

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 19, 2021

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 6:00 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; Economic Development Corporation CEO, Leslyn Blake; Fire Chief, Marty Wade, and Police Chief, Bryan Sylvester.

Mayor Felix opened the workshop meeting at 6:02 p.m.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS INTERVIEWS: Conduct interviews for the Sachse Boards and Commissions including the Animal Shelter Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Economic Development Corporation, Library Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, Municipal Development District (MDD), and the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Board #1.

The City Council interviewed candidates wishing to serve on a City board or commission.

The City Council discussed the number of individuals needed to fill the vacancies on each board and commission and which candidates they would like to appoint.

No further discussion or action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Felix adjourned the workshop at 7:13 p.m.

Mayor Felix opened the regular meeting at 7:23 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO U.S. AND STATE FLAGS:
Councilman King offered the invocation and Councilman Bickerstaff led the pledges.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING SPECIAL EVENTS:
Councilman King commended the shelter personnel and noted that citizens may make appointments if interested in adopting an animal.

Councilwoman Howarth stated that those who fall under the 1A or 1B list for COVID vaccinations may sign up with Garland Health Center online or call their hotline for more information.

Councilman Bickerstaff expressed a special thank you to all the teachers who continue to adapt through the pandemic.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Mayor Felix read the following comments into the record.

Matthew Holboke, 5511 Oakridge Circle, stated "...it is January 2021. Why is the 2020-2021 budget not posted on the website? Not very transparent is it?"

Mrs. Nash noted that the 2020-2021 budget can be found on the City's website under the Finance Department page. It is on the Financial Transparency page. It is our current budget, it is labelled August 2020 because that was the date of the City Council review, but it is what was adopted for 2020-2021.

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 December 7, 2020, combined meeting.**
- 2. Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020, special meeting.**
- 3. Approve an amendment to the professional service contract for the Merritt Road realignment project with Halff Associates in the amount not to exceed one hundred ninety-nine thousand, eight hundred dollars and zero cents (\$199,800.00) and authorizing the City Manager to execute such agreement.**
- 4. Authorize the purchase to upgrade the electrical components of eight (8) Outdoor Warning Sirens to Joe Goddard Enterprises in the amount of ninety-one thousand fifty-four dollars and 40 cents (\$91,054.40).**
- 5. Accept the monthly revenue and expenditure report for the period ending November 30, 2020.**

Mayor Felix stated he would like to pull item #3 from the consent agenda.

Councilman Bickerstaff made a motion to approve the consent agenda items excluding item #3 as presented. Councilman Millsap seconded that motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Felix stated they received a comment regarding this item. He read the following into the record.

Robert Stell, 3418 Merritt Road stated the following:

"I'm opposed to adoption of the aforementioned contract amendment.

The contractor is woefully under-performing. The design of the project compromises the safety of all residents living on the east side of Merritt Road by precluding the ability for

large emergency vehicles to perform U-turns or access residences on the east side of the road. The contractor shows a "representative vehicle" for U-turns, this vehicle is neither representative of large emergency vehicles or vehicles for farm usage, trucks requiring >10,000 lb. towing capacity (as was

promised). "Ladder" or "Pumper" fire trucks range from 40 to 43 feet in length (depending on model) which is unaccounted for at any of the U-turn locations or resident accesses along Merritt Road. The schematic titled "Approved" released 1/8/2021 via MovingMerritt.com fails to address emergency vehicle access for these residents; this must be deemed a failure of an approximately \$28.5M capital improvement project. Additionally, the representative U-turn vehicle is not representative of the aforementioned farm truck, trucks of this towing capacity are in the 2500, 3500, and greater series trucks which are at least 36" longer (approx 266", this includes Chevrolet, Dodge and Ford 2500 and 3500 series). Eight of the responses were opposed to a raised median with concerns ranging from driveway access, cost, and appearance. The contractor "rubber stamps" these responses stating the median is for safety of opposing traffic; this alleged safety comes at the expense of Sachse emergency vehicles NOT having the ability to access any residence on the east side of Merritt Road. This significantly compromises the safety of residents from the very city in which they live and pay taxes. These types of problems will only worsen as Merritt road becomes the high traffic conduit to PG&T from neighboring cities.

