

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 17, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 6 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

Members of staff present included City Manager Gina Nash, City Attorney Joe Gorfida, City Secretary Leah Granger, Assistant City Manager Lauren Rose, Assistant to the City Manager Amanda Chi, IT Manager Mike Pastor, Finance Director David Baldwin, Assistant Finance Director Ryan Bredehoeft, Director of CIP and Public Works Corey Nesbit, Leisure Services Director Lance Whitworth, Leisure Services Coordinator Jordan Beaulieu, Recreation Manager Cynthia Wiseman Economic Development Manager Jerod Potts, Fire Chief Marty Wade, Deputy Fire Chief Lee Richardson, Firefighter/Paramedic Emily Barbeau, Assistant Police Chief Steven Baxter, Communications Supervisor Sharlene Thompson, and Police Dispatcher Lorraine Massie Culture Committee members present were Human Resources Director Kristi Wong, Human Resources Analyst Belinda Decker, Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Harris, Development Services Coordinator Megan Jay, Driver/Engineer Jody Krizan, Library Services Manager Daniel Laney, Utility Billing Supervisor Vanessa Lopez, Sergeant Brent Merryman, Recreation Supervisor Mary Schmidt, and Animal Services Officer Brenda Smith

Mayor Bickerstaff called the meeting to order at 6 p m

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U S AND TEXAS FLAGS**

Mayor Bickerstaff offered the invocation and Councilmember Buhler led the pledges

**WORKSHOP ITEMS**

**1 Discuss and review applications for the 2023 City of Sachse Scholarship**

Amanda Chi presented the scholarship applications to the Council for review There were 19 applicants in total Following evaluation, a staff review committee narrowed down the list of potential recipients to four for Council to review Mayor Bickerstaff recapped the process for the newer Councilmembers Council discussed the applications and chose the scholarship recipient

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1 Present a proclamation recognizing April 22, 2023, as Arbor Day in the City of Sachse**
- 2 Present a proclamation recognizing April 22, 2023, as Keep America Beautiful - Great American Cleanup Day in the City of Sachse**

Mayor Bickerstaff presented the proclamations for Arbor Day and Keep America Beautiful – Great American Cleanup Day to Jordan Beaulieu and Cynthia Wiseman He thanked the Leisure Services

Department for its continued efforts to make Sachse such a wonderful place to live Ms Beaulieu invited the public to attend the Arbor Day clean up event on April 22 at 9 a m

**3 Present a proclamation recognizing the week of April 23-29, 2023 as National Library Week in the City of Sachse**

Daniel Laney accepted the proclamation from Mayor Bickerstaff for National Library Week He encouraged residents to come out and take advantage of the resources available at the Library

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

Mayor Bickerstaff recognized Lauren Rose as the recipient of the Sachse News Readers Choice for Sachse's Best Municipal Employee for the "Best Of" 2023 edition Councilmember Millsap reminded everyone about the annual library plant swap on Saturday, April 29 at 11 a m Mayor Pro Tem Franks announced an upcoming pickleball tournament on Saturday May 6, noting there will be different categories for all ages and abilities Contact the recreation department for information

**City Manager's announcements**

- New Employees
  - Staff welcomes Philip Feinhals as the new planner at the City

**Mayor Bickerstaff's announcements**

- Early voting will be from April 24 through May 2 and Election Day is May 6 Dallas County residents may vote in the City Hall Courtroom or any Dallas County Vote Center, and Collin County residents may vote in the Michael J Felix Community Center Room A & B or any Collin County Vote Center Check the City website or contact the City Secretary for details
- A Push-In event for the new fire engine at Fire Station 2 will be April 25 at 6 30 p m
- Class number three of the Sachse Citizens Fire Academy will meet from 6-8 30 p m on Wednesdays between April 26 through June 28
- The grand opening for the J K Sachse Park is scheduled for 11 a m on Saturday May 13 Come check out all the great amenities and enjoy a fun-filled day at the first park on the Collin County side of Sachse All residents and visitors are welcome

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were given

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**1 Approve the April 3, 2023, meeting minutes**

Councilmember Howarth made a motion to accept the minutes as presented Councilmember Buhler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

- 2 Authorize the City Manager to execute and award the bid for the construction of drainage and erosion control improvements for the Third Garland Connection Creek Stabilization project between the City of Sachse and Solid Bridge Construction in the amount of \$1,612,625**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and was not considered

### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1 Receive an update on the progress of the Evolve Biologics project**

Ms Nash introduced Mark Krause, Senior Vice President of Operations for Evolve Biologics, who provided an overview and update on the progress of the project. Evolve Biologics is a biotech company that has proprietary technology that works with plasma to create life saving medications. Mr. Krause noted that the company did an exhaustive search for location and Sachse has been great to work with. Hiring approximately 300 employees will hopefully be a boon to the community. Substantial completion is anticipated in the last quarter of 2024. He presented renderings and details about the facility.

Council was positive about the project. Upon questioning, Mr. Krause explained that this facility is the only one of its kind anywhere and that the plasma product is used for treatments in immunocompromised patients. He expounded that the ground-breaking treatment is to replace antibodies in patients that may not have them, possibly due to chemo therapy or other auto-immune disorders. This is different than stem cell treatments.

- 2 Discuss and consider changes to the City of Sachse Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual**

Ms Nash proposed changes to the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual. She thanked Kristi Wong and the employee Culture Committee for being integral in the process by providing valuable input and feedback, especially in relation to the health insurance changes. They have also helped improve communication city wide. Changes to the manual proposed included modifications to tuition reimbursement, compensable travel time, leave policies, and holidays. Ms Nash believes implementing these modifications will have a strong, positive impact on retention and recruitment goals.

Councilmember Lindsey confirmed that he was completely in agreement with the changes, noting that particularly liked the elder care leave proposed. Councilmember Millsap wanted to make sure that the leave caps were being monitored, and that expectations for turnover were reasonable. He would like to understand the budget impact for the changes. Ms Nash verified that HR does monitor leave reports for all employees as a part of their routine monitoring. She also explained that if the Council wished to consider any budget increases associated with the approved tuition reimbursement, that they may do so as a part of the standard budget process in July. Councilmember Franks is pleased with the increased tuition reimbursement and other improvements requested. Councilmember Prestenberg asked several questions to clarify the tuition reimbursement plan and about management's flexibility in relation to employees who might not

meet the edibility requirements for special leave. He also was curious about the budget impacts. Councilmember Buhler thanked staff and the Culture Committee for their efforts, noting that Sachse is a great place to live because of the City's employees. She is happy to see the benefits proposed as a way to help employees achieve a work-life balance. Councilmember Howarth stated that, in general, "happy employees make happy residents" and that the changes are needed to take care of employees. Mayor Bickerstaff echoed Council's positive consensus of the changes. He noted that a lot of work has gone into this proposal and thanked the Culture Committee. In response to requests for budget information related to the changes, the Mayor explained that the action at this meeting was to consider and approve the policy. Budget changes related to tuition reimbursements will be presented for Council's consideration and approval in the normal budget process.

A motion to approve the changes to the Sachse Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual was made by Councilmember Lindsey. It was seconded by Councilmember Buhler. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS / MEETING CLOSING:**

**1. Adjournment.**

Mayor Bickerstaff adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

  
Jeff Bickerstaff, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Leah K Granger, City Secretary

