

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 6 30 p m at Sachse City Hall, 3815-B Sachse Road Councilmembers present were Mayor Jeff Bickerstaff, Mayor Pro Tem Brett Franks, Councilmembers Michelle Howarth, Frank Millsap, Chance Lindsey, Lindsay Buhler, and Matt Prestenberg

MEETING OPENING

1 Call to Order

Mayor Bickerstaff called the meeting to order at 6 30 p m

2 Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance

Councilmember Howarth offered the invocation and Councilmember Lindsey led the pledges

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

1 Mayor and City Council announcements regarding special events, current activities, and local achievements

Mayor Pro Tem Franks commented that the recent Family Pickleball event was a success, fun with roughly 75 people Another family night is being planned He announced several classes at the Community Center including nun chuck martial arts and self-defense class

Ms Nash's announcements

- She offered congratulations to
 - Abigail Hughes graduated from the NCT911 Regional Telecommunicator Academy as the Valedictorian of her class
 - Zach Hudson earned his Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester License through TCEQ
 - Daniel DeCiutis and Diana Navarrete earned their TCFP Intermediate Structure Firefighter certifications
 - Lt Kenneth Messick earned his TCFP Master Structure Firefighter Certification
 - Officer Long Nguyen earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice
 - Kyle Murray earned his Aquatics Facility Operator License
 - Mayor Bickerstaff was recently selected to be a member of the Leadership North Texas Class 15, a graduate-level leadership program
- Staff is excited to welcome new employees Babylyn Arcilla and Richard Marion as crossing guards and Darius Means as a part-time recreation aide at the Community Center

Mayor Bickerstaff's announcements

- Applications for a Youth Advisor to the Parks & Recreation Board as well as Boards and Commission members are being taken by the City Secretary Applications and information about the different boards can be found on the City website
- A Budget Town Hall will be hosted at 7 p m on Tuesday, August 29 in the Council Chambers
- Water restrictions are in effect Even numbered homes may water on Thursday and/or Sunday Odd numbered homes may water on Wednesday and/or Saturday Watering between 10 a m and 6 p m is prohibited
- City offices will be closed on September 4 in observance of Labor Day
- The X-treme Green recycling and bulk trash collection event for residents will be hosted in the City Hall parking lot from 8 a m -1 p m on Saturday, September 9 Check the City website for details
- Leah Granger was recently awarded a major scholarship with the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, which will help toward earning her Registered Municipal Clerk Certification
- Councilmember Lindsay Buhler has been selected to serve during the second national convening "an action for the future" for the Local Government 2030 program She is one of only 10 city elected officials selected from across the country, and she is the sole elected official representing the state of Texas

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1 Approve the July 31, 2023, regular meeting minutes**
- 2 Approve the August 7, 2023, meeting minutes**
- 3 Approve a resolution approving Amendment No 1 to the Household Hazardous Waste Interlocal Agreement between Dallas County and the City of Sachse, for household hazardous waste disposal services for fiscal year 2023-2024, and providing an effective date**
- 4 Accept the 2023 certified tax rolls as approved by the Dallas County and Collin County Appraisal Districts**
- 5 Accept the submission of the 2023 no-new-revenue tax rate of \$0.626779 per \$100 taxable value and the voter-approval tax rate of \$0.803834 per \$100 taxable value**
- 6 Approve scheduling a public hearing on the FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget at the September 5, 2023, Council meeting**
- 7 Approve scheduling a public hearing on the FY 2023-2024 proposed tax rate at the September 18, 2023, Council meeting**

Councilmember Howarth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented Mayor Pro Tem Franks seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

- 1 Conduct a public hearing and consider the adoption of an ordinance related to the Sachse Public Improvement District No 1, ratifying and conforming prior actions of the City Council in connection with the District, approving an Operations and Maintenance Service and Assessment Plan Update for maintenance of authorized improvements**

within the District which lies within the corporate limits of the city, levying assessments against the assessed property to pay for maintenance of authorized improvements within the District, providing for the collection of assessments, creating a charge and lien against the assessed property, providing for penalties for delinquent assessments, creating a District Project Fund, making legislative findings, providing for severability, and providing an effective date

Mary Petty, PID Administrator with P3 Works, reviewed the timeline and details on the PID Operations and Maintenance (O&M) assessment. She explained an issue lingering from the Dallas County Appraisal District's cybersecurity problem last year. Ms. Petty noted that as there are limited funds accrued, there are a limited number of items that will be addressed.

The public hearing was opened at 6:47 p.m. and there were no comments. Mayor Bickerstaff closed the public hearing at 6:47 p.m.

Councilmember Lindsey made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Howarth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2 Consider an ordinance accepting and approving the 2023 Annual Service Plan Update to the Service and Assessment Plan, including the Assessment Roll, for the Sachse Public Improvement District No. 1, and providing an effective date

Ms. Nash explained that this assessment is for the infrastructure within the PID boundary and consideration by the Council is required annually.

Councilmember Howarth made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3 Consider placing a proposal to adopt a tax rate of \$0.650416 per \$100 of assessed property values for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as an action item on the September 18, 2023, City Council meeting agenda

Ms. Nash explained that the proposed rate is a maximum tax rate that Council may consider. State law requires publishing a maximum rate, however, setting this maximum rate does not obligate adoption of that rate. Council retains the right to adopt a lower rate.

