

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 1, 2021

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via virtual teleconference. Those present were Mayor Mike Felix, Mayor Pro Tem Brett Franks, Councilmembers Michelle Howarth, Frank Millsap, Chance Lindsey, Cullen King, and Jeff Bickerstaff; City Manager, Gina Nash; City Secretary, Michelle Lewis Sirianni; IT Manager, Danny Wheeler; Director of CIP and Public Works, Corey Nesbit; Parks and Recreation Director, Lance Whitworth; Director of Strategic Services, Lauren Rose; Finance Director, Teresa Savage; Development Services Director, Matt Robinson; Human Resources Director, Melinda Walter; Fire Chief, Marty Wade; and Police Chief, Bryan Sylvester.

Mayor Felix opened the workshop meeting at 6:31 p.m.

BOND 2021 PROCESS: Discuss and provide feedback on the proposed public engagement plan for the Bond 2021 process.

Mrs. Rose provided a recap of the initial preparation of the potential bond in 2020. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, the process was put on hold. The City Council was briefed at their 2020 Strategic Planning Retreat regarding options to pursue a Bond Committee in 2021. Mrs. Rose outlined the timeline with meetings to begin in late March including live ZOOM Q&A sessions that will be done during various times of the day. If the committee decides to pursue a bond, a formal recommendation would be made to the City Council at their first meeting in August. The last day to call a bond election is the second meeting in August. Mrs. Rose stated that as part of the public engagement, recorded presentations and FAQs will be on the City's website, along with information posted at other City facilities. Residents will also be able to make one-on-one appointments if they are unable to engage digitally. Specific branding will be affiliated with the program to also help promote awareness and encourage public participation.

Councilman Howarth stated she would recommend doing live Q&As on the weekend to target more people.

Councilman Bickerstaff stated he would like to see the information easily accessible to the residents.

Councilman King suggested doing Q&As at a Chamber luncheon. Mayor Pro Tem Franks agreed that community groups could help reach more people, which the more people they reach, the better.

Mayor Felix would like the results of each meeting made available. Mrs. Rose indicated that presentations and results of meetings would be available on the City's website.

Councilman Millsap stated he agreed with Councilwoman Howarth on having weekend meetings and also like the idea of reaching out to HOAs and community groups to get the information out.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Felix adjourned the workshop at 6:54 p.m.

Mayor Felix opened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO U.S. AND STATE FLAGS:

Councilman Bickerstaff offered the invocation and Councilman Lindsey led the pledges.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Franks stated the Community Center remains open by appointment only and the Daddy Daughter Dance this year will be held virtually. He encouraged residents to sign up and pick up their event bag from the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilman King congratulated all the winners from the WISD Education's "BootsnBBQ" event that was held along with the WISD Lady Raiders for reaching regionals. Councilman King also announced the Sachse Chamber Annual Banquet being held virtually this year on March 25.

Mayor Felix recognized and thanked staff, City workers, Sachse Fire and Police, Chase Oaks Church, CERT, Audrey Wallace with 5 Loaves Food Pantry, and all those involved during the winter storm for their efforts and contributions made to assist Sachse residents.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Mayor read the following into the record from Richard Cho, 7504 Meadow Run Lane.

"We live in a zone where Thursdays are designated as our collection day. Prior to the recent freeze, the last collection of our trash and recycling was on 02/04/21. Since then, the next collection of our trash and recycling occurred on 02/25/21, which was a three (3) week gap in between collections. The trash, recycling, and bulk refuse collections for our zone that should've been scheduled on 02/11/21 did not occur, nor did the trash and recycling collections that should've been scheduled on 02/18/21.

We are charged a monthly fee for trash collection services - which includes a sales tax. My understanding of these fees are for services that include a weekly collection of trash and recycling

refuse, as well as a monthly collection of bulk trash. Through phone calls to CWD, as well as texts, emails, and website information from the Sachse PD and the City of Sachse, I understand that during the weeks that included 02/11/21 and 02/18/21, CWD decided not to pick up trash in our neighborhood due to the inclement weather. While this decision is understandable, the residents of Sachse who did not receive trash services should not be responsible to pay for services that were not provided, and a credit for this service interruption should be issued. Allowing three extra bags of trash to be picked up along with trash bin contents three weeks later does not negate the fact that there have been overflowing trash bins and garbage sitting out by the curb side for weeks.

When I called the City of Sachse Utility Billing department to ask for a credit due to non-service, I was told that I had to send an email to the Utility Billing Supervisor requesting a credit. I would imagine that this interruption of trash collection services occurred to all of the residents of Sachse - with varying dates of non-service dependent on zone. Already, some Sachse residents are still dealing with damage to pipes, and other property, as well as the after-effects from the power outages and other hardships that happened due to the freezing temperatures. Making Sachse residents go through additional "hoops" to have to request a credit for services that was not provided seems like another hardship that the City is asking of its residents - which does not seem right. I don't think it would be excessive to request that the City do a review to see which zones were affected, when, and then provide an automatic credit for all Sachse residents for the time that the service interruptions occurred. That seems like the right thing to do. Thank you."

Mrs. Nash stated that the City will look into the resident's concern, as well as, checking the contract with CWD to see regarding missed pick ups during inclement weather. Mrs. Nash noted the landfills were also closed during this time. Therefore, there was no place for the trash to be dumped.

