City of Stafford Council Meeting Minutes

The September 14, 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 was 1 guest present.

2027 RNR & Budget Hearing

Mayor Hardin opened the RNR hearing. Discussion was held; it was noted that the mil rate increase was reduced from 15 mils down to 3.39 mils. Council member Lawrence made a motion to pass Resolution No. 7-26 to exceed the RNR; Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0. Mayor Hardin closed the RNR hearing. Mayor Hardin opened the Budget Hearing. Discussion was held; Mayor Hardin closed the budget hearing. Council member Minks made a motion to adopt the 2027 Budget; Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Consent Agenda & Minutes

Council member Newell made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from August 24, 2026, regular council meeting and appropriation ordinance #16-26 in the amount of $251,7133.83; Council member Minks seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0. High School housing project was added under new business.

Communications/Presentations - None

Public Comment - None

Old Business

- Council reviewed and discussed department head spending authorities. It was the consensus of the council to table until the next regular meeting and discuss a policy for updates.
- Utility Supervisor Holmes discussed the quotes for repairs to well #4. Council member Soria made a motion to approve Clarke Well in the amount of $7,577.00; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- City Administrator Downing discussed the memory brick project and the direction from the August 10th meeting that was to seek additional bids for the project. After discussion, it was the consensus of the council to proceed with Andy Holmes for $1,000.

New Business

- City Attorney Knappenberger discussed the STO ordinance. Council member Brozek made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1084 for the Standard Traffic Ordinance; council member Lawrence seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- City Attorney Knappenberger discussed the UPOC ordinance. Council member Brozek made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1085 for the Uniform Public Offense Code; Council member Minks seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.

- City Attorney Knappenberger discussed the draft ordinance regarding e-bikes/scooters. He encouraged council to review and bring any final requests for change to the next regular meeting.
- Utility Supervisor Holmes discussed several bids for a new mower for the tractor. It is a piece of equipment that will likely need replaced by the next mowing season. It was the consensus of the council to table pending additional information.
- Police Chief Wettstein discussed the 287G Task Force Program MOU. He stated that $7,500 per officer, per quarter, would be received for training as well as a one-time fee of $100,000 to purchase a car/equipment. He stated this will only affect individuals that receive interaction due to a violation of law and have an active notice to detain/deport. He clarified that the officers would not be actively or randomly going door to door to contact individuals regarding their residency status. They may be required to transport to Wichita, if requested. Council member Brozek made a motion to approve the 287G Task Force Program MOU; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1 with Council member Minks against.
- City Attorney Knappenberger discussed the current policy regarding evaluations and the process as well as the council serving as the grievance board and informed the council of the need to update the policy to participate in the evaluation process. After discussion, it was the consensus of the council to leave the policy as is and have a summary review provided by City Administrator Downing and/or department heads as evaluations are administered.
- Principal Minks has asked if the City and Landbank would be open to a partnership for a renovation project by students if the opportunity is allowed in the future. The school is still working on details and possibilities but wanted to verify that the collaboration could happen. It was the consensus of the council to proceed with discussion for any type of project to make the collaboration possible in the future.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council – Council member Soria made a motion to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Don Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jami Downing, City Administrator