meeting to order. The following members of the Council were present: Councilmembers Wen Guerra, Ken Mathew, Virginia Rosas, Don Jones and Alice Chen. Absent none. The following City staff were present: Nicola Browe (Assistant City Secretary); Shanell Garcia (Human Resources Director); Dorrance Roderick (Finance Director) Ryan Young (IT Director); Carolyn Entricht (SMETV & Communications 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. Council Reports:

Mayor Willis expressed his deepest and sincerest gratitude to the citizens of Stafford and the entire business community for their resilience and using common sense during the winter emergency event. He added that staff are conducting internal evaluations and will be available to assist the community in whichever way they can.

Mayor Willis also congratulated Councilmember elect Xavier Herrera on a successful election campaign and thanked Mr. Tom Virippan for stepping up and having a desire to serve the community he lives within.

Councilmember Guerra expressed his appreciation to all the first responders including Public Works crews who were out in the elements protecting the citizens. He added that sadly, the Stafford Centre suffered some damage during the storm but the high-end electrical equipment escaped the water.

Councilmember Guerra requested a moment of silence for lifelong resident Mr. Albert Perez who passed most recently.

Councilmember Rosas thanked the Mayor for his leadership during this event and thanked the first responders including public works. She added that she is so

proud of the citizens of Stafford who rallied to assist each other.

Councilmember Mathew expressed his gratitude to the first responders, the mayor for his leadership and the citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Chen stated that she echoed all of the statements before her, and noted that since Mayor Willis took office he has shown himself to be a strong leader with all the events that have happened in that short time. She went on to congratulate Xavier Herrera as councilmember elect and went on to announce that once plans are confirmed Congressman Al Green's office will be hosting a winter storm relief food and water distribution event, and will notify Carolyn to post out to everyone. She encouraged her fellow councilmembers to volunteer.

Councilmember Jones stated that last week Stafford and Texas went through something historic "freeze of 2021" and thanked the citizens, the staff and offered his prayers to those who are working to return to normal.

Mayor Willis concluded this portion of the agenda by stating that the entire staff put forth an amazing effort and he wanted to give a shout out to Fort Bend Water District#2 who worked tirelessly to bring service back on line.

4. Public comments on items on the agenda.

There were no public comments.

5. (a) Approval of a replat for Stafford Park No. 1 and Variance Application.

Ms. Tatyana Luttenschlager, City Planner introduced this item and provided a detailed explanation of the parcels stated the situation is so unique that to proceed to sell the parcels as the owner wishes, the only way to accomplish that would be through a variance.

Ms. Luttenschlager informed City Council that this was heard at the Planning and Zoning Committee and the Commissioners did not recommend to proceed.

Greg Schmidt of Texas Engineering Company spoke regarding this item. He explained that the owner Mrs. Jennifer Leonetti suffered a tragic loss of her husband and now wishes to sell the parcels to the individual businesses who have been tenants for decades. He finds the city's requirement of a 60-foot frontage an impossible and unfair regulation, therefore is seeking the variance. He went on to note that a similar situation arose in the Fountains, they were subdivided and sold out, and the City did not require the 60ft there.

(b) Mayor Willis opened the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

No members of the public addressed City Council

Mayor Willis closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

(c) Ms. Luttschlager reminded City Council that the recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission was to deny the application.

City Council directed their questions to Mr. Schmidt as to what would happen if this application were denied.

A discussion took place with the City Attorney on the original sub division by metes and bounds and that in circumstances similar to this; a Planned Development District is often used.

(d) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to follow the City Planners recommendation and deny the application for a replat and variance. 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 and Jones voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

6. Discussion of an ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas amending section 70-9 On-Premises sign provisions of chapter 70 Signs of the City of Stafford Code of Ordinances repealing all ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict herewith; providing for severability; and containing other provisions relating the subject.

Art Pertile, City Attorney explained that this is to allow businesses that wish to advertise during the Covid situation, that they can do legally with this ordinance.

Mr. Riggs, Public Works Director explained that due to the pandemic continuing this is the third extension of such ordinance.

(b) No members of the public addressed city council on this item.

(c) Council member Rosas made a motion to approve the Ordinance 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 and Jones voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

7. (a) Discussion of an ordinance of the City of Stafford amending Section 50-57 “Generally” of Article VIII “Speed” of Chapter 50 “Motor Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Stafford repealing all ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict herewith; providing for severability; and containing other provisions relating the subject.

Chris Riggs explained that this request came from TXDOT and that they are

intending on changing the speed limit on the ramp at Kirkwood to 45mph.

(b) No member of the public addressed City Council on this item.

(c) Councilmember Guerra made a motion to approve the ordinance 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 and Jones voted "yes"; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

8. (a) Discussion of an Ordinance of the City of Stafford, Texas, adopting Amendment Number 3 to the original budget of the City of Stafford, Texas for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; providing detailed line item increases or decreases; providing for severability; and containing other provisions relating to the subject.

Mr. Roderick presented the budget amendment and noted that he and Mayor Pro Tem Chen will need to make a revision for \$500.00 for the settlement received from the individual for the rental car. He then continued to provide a detailed explanation of the budget amendment.