Also, the contractor fails to provide timely, and transparency in provided information into the progress (or lack of) with respect to the Merritt Road project.

The comments collected in Nov 2019 were "just recently" compiled and presented to the city council (11 months after collected) and then an additional 2 months later released to the "stakeholders" (Project Update slide 3 states adjacent property owners are stakeholders) and public via MovingMerritt.com.

Transparency remains an issue, the easement maps were just released on 1/4/2021 but fail to inform, list, or specify projected ROW impacts to "stakeholders" in any form of depth measurement (feet, meters) but instead use area in acres. How does this enable affected residents to gather and estimate costs of proposed ROW impacts prior to the ROW acquisition phase??, the drawing was dated 10/21/2020. Doesn't the prime contractor owe this information to the stakeholders? It doesn't have to be perfect, it could have been marked "DRAFT" like the previous drawings but an idea would have been helpful, honest, and transparent.

Transparency issues extend beyond the prime contractor, A Notice Opportunity for A Public Hearing was provided, and I believe a sufficient number of requests were received. How might this impact the "approved design schematic"? When will the meeting occur, I was informed via email that if I would rescind my request, I could have a private meeting with the city... How could this be translated as transparent? Since my response to decline, I have not been able to find any information on the planned date or time this will occur, my expectation is well in advance of the actual meeting in an effort for citizens paying taxes to Sachse to be able to make any necessary arrangements for attendance via virtual or in person.

Transparency that no traffic analysis or simulations (modeling and simulation, like parts of Richardson have done) have been considered in any depth to date to validate the proposed design rather a guess that another lane on each side will suffice and analysis can come later.

This is evidenced by the responses to comments "A detailed traffic analysis would be performed in the final detail design phase of the project"

So, the prime contractor is requesting an amendment for an additional \$199,800.00 with the majority (81.87%) going for Project Management and Design?

Do the right thing, the cost of this project is too large to have not considered the overall safety of Sachse taxpayers by enabling emergency vehicle access to each property. Spending additional dollars for the design of irrigation, landscaping and lighting hardly seems in the best interest of taxpaying citizens."

Mrs. Nash stated in regard to emergency access, they may visit movingmerritt.com which shows the turn radius with the bump outs that is sufficient for emergency access vehicles. She commented that the schematic took longer than anticipated due to delays with COVID. The City is tied to TxDOT's schedule. She indicated that the City is offering one-on-one meetings to stakeholders or anyone who has questions to help answer any questions they may have.

Mrs. Wiseman read the following into the record from the chat feature:

Robert Stell stated the "...drawing was released however, the marking for distance of the proposed ROW is not showing. As for the vehicles, the vehicles showing are NOT representative of a large emergency vehicle. I saw the 2 vehicles they were using for the representative U-turn vehicles, I stand by my statements as written."

Councilman King made a motion to approve consent agenda item #3 as presented. Councilman Bickerstaff seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Discuss and consider the board and commission appointments.

Mrs. Lewis Sirianni stated the City Council recently has mentioned the possibility of conducting interviews for new applicants, but has not formerly discussed the process. Therefore, tonight the City Council will be able to discuss the process and make any recommended changes.

Mayor Felix asked the Council if they want to interview those that want to renew along with new applicants or just new applicants with a request if there is a particular person they would like to interview.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks stated there is no need to interview those up for renewal unless there is a question on absences, but would still like an application from everyone.

Councilman Millsap stated he would like to see the renewals listed as a vacancy as well with that being the number advertised. He agrees that a person already serving who would like to renew would not need to interview unless requested by the Council. He also indicated possibly looking at term limits for board and commissions.

