



**Meeting Minutes  
City Council**

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Tuesday, February 17, 2026

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers

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**630 E. Hopkins St. - Work Session**

I. Call To Order

**The Work Session meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM.**

II. Roll Call

**Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Garza zoomed in at 3:29 PM and Council Member Gonzalez arrived at 3:02 PM**

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Pro Tem Shane Scott, Council Member Amanda Rodriguez, Mayor Jane Hughson, Council Member Matthew Mendoza and Council Member Josh Paselk

**Absent:** 2 - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Alyssa Garza and Council Member Lorenzo Gonzalez

III. Citizen Comment Period

**Davis Jones, Urged the council to protect San Marcos' water resources by adopting mandatory water neutrality standards, expressing strong opposition to proposed data centers due to their environmental impact and misalignment with community values.**

**Rocco Moses, Highlighted significant environmental and health concerns related to data centers, emphasizing their parasitic nature and threat to local sovereignty; called on council to resist developer pressures and oppose these facilities.**

**Maxfield Baker, Raised concerns about police staffing and community engagement, advocating for more data-driven feedback and a town hall on criminal justice reform, especially in relation to upcoming civil service contract negotiations.**

**John Mayberry, Represented the data center applicant, providing additional informational materials to address community questions and support informed decision-making by the council.**

**Chad Bartling, Supported the data center project citing substantial job opportunities for local trades people and economic benefits; urged council to enforce deed restrictions and approve the project responsibly.**

## **PRESENTATION**

1. Receive a report on the San Marcos Police Department workload and staffing analysis, and provide direction to the City Manager.

**Assistant City Manager Lonzo Anderson provided introductory remarks, explaining that in 2025, City Council directed the city manager's office to commission a Police Department staffing study before authorizing additional positions in the police department. Following Council approval on May 20, 2025, the San Marcos Police Department engaged Matrix Consulting Group to conduct a comprehensive assessment of police services and staffing.**

**John Scruggs, Senior Manager with Matrix Consulting Group, presented the findings of a recent study. Matrix has conducted police-related studies for 23 years across 45 states, with an 85% implementation rate. The analysis included extensive data collection, five community meetings (three in-person, two virtual), and interviews with city leadership and police personnel.**

### **Key Findings:**

- **The police department provides an exceptional level of service to the community, with patrol staffed and deployed to deliver highly proactive, engaged service.**
- **There are staffing deficiencies in specialty units, particularly in dispatch, which needs 11 additional dispatchers to meet industry best standards. Currently, dispatchers are overworked with high levels of keyboarding and air time.**
- **Investigation units need additional staff, particularly for digital forensics, which is becoming increasingly important in modern policing but is currently backlogged.**
- **The department currently handles approximately 26,000 community-generated calls for service annually, with alarm calls for businesses being the most frequent call type.**
- **Analysis of calls around Texas State University (within a 100-yard buffer) showed approximately 2,300 calls annually, about 8-9% of total calls, with accidents being the most common.**
- **Response times for priority 1 calls averaged 8.3 minutes, which is close to the gold standard of 6-8 minutes for high-performing agencies.**
- **Officers currently have 59% proactive time, which exceeds the benchmark of 45% needed to address community issues effectively.**

**Recommendations:**

**Create a two-person downtown patrol team with a sergeant during peak hours.**

**Add records and training staff.**

**Increase investigators for property crimes and special investigations.**

**Future Outlook:**

**San Marcos' population is projected to grow by over 50% in the next 10 years.**

**To maintain current service levels, the study recommends adding 74.5 sworn positions and 39 professional staff—a 45% increase in staffing. Over the past decade, population grew by 50%, while police staffing increased only 13%.**

**Mayor Hughson asked if the recommended additional positions were needed from this point forward or if some were needed years ago. Response is that these numbers included those need to catch up to current staffing needs.**

**Council Member Amanda Rodriguez asked about the current number of dispatchers.**

**Police Chief Stan Standridge stated there are 30 dispatchers, including supervisors, staffing four stations (police dispatch, fire dispatch, and two for call-taking). He noted efforts to staff an additional dispatch console during peak hours to separate critical radio traffic from background information.**

**Council Member Rodriguez expressed concern that community input was not fully reflected in the report. She referenced concerns raised at the first community meeting regarding distrust in policing and questions about reimagining crime prevention funding.**

**Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Alyssa Garza indicated she had follow-up questions but would submit them via email.**

**City Manager Stephanie Reyes explained that next steps include discussing the study at the upcoming budget policy meeting in late February.**

**Council provided direction on staffing priorities, considering budget constraints and potential grant opportunities.**

**Police Chief Standridge mentioned a possible grant through the Texas Department of Insurance's Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, which offers an 80/20 funding match and may allow in-kind contributions to offset the city's portion.**

**Council Member Rodriguez requested that any grant agreements be reviewed in advance to ensure alignment with city values, particularly regarding federal immigration enforcement requirements.**

**There will be more discussion at the Budget Policy Workshop.**

**IV. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public.**

**Maxfield Baker, Requested a town hall on criminal justice reform for better community feedback, including demographic data. Asked if staff/council would prioritize this. City Manager Reyes stated town halls are planned for budget discussions, not specifically for the staffing study. Meet and confer negotiations will be public. Police Chief Standridge announced monthly neighborhood meetings starting with Dunbar Heritage for community conversation, coordinated with neighborhood commission. Mr. Baker expressed concerned about late notice of Dunbar meeting and asked about demographic data collection. Ms. Reyes stated better calendar notifications for neighborhood meetings to council.**

**V. Adjournment.**

**Major Hughson adjourned the work session of the City Council on February 17, 20206 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Elizabeth Trevino, City Clerk**

**Jane Hughson, Mayor**