CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS - BUDGET MESSAGE - FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021

BY MAYOR PRO TEM WEN GUERRA

August 26, 2020

Here we are with the first budget that was not put together by Mayor Scarcella, who served the City of Stafford for 50 years. This year it was assembled by a special Budget Committee.

After Mayor Scarcella made an inflammatory statement in the newspaper that the City was in dire straits and was going to have major budget cuts and layoffs, City Council asked all departmental heads to comb their budgets and move all their capital expenditures and purchases to the City’s General Fund. Also, the Budget Committee moved the MST Fund to the City’s General Fund.

City Council had to freeze all salary raises, stop all hiring, and stop all major purchases. By doing that, we floated the City without any layoffs or major cuts on all services that were mentioned in every department. After making all these major adjustments, City Council was able to continue to provide all the City services to our citizens and all the protection provided by our firemen and policemen that serve our City and its citizens.

With that being said, we did have a significant increase in revenue that was perpetuated by the economic growth that the City was able to achieve, that being the developments of The Grid and all the new fast food and retail businesses on Highway 90. Due to that economic growth, we were also able to add Internet Sales, a new source of revenue for the City. It was significant enough that it helped curb the disaster we were heading into. Now, the City is facing the new fiscal year of 2020/2021 and hopefully this positive trend will continue after the November General election along with the anticipated increase in revenue from Internet Sales during the upcoming holiday season.

The City does face some big challenges and the only way we will achieve the goals of the City with “Zero” property tax is to utilize SEDC funding to cover some of the costs of this budget.

The challenges that we face will be overcome by this Council and the concerted efforts of our departmental heads in order to achieve the goals of providing our City and its citizens the same quality of services we have served them with in the past.

This budget has been assembled and presented to City Council for their review. With the “due diligence” of Council, the City will make it thru this year, in this year of COVID 19, large numbers of unemployment and the recession.
Respectfully,

Wen Guerra
Mayor Pro Tem

Submitted by the Mayor Pro Tem to the City Secretary on August 26, 2020 at 2:17 AM/PM.

Tomika R. Lewis, City Secretary

By: Tomika R. Lewis