City of Stafford Council Meeting Minutes

The July 27, 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 3 guests present.

Consent Agenda & Minutes

Council member Soria made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from July 13, 2026, regular council meeting and appropriation ordinance #13-26 in the amount of $141,571.51; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0 with Council member Brozek abstaining.

Communications/Presentations

Jim Stanford was present to provide the council with a summary of local contributions and efforts he has been involved with during his time on commission.

Public Comment - None

Old Business

- Discussion was held regarding the 250-year celebration. Events will include a dunk tank, cornhole tournament and music. There will not be fireworks.
- Street maintenance was discussed and a new quote for additional blocks of sealing has not been received. Council member Lawrence made a motion to approve the current quote of $38,369 for Stafford County to perform sand/seal on the identified streets; Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- Council member Soria provided a landbank update as final materials have begun to arrive. They are currently waiting for quotes for sheetrock for the north park property.
- Council member Minks discussed growing concerns about the safety of e-bikes/scooters. After discussion, it was the consensus of the council for the police department to host educational events for students regarding traffic safety and rules. There was also a consensus for City Attorney Knappenberger to begin working on a draft ordinance regarding helmet use, headphones, etc.

New Business

- Council member Newell discussed above ground swimming pools without fences. There is not a current ordinance requiring fencing. After discussion, it was the consensus of the council to not make any changes.
- Police Chief Wettstein held discussion regarding code enforcement and the process. There was discussion regarding tree growth around housing foundations as well as trash/debris being larger areas of concern.
- City Administrator Downing discussed water rates for review as this has been an item that has been put off for many years to keep rates as low as possible. It was the consensus of the council to proceed with a comparison of rates to review at a later meeting.
- Council member Minks made a motion to recess into executive session for a personnel matter with Council, Mayor, City Attorney Knappenberger, City Administrator Downing and

Police Chief Wettstein until 8:30 p.m.; Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0. Council returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m. with no action taken.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council – Council member Minks made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.; Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Don Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jami Downing, City Administrator