Scott McMurdie, 7510 Taylor Lane, expressed his concern and frustration of recent letters by Councilman Lindsey. He feels it is a conflict of interest and creates a liability for members of the City Council to be affiliated with CERT and organizations that represent the City. Mr. McMurdie stated he would like to see policies adopted or changes to ensure this doesn't continue.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be acted on by one motion, with no separate discussion of these items unless a City Councilmember or citizen so requests.

- 1. Approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021, combined meeting.**
- 2. Accept the monthly revenue and expenditure report for the period ending December 31, 2020.**
- 3. Accept the Quarterly Budget and Investment Reports for the quarter ended December 31, 2020.**

Councilman King made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Councilman Millsap seconded that motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Make appointments to the Bond 2021 Committee.

Mayor Felix asked for the Council to name who they would like to appoint to the committee.

Councilman Bickerstaff appointed Tim Shivers.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks appointed Lindsay Buhler.

Councilman Lindsay appointed Brad Ford.

Councilman Millsap appointed John McKinney.

Mayor Felix appointed Charles Elk.

Councilwoman Howarth appointed Scott McMurdie.

Councilman King appointed Josh Ackles.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks made a motion to appoint persons as presented to the Bond Committee. Councilman Bickerstaff seconded that motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Receive and consider the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

Louis Breedlove with BrooksWatson & Co., PLLC presented highlights and comments of the City's audit and its process. He indicated the City has received an unmodified or "clean" opinion, which is the highest opinion available. An unmodified opinion states that the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Sachse, as of September 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted.

Councilman Bickerstaff made a motion to receive the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Franks seconded that motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Consider and act on a resolution temporarily waiving permit fees for commercial and residential remodel projects for all permits related to plumbing repairs, including repairs to walls, floors and ceilings, for ninety (90) days for the repair of damages caused by the unprecedented arctic winter storm event occurring in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from February 14, 2021 through February 18, 2021.

Mrs. Nash stated in an effort to aid businesses and residents who suffered damage caused by the winter storm, staff is proposing a temporary waiver of permitting fees for plumbing repairs, walls, floors, ceilings, etc. for ninety days. The proposed resolution also authorizes the City Manager to extend the time period for waiving of fees for an additional thirty days if needed.

Councilman King asked about waiving water usage. Mrs. Nash stated that are analyzing data to see what if any financial impacts there would be. Once staff is able to evaluate the data, they will bring back to the City Council.

Councilman Lindsay expressed concern that this item was already announced before coming to the City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks would like to see the City help with the water adjustment or anywhere it makes sense if they can.

Councilman Millsap stated he believes the 90 days is a must and may need to do a case-by-case basis afterwards especially in regards to landscaping and/or plant damage.

Councilman Bickerstaff asked if it was an automatic 30-day extension. Mrs. Nash noted she would have the ability to extend, but she can either bring back to the Council or report within the weekly updates.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks made a motion to approve a resolution temporarily waiving permit fees for commercial and residential remodel projects for all permits related to plumbing repairs, including repairs to walls, floors and ceilings, for ninety (90) days for the repair of damages caused by the unprecedented arctic winter storm event occurring in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from February 14, 2021 through February 18, 2021. Councilman King seconded that motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Receive the Sachse Police Department 2020 Year End Review.

Chief Sylvester presented the Sachse Police Department's Year End Review. Chief Sylvester reviewed last year's crimes including Part I offenses (assaults, burglaries, robberies, and thefts) as well as Part II offenses (criminal mischief, fraud, disorderly conduct, public intoxication, drug possession, and DWIs.) He showed how the data in Sachse compared to Texas crime rates and national crime rates. He also commented on response times, number of traffic stops, and community policing activity. Chief Sylvester discussed departmental accomplishments including the creativity used in community outreach events due to COVID-19, current PPE protocols, and the new Police Transparency page on the City's website. He introduced new employees to the department, current promotions, and outlined the 2021 goals.

Discuss and consider the extension of memberships at the Michael J. Felix Community Center.

Mr. Whitworth stated the Community Center closed its doors in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and reopened in June 2020 by appointment only to the public, under limited operating hours, and

with limited capacity for activities. Between opening in January 2020 and the closure, there were 736 memberships purchased, and between the reopening in June 2020 to December 2020 there were 228 memberships purchased. Since reopening, staff has also opened youth classes and on average about 200 people a week check in for appointments. They have also expanded operational hours. Mr. Whitworth stated due to the closure and members not being able to fully utilize the Community Center at normal capacity, staff is recommending extending those memberships purchased in 2020 for an additional year.

Councilman King stated he agreed and that it is the right thing to do. He asked if there would be any financial impact. Mayor Pro Tem Franks agreed and reiterated it is something they can do for the community due to the impact of COVID-19.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks made a motion to approve the extension of memberships at the Michael J. Felix Community Center. Councilman Bickerstaff seconded that motion. The motion was approved with a 6-0-1 vote. Councilman Millsap abstained.

Receive an update regarding actions taken by the City as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and any future measures that may be necessary including city operations and facilities, public safety, financial employee impact, and the CARES Act.

Mrs. Nash stated there is no update.

No further comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Felix adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.



MIKE J. FELIX, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Michelle Lewis Sirianni, City Secretary