The City Council consensus was that a person already serving with an expired term would not need to interview with only new applicants to interview with the City Council. However, they could request person(s) to the City Secretary they wish to re-interview if needed.

Consider appointments to the City's boards and commissions including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Sachse Economic Development Corporation, the Board of Adjustments, the Municipal Development District, the Library Board, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Animal Shelter Board, and the Tax Increment Financing Board #1.

Mrs. Lewis Sirianni stated each year normally in the November/December timeframe, the City Council makes appointments to the City's boards and commissions. She indicated interviews were conducted on August 3, 2020 to fill vacancies and then conducted additional interviews on January 14, 2021. The City Council may make appointments as needed.

Councilman King made a motion to appoint the following to two-year term unless otherwise indicated.

Planning and Zoning: Fernando Gutierrez, Scott Ohman, Bill Thrash, and Brian Cox

EDC: Spencer Hauenstein, Tim Shivers, Angela Keeton (one-year term), and Teddy Kinzer

Board of Adjustment: Danny Pitcock, Chris May, Kendra Prevost, and John Morris (one-year term)

Library Board: John Morris, Rhia Johnson, and Marion Simpson

Parks and Recreation: Beau Hooten, Cyndi Mitchell, and Diana Smith

Animal Shelter Board: Arial O'Brien, Kimberly McClurg, Katie Rohler, and Brandi Petee

TIF Board #1: Bobby Tillman, Kendra Prevost, Ed Brown, Frank Millsap, and Cullen King

Councilman Millsap seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Consider appointment(s) of Council liaisons to the City's boards and commissions.

Mrs. Lewis Sirianni stated every year the City Council reviews the Council appointed liaisons to each board and commission. It was noted there is a vacancy for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Councilwoman Howarth stated she would like to move off the TIF Board #1 and Library Board to take the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Councilman Lindsey noted he would oversee the TIF Board #1 as a non-voting member.

Councilman Millsap said he would oversee the Library Board.

Councilwoman Howarth made a motion to approve the following as presented:

Mayor Felix: North Texas Tollway Authority, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Councilmember Howarth: Planning and Zoning Commission

Councilmember King: Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, Animal Shelter Board, Wylie Independent School District (WISD), voting member of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Board

Mayor Pro Tem Franks: Parks and Recreation Board, voting member of the Municipal Development District Board

Councilmember Bickerstaff: Garland Independent School District (GISD), Sachse Economic Development Corporation

Councilmember Millsap: Library Board, Voting Member of the TIF Board #1

Councilmember Lindsey: Non-Voting Member of the TIF Board #1

Mayor Pro Tem Franks seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discuss the upcoming Street Maintenance Sales & Use Tax Special Election to be held May 1, 2021.

Mr. Nesbit provided an overview of the Street Maintenance Sales Tax program, which included a breakdown of the current sales tax and the collection of funds received. Mr. Nesbit indicated any street is eligible for funds and staff works with the City Council to identify projects during the annual budget process. Previous projects from 2017 to 2020 were also identified.

The City Council discussed the value in the tax and projects for 2021.

Mayor Felix read into the record the following citizen comments:

Matthew Holboke, 5511 Oakridge Drive:

“I asked earlier about Bailey Road and the response was curb and gutter as agreed to in March 2020 by the council. If that is all you got just stand up and say WE DO NOT CARE. Bailey has been no better than a donkey path for 15 years. It has a PASSER rating of 1 (City Council and Staffs fault) because no maintenance is done while Merritt gets another overlay? (3rd or 4th)

I will ask again - What is the method for picking projects beside waking up and throwing Darts.

You put a lot of statements on curb appeal and shady truth about bulk trash dates. Someone needs to stand up and tell the people on Bailey about curb appeal. You cannot even drive down the street. WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR A DRIVEABLE ROAD IN 2021 for Bailey.”

