

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE
MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2022

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Monday, February 21, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at Sachse City Hall, 3815-B Sachse Road. Those present were Mayor Mike Felix; Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Bickerstaff; Councilmembers Brett Franks, Michelle Howarth, Frank Millsap, Chance Lindsey, and Cullen King; City Manager, Gina Nash; City Attorney, Pete Smith; City Secretary, Leah Granger; Assistant City Manager, Lauren Rose; Information Technology Manager, Mike Pastor; Finance Director, David Baldwin; Police Chief, Bryan Sylvester; Assistant Police Chief, Steven Baxter; Fire Chief, Marty Wade; Deputy Fire Chief, Lee Richardson; Director of CIP and Engineering, Corey Nesbit; Assistant to the City Manager, Amanda Chi; Finance Manager, Berna Fitzpatrick Walker; and Court Administrator, Kelly Dennis.

Mayor Felix called the workshop meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

WORKSHOP:

Conduct and discuss Boards and Commissions interviews.

Council interviewed several residents for vacant Boards and Commissions seats.

The Mayor adjourned the workshop and opened the regular meeting at 7:22 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE US AND TEXAS FLAGS:

Councilmember King lead the invocation and Councilmember Millsap led the pledges.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING SPECIAL EVENTS:

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

Councilmember King announced that Sunday, February 20, was National Love Your Pet Day and urged people to take their pets for a walk. He also touted the Library programs for adults and encouraged all to check out their offerings.

Councilmember Franks noted that the Daddy/Daughter Dance on Friday, February 18, had roughly 200 attendees. It was a great event and he looks forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Proclamation recognizing the outstanding service of retired Finance Director, Teresa Savage.

Mayor Felix presented retired Finance Director, Teresa Savage, with a proclamation recognizing her outstanding service. The financial state of the City is so positive, in large part, thanks to Ms.

Savage's direction, advice, and effort. Ms. Nash also presented Ms. Savage with a frame of her first and last budget book covers and a Sachse street sign with her name.

Ms. Savage said she has been honored to have worked for Sachse and will miss the great people she has worked with.

CITIZEN INPUT:

There was no input from citizens.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed on the consent agenda will be considered by the City Council and will be enacted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests.

1. **Approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Joint City Council – Economic Development Corporation workshop.**
2. **Approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022, combined meeting.**
3. **Approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented.**

Mayor Pro Tem Bickerstaff made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilmember King seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Receive the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.

Mr. Baldwin stated that the 2020/2021 audit of the City's financial statement is now complete. He thanked the Finance Manager, Berna Fitzpatrick-Walker, and former Finance Director, Teresa Savage, for their efforts throughout the audit process. Mr. Baldwin introduced Louis Breedlove with BrooksWatson & Co. who led the audit team. Mr. Breedlove presented the audit process and noted that Sachse received the Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting. This recognizes institutions that go above and beyond the requirements of generally accepted financial practices and is largely due to the level of transparency that the City has put in place to ensure that residents are able to access financial information. The City of Sachse has received this certificate every year for 22 years and has received the highest level of auditor's opinion that can be provided. He continued to highlight the growth and financial health of the City.

Discuss and consider a Charter Review Commission and a potential charge.

Ms. Rose presented a charge for the Council to discuss:

“Review the City of Sachse's home rule Charter to determine if any revisions need to be made to the document and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Commission's findings.”

Councilmember King liked the general nature of the proposed charge. Councilmember Franks did not feel the review is necessary but if it is to move forward, it should be done now rather than waiting. Mayor Pro Tem Bickerstaff agreed and explained that while he does not feel the review is critical, it should be done now since it has been a while. Councilmember Lindsey liked the open-ended charge but thought bullet points should be added, such as update meeting frequency required for boards and commissions; add a provision requiring the City to have an ethics policy; review language relating to the duties of Councilmembers; and allow Council, collectively or individually, to investigate any concern that they see in a City department. Councilmember Millsap stated he would prefer the review be postponed until after the upcoming election and believes the Commission should be instructed to not discuss term limits in order to avoid a potential conflict with the current petition in circulation.

Councilmember Millsap made a motion to postpone the Charter review until after the election and the Commission should be instructed to not consider term limits. Councilmember King seconded the motion for discussion and disagreed with Councilmember Millsap's motion. He pointed out that if the review is postponed and the petition goes to a vote, no changes can be made to the Charter for two years. If the review and petition are conducted simultaneously, all aspects of the Charter could be addressed. He believes the Charter Review Commission should be trusted to present something that would not conflict with the petition language. He also disagreed with the notion of prohibiting the Commission from looking at any part of the Charter. He commented that the Commission should be free to suggest whatever they believe appropriate.

Councilmember Franks agreed with Councilmember King that if the review is going to move forward, the group should not be limited from looking at anything. Mayor Pro Tem Bickerstaff reiterated that the charge should be open-ended and challenged the point of appointing a Commission if the Council is going to tell them specifically what to review or not review. Mayor Felix offered that limiting the discussion on term limits would also keep Councilmembers in favor of term limits from affecting that change. City Attorney, Pete Smith, added that the charge cannot instruct the Commission to not look at any portion of the Charter. The Council does not have to act on the recommendation of the Commission but the charge cannot instruct them to avoid reviewing a particular area. Councilmember Lindsey suggested the Commission meetings be held at a time that would reduce potential conflict with the petition.

The motion to postpone the review and instruct the Commission to not review term limits failed 1-6, with Councilmember Millsap voting in favor of the motion.

Councilmember King made a second motion that Council create a Charter Review Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Bickerstaff seconded the motion for discussion. Councilmember King amended the motion to include the charge as written, and Mayor Pro Tem Bickerstaff seconded the amended motion. The motion carried 6-1, with Councilmember Millsap voting against the motion.

Discuss and consider appointing representatives to serve on a Charter Review Commission.

Ms. Rose requested the Council recommend appointees to the Charter Review Commission. Ms. Nash reminded the Council that at the February 7 meeting, they decided each councilmember

would appoint two members and the Mayor would appoint three members to the Charter Review Commission to satisfy the requirement within the Charter.

Mayor Pro Tem Bickerstaff nominated Jeanie Marten and Scott McMurdie.

Councilmember King nominated Butch Kemper and Jim Mathis.

Councilmember Lindsey nominated Brad Ford and Kirk Wood.

Councilmembers Millsap, Howarth, and Franks were not ready to make their nominations and requested they delay their recommendations until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Felix nominated Ed Brown, Charles Elk, and Paul Watkins to the Commission.

Councilmember King made a motion to appoint the people named. Councilmember Howarth seconded the motion, and it carried 6-1, with Councilmember Millsap voting against it.

Receive Sachse Police Department's 2021 Year in Review.

Chief Sylvester presented the year in review for the Police Department. He reviewed crime statistics, department activities, and notable accomplishments. He also laid out the projected goals for 2022.

Councilmembers thanked Chief Sylvester for the outstanding year and services the department offers. Mayor Felix said the statistics presented were remarkable and it is notable how safe Sachse is. He takes great pride living in Sachse knowing how safe his family is.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Felix adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.


Mike J. Felix, Mayor

ATTEST:


Leah K Granger, City Secretary

