City of Stafford Council Meeting Minutes

The September 28, 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, Joan Newell and Mark Soria were present. City Staff present were City Attorney Knappenberger, Utility Clerk Eisenhour, Utility Supervisor Holmes and Police Chief Wettstein. There were 2 guests present.

Consent Agenda & Minutes

Council member Lawrence made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from September 14, 2026, regular council meeting and appropriation ordinance #17-26 in the amount of $113,441.61 Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 – 0 with Council member Brozek abstaining. High School housing project and office closure for Oktoberfest was added under new business.

Communications/Presentations

Merrell Yoder from Nisly was present to thank the city for their business.

Public Comment - None

Old Business

- Council reviewed the proposed spending authority policy recommended by City Administrator Downing. Council member Newell made a motion to approve the policy; Council member Brozek seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Utility Supervisor Holmes continued discussion regarding the tractor mower quotes. Building options and equipment storage were also discussed concerning additional equipment purchases. It was the consensus of the council to table and review budget options.
- E-Bike/Scooter ordinance was discussed. Council member Soria made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1086; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Water rates were further discussed, with the draft ordinance to begin the initial increase of rates. Council member Lawrence made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1087; Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0.

New Business

- Mayor Hardin and Council member Soria provided an updated regarding the High School and Landbank joint cooperative. They will be meeting with school representatives on September 30th to further discuss houses to be utilized and projects that could be completed within the time frame students and teacher are available.
- City Attorney Knappenberger discussed the Midwest Energy contract that would create an increase in rates for MWE to continue holding ownership of the substation at the plant or the city could acquire ownership, which would bring a costly liability for transformer replacement and maintenance. Council member Newell made a motion to approve the contract for MWE; Council member Soria seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- Oktoberfest committee requested permission for a fireworks display on October 3rd. It was the consensus of the Council to allow the fireworks display.

- Council discussed the street closure on the Friday before Oktoberfest and the difficulty it poses for customers to get to city hall. Council member Soria made a motion to close city hall to the public annually on the Friday prior to Oktoberfest; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Adjourn
With no further business before the Council – Council member Soria made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.; Council member Newell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Don Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jami Downing, City Administrator