Mrs. Nash replied that Bailey Road has been discussed as a project as part of a bond. These discussions were delayed due to COVID. However, will be coming back to the City Council in upcoming months.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks asked how much it would cost to be completely repaired. The answer was \$4.5 million. Councilman Lindsey agreed it would be a waste to piecemeal this road repair. Councilman King added it should be addressed in a bond. Councilman Millsap stated he would like to see the consideration of the sales tax percentages divided differently. A reduction in the EDC and MDD tax and an increase to the Street Maintenance.

The City Council requested to bring a further discussion of street repairs back to a future meeting.

Discuss the 2021 Special Events in the City of Sachse.

Mr. Whitworth stated COVID created some challenges in 2020 in regard to special events. Staff was able to make modifications to these events. However, Dallas County Health and Human Services officials estimate that the general population will not receive the vaccine until late 2021. Therefore, given this information, staff is preparing to modify events in 2021. Staff is seeking feedback on the Red, White, and Blue Blast, the Christmas Extravaganza, and the spring events which include the Easter Egg hunts and the Arbor Day/Cleanup event. Mr. Whitworth presented options to the City Council.

In regard to the Red, White, and Blue Blast, several of the councilmembers expressed that they would like to see the City host the firework portion of the event, and that they definitely would like to do something in 2021. Councilman Millsap suggested a reverse or drive-thru parade. Councilman King proposed delaying the event to later in the year such as in August or Labor Day.

In regard to the Christmas Extravaganza, Councilman King stated he would like a version of the past pre-COVID. Councilman Bickerstaff and Mayor Pro Tem Franks agreed. Mayor Pro Tem Franks added he would like to see something interactive if the budget allowed.

In regard to the spring events, the City Council agreed with the proposed modifications of the events.

Discuss and consider amendments to the Sachse Economic Development Corporation's Bylaws.

Mayor Felix stated it was asked to discuss the Sachse Economic Development Corporation's Bylaws and how they currently read.

Councilman Bickerstaff stated that as part of the City Manager's responsibilities and duties, it has been discussed to possibly expand these to include overseeing the Sachse Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Councilman Bickerstaff noted that he would like to see EDC report to the City Manager.

Councilman King commented that it was worth exploring, but was concerned it would overload the City Manager's Office. However, this has been discussed in previous years.

Councilman Lindsey asked if this would fundamentally change the role of the EDC including through their decision making, and asked what has prompted the change.

Councilman Millsap stated he likes the autonomy of the EDC.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks stated he would like to see some of the processes streamlined between the EDC and the City Council; noting how most items come to the City Council for approval.

Councilwoman Howarth likes the idea of having more input and improving the coordination of the EDC with the Council.

Mayor Felix asked what specifically needs to be changed in the Bylaws and who can change them. Councilman Bickerstaff noted that under Article 4 Section 2, the wording could be changed to reflect that the City Manager would oversee the day-to-day and have the authority of hiring the director.

Councilmen Millsap and King requested this item return for further discussion at a later date to allow time to get input from the EDC and a presentation for the citizens.

Mayor Felix directed for staff to bring this back to a future meeting with Bylaws drafted by the City Attorney with options of how the language would be changed.

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 provided a vaccine update that included the current rollout by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and where the state is in the process of vaccinating citizens, and who currently qualifies. Mrs. Nash stated Garland Health serves as the health authority for Garland, Rowlett, and Sachse on the local level. Individuals may register to receive the vaccine in the county they reside. They may also register in any county-sponsored site throughout Texas, as well as at their local pharmacies. Residents can monitor the City's website and Facebook page, as well as the City of Garland's website and Facebook page for more information about vaccination events.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks asked about the CARES Act project allocations and time frame of completion. Mrs. Nash assured everything will be completed within the CARES Act guidelines and time frames.

No further comments or action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Felix adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m.

ATTEST:


Michelle Lewis Sirianni, City Secretary



MIKE J. FELIX, MAYOR

