City of Stafford Council Meeting Minutes

The July 13, 2026 regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Hardin, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Council members Jimmy Brozek, Kathie Lawrence, Nicholas Minks, Joan Newell and Mark Soria were present. City Staff present were City Attorney Knappenberger, City Administrator Downing, Utility Supervisor Holmes and Police Chief Wettstein. There were 7 guests present.

Consent Agenda & Minutes

Council member Soria made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the June 22, 2026 regular council meeting and appropriation ordinance #12-26 in the amount of $255,443.72; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Communications/Presentations

Jim Stanford was present to provide a county update. He discussed the county budget, decrease in property valuations and the potential contribution to the Stafford Trap Club.

Public Comment - None

Old Business

- Discussion was held regarding the 250-year celebration and consideration for adding a fireworks display.
- Street maintenance was discussed. Utility Supervisor Holmes discussed the street maintenance quotes. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the council to table and
- Utility Supervisor Holmes discussed the sprinkler system quote received from Younie Landscaping. A maintenance recommendation was not provided. It was the consensus of the council to table and future discussion regarding a joint project with the Recreation Commission could be held.
- Discussion was held regarding the previously requested street closure. A shorter time frame was reviewed. Council member Soria made a motion to approve closure of the 100 block of South Main and the 100 block of West Camden on September 19th from 4:00 – 5:30 pm; Council member Minks seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 -1, with Council member Newell opposed.

New Business

- City Administrator Downing discussed the shared sick leave policy that was recently inquired about and explained the process of utilizing it.
- Stafford County Dispatch resolution was discussed regarding the annual $5,000 dispatch payment. Council member Newell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4-26; Council member Larence seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- Alley maintenance was discussed for the alley between the 200 blocks of North Park/Union. A resident has a garage built lower than the alley and has complained about flooding in that area with heavy rains. There are limited options for alley maintenance as the property is not to grade. Further discussion will be held with city crew and possibly consulting an engineer for additional review.
- A landbank update was provided to discuss the status of the property at 300 N. Keystone. The flooring and guttering has still not been received, which is causing a delay. A request

for closure of the grant has been submitted to KHRC, with a projected closure date and release of funds to be completed in the next 30-60 days.

- Police Chief Wettstein informed the council that he believed they were going to start digging the basement at 204 S. Buffalo in the next couple weeks. The property is also being treated for bindweed and will be cleared as soon as possible.
- Council member Minks discussed consideration of utilizing overtime for additional projects during May-September or October as needed. After discussion, it was the consensus of the council to have Utility Supervisor Holmes discuss utilizing on-call employees for extra projects if needed during the week/weekend.
- Consideration for adding department head updates back to the agenda was held. It was the consensus of the council to have these updates at the first meeting each month.
- City Administrator Downing discussed the draft budget for 2027. Property valuations have decreased as well as a decrease in revenue. She informed the council that without any changes, there would need to be a large increase in mill rate to exceed RNR. The current recommendation was to exceed RNR, by a larger amount and then continue reviewing cuts to the budget and utility increases to get the rate lower by the time the budget hearing is held. Council member Soria made a motion to exceed RNR by 15 mills; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council – Council member Soria made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.; Council member Minks seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Don Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jami Downing, City Administrator