(b) There were no public comments on this item.

(c) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the ordinance for the budget amendment 3 to include the revision of the \$500.00 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 and Jones voted "yes"; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

9. Discussion of a Resolution of the City of Stafford, Texas to designate Public Works, Stormwater, Engineering and Facilities Management employees as first responders as federally mandated by the President of the United States.

Councilmember Rosas introduced this item and explained that during every emergency while the Police and Fire are significantly seen, the unsung heroes are the Public Works crews who are out with the Police and Fire. She researched this and found that the national public works association had made a move to have Public Works recognized as first responders and have created a logo which she feels the City should allow PW to have as decals on trucks and patches on shirts.

Fire Marshal Burns, Fire Battalion Chief Magana and Chief Ramirez expressed their thoughts on this worthy recognition.

Mr. Riggs expressed his deep appreciation for the crews within Public Works and stated in the beginning there were some challenges but there is a strong core of

dedicated hard workers and while it is recognized the City cannot afford to compensate them in their salaries, this recognition will go a long way with boosting morale.

Mary Ann Smith, Stafford Run Resident expressed her appreciation for this recognition as she witnesses the Public Works crews out within the neighborhoods rain or shine.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to accept the resolution designating Public Works Employees as First Responders. Councilmember Mathew duly seconded the motion. Mayor Willis called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas and Jones voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

Councilmember Rosas requested that once the resolution is executed if a special copy could be made a framed for the team to receive.

Art Pertile, City Attorney stated that his company Olson & Olson would like to pay for the first set of patches for the Public Works employee uniforms.

10. (a) Discussion on reclassification of Public Works employee Ian Sargent, Senior Public Works Specialist to Assistant Superintendent of Public Works.

Mr. Riggs presented this item stating that Mr. Sargent has is doing a fabulous job and that when looking at the structure of the department during budget time, and in with discussions with Human Resources, he felt that seeking to restructure and reclassify is the best way to handle the duties that Mr. Sargent has been doing in over a year. There is no new position being added, this is eliminating the Foreman position and combining the duties of the Senior Public Works Specialist with the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works.

Ms. Garcia, Human Resources confirmed that she had conducted her research and reviewed the restructure and is comfortable with the recommended salary.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the reclassification of Mr. Sargent to Assistant Superintendent of Public Works. 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 and Jones voted “yes”; none against. Mayor Willis announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

- 11.(a) Mayor Willis introduced the Consent Agenda (Items “i through vi”) 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 \$2,000.00
 - ii. Approval of volunteer reimbursement for Fire Department personnel for January 2021, in the amount of \$9,715.00.
 - iii. Approval of Fire Battalion Chief of Operations, Jose Magana request to approve training and all related expenses for employees in the Fire Department in the amount of \$500.00.
 - iv. Approval of Police Chief, Richard Ramirez request to approve training and all related expenses for employees in the Police Department in the amount of \$2,677.28.
 - v. Approval of the request from The Exchange Club of Fort Bend to erect an “Awareness Field” on the City of Stafford right of way from March 28-29, 2021 for National Child Abuse Awareness Month.
 - vi. Approval of IT Director, Ryan Young request to purchase a renewal of software agreement with Microsoft Enterprise Software in the amount of \$50,365.12

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Jones 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 consideration of statements.

Councilmember Chen tagged Item 33 and Item 12 for discussion.

Item 33, if the payment was made, then this would place that line item over budget.

Item 12, Firetron is coded incorrectly, has been coded as 530-212 and should be 515-212.

Fire Marshal Burns, City Council and Art Pertile discussed appropriate measures to ensure there were monies in the line item to pay the Metro Fire Item #33 invoice. Fire Marshal Burns requested that the City move money from his 523-240 Schools and Seminars to 523-245 Uniforms.

(b) Councilmember Rosas made a motion to approve the consent agenda as discussed with corrections.

Councilmember Rosas amended the motion to approve the consent agenda and to make \$177.00 a line item transfer from 523-240 Schools and Seminars to 523-245 Uniforms. Mayor Pro Tem Chen duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Jones voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

13. Approval of the following City Council Meeting minutes:

(a) Mayor Pro Tem Chen made a motion to approve the February 3, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting with corrections. Councilmember Guerra duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Mathew, Rosas, and Jones voted “yes”; none against. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the motion approved.

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

(b) No action taken on this item.

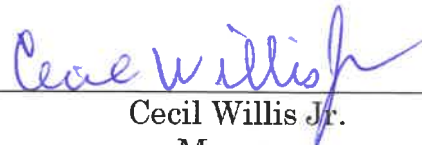
15. Councilmember Guerra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Chen seconded the motion. The Mayor called the roll for a vote. Mayor Willis, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Councilmembers Guerra, Rosas, and Jones voted “yes”; Councilmember Mathew voted “no”. The Mayor announced the result of the vote (6-0) and declared the meeting adjourned.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:47 P.M.

ATTEST:



Nicola Browe
Assistant City Secretary



Cecil Willis Jr.
Mayor