Matthew Holboke, Sachse resident, addressed the Council about tax rates of surrounding cities.

Councilmember Millsap asked where the proposed rate came from. Ms. Nash clarified that she recommended the rate stay the same based on requests from residents in the survey and Council as well as the base budget and supplement recommendations. She clarified that this rate was included as a part of the Budget Workshop budget materials. He questioned if the rate is lowered, would the budget need to be changed. Ms. Nash made it clear that the budget would need to be changed and cuts made. Councilmember Millsap said he would like to reconsider the lower no-new-revenue rate. Mayor Pro Tem Franks corrected that this is the maximum rate, not the adopted rate, and if Councilmember Millsap would like cuts made, he thinks Councilmember Millsap

should make the recommendations on what should be cut Mayor Pro Tem Franks noted that Council has lowered the tax rate more than \$0.10 over the last ten years Councilmember Millsap is concerned that raising taxes is making it harder for businesses to operate in Sachse Councilmember Prestenberg mentioned that the cost of living has increased and costs associated with personnel has almost doubled He specified that the action presented is just setting a maximum budget, but that Council has the option to spend under that limit The state requires a maximum rate to be set, Council can still debate what should actually be adopted Councilmember Lindsey noted that the rate could be set a lot higher based on the unused increment and the amount presented is fiscally responsible He does not feel that adopting this rate sets the wheels in motion, it just allows the discussion to begin The difference between the no-new-revenue rate and the maximum rate being considered by Council is about \$0.024 cents, which on \$100,000 of property is \$24 Every dollar counts, but he is ready to set the max rate and have the discussion later Mayor Bickerstaff confirmed that the tax rate has been lowered for the last nine years, so this is the first year Council has not been able to do that Appraisal districts set the value of homes and, as long as the value goes up, the taxes will go up with it Councilmember Lindsey also noted that inflation greatly affects tax amounts The development in Sachse has already had a positive effect on the City's budget and tax revenues

Councilmember Lindsey made a motion to approve the maximum tax rate as proposed and Councilmember Howarth seconded it The motion passed 6-1 as follows Mayor Bickerstaff, Mayor Pro Tem Franks, and Councilmembers Howarth, Lindsey, Buhler, and Prestenberg voted in favor of the measure Councilmember Millsap voted against the measure

4 Discuss and provide feedback on Capital Improvement Plan Update

Mr Nesbit reviewed projects on the Capital Improvement Plan that have been completed, are under construction, or are in the design phase He described the timeline for the bond projects and laid out recommendations for upcoming/future projects He pointed out that the plan is to go to bid for concrete construction rates in order to lower costs of project related to sidewalks and roadways Ms Nash noted that staff is looking for input from Council for direction on projects associated with the FY23-24 budget as well as future projects to undertake

Councilmembers asked questions related to projects listed Councilmember Buhler asked why Blackburn Road and Woodbridge Parkway were not listed on future projects Mr Nesbit responded that these projects are so big that the City will need to explore funding options and possible partnering with other entities Ms Nash noted that the projects listed are those that could be accommodated with the City's budget rather than those that would require assistance from outside sources Mayor Pro Tem Franks asked if it would be beneficial to start engineering now on future projects Mr Nesbit replied that it would help if Council chooses to make the funding available After additional questions, Ms Nash confirmed that staff will take concerns and adjust appropriately She noted that updates will be provided for the Bond and Merritt Road in the Fall

5. Consider receipt of the City Manager's Proposed Budget for programs and services for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Ms. Nash noted that the Proposed Budget Book was provided to Council and the public on August 15. It is available online and for viewing in the City Secretary's office and the Sachse Public Library. She commended the Finance Department for their work on the document as well as the new and improved look. She went on to explain General Fund assumptions, detailed the difference in types of tax rates, and made a recommendation to adopt a tax rate above the no-new-revenue rate in order to address requests in the resident survey as approved by Council. Mr. Baldwin noted that the property taxes that the City receives are a stable revenue source and that expenditures purposely exceed revenue in order to draw down the General Fund balance as approved by Council. This draw down will bring reserves back down to the recommended 25-35 percent range. He also recommended updating the tax rate debt limit from 30 to 35 percent, which is reasonable according to the City's financial advisor. Ms. Nash called out the next steps for the process, highlighting the public hearings for the budget on September 5 and the tax rate on September 18.

Sachse resident Matthew Holboke addressed the Council regarding taxes.

Councilmember Millsap encouraged the EDC to work towards making Sachse a destination city to continue to improve sales tax returns. Councilmember Lindsey pointed out that page 28 of the budget talks about average taxes for a single-family residence. He explained that appraisals affect tax bills.

After continued discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Franks made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Howarth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Discuss amending the Master Fee Schedule by amending services and rates and providing an effective date.

Mr. Baldwin reviewed the recommended changes to the Master Fee Schedule, which can be found in the proposed budget on page 278 in the Appendix section. Ms. Nash noted that the changes presented will be on the Consent Agenda at the September 5 meeting.

7. Adjournment.

Mayor Bickerstaff adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.


Jeff Bickerstaff, Mayor

ATTEST:


Leah K Granger, City Secretary

