

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE JANUARY 21, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Sachse City Hall, 3815-B Sachse Road. Those present were: Mayor Jeff Bickerstaff, Mayor Pro Tem Brett Franks, Councilmember Michelle Howarth, Councilmember Frank Millsap, Councilmember Chance Lindsey, Councilmember Lindsay Buhler, Councilmember Matt Prestenberg.

A. Meeting Opening

1. Call to Order: The City Council of the City of Sachse will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 6:30 PM to consider the following items of business:

Mayor Bickerstaff called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks offered the invocation and Councilmember Howarth led the pledges.

B. Public Comment

The public is invited to address Council regarding any topic not already on the agenda for action or public hearing. **Comments regarding the Consent Agenda or any discussion-only items on the agenda may be addressed during this Public Comment section.** The time limit is three minutes per speaker. A Public Comment Card should be presented to the City Secretary prior to the meeting. According to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Council is prohibited from discussing any item not posted on the agenda but will take comments under advisement.

Sachse resident, Matthew Holboke, addressed Council regarding the street maintenance tax and Sachse Medical City.

C. Council/Staff Reports and Updates

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

Councilmember Lindsey announced the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training class on February 22 and March 1. Interested parties may register at www.sachsecert.org. He also noted that the Sachse Historical Society will be hosting their murder mystery dinner on February 14. Register at www.sachsehistoricalsociety.com. Mayor Pro Tem Franks invited those needing to get out of the cold to visit the Michael J. Felix Community Center and take advantage of the activities and amenities there. He mentioned Couples Yoga on February 11, the Daddy Daughter Dance on February 21, and the new spring and summer class catalog coming out soon. He encouraged groups or individuals that would like to help take care of the city to sign up for the Arbor Day Jubilee clean up that will take place on March 29. Councilmember Prestenberg welcomed Ezekiel Wickham to the Animal Services team and thanked volunteers for helping fill in until the new employee was hired. He also encouraged people to consider adding a pet to their families for Valentines Day. Councilmember Millsap announced several events coming up at the Library, such as the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration, a teen weekend chocolate taste test, a (dessert) "bar" crawl, and a book talk.

Ms. Nash welcomed several new hires: Police Officer Shannon Powell, Animal Services Officer Ezekiel Wickham, and Police Recruits Robert Jung and Sheikia Chaney. She congratulated Marie Norris on her promotion from part-time Library Assistant to full-time Library Programming Specialist, Eric Harris for earning his TCFP Advanced Structure Firefighter license, Christopher Filomio for earning his TCEQ Water Distribution Operator C license, and Jerry Murphree for earning his TCEQ Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester license. Ms. Nash also thanked several departments for their preparation, response, and recovery efforts during the winter storm. She thanked residents for taking precautions and driving slowly.

Mayor Bickerstaff reminded the public filing is open until 5 PM on February 14 for the May 3 General Election to determine a Mayor, Councilmember Place 5, and Councilmember Place 6. Information can be found on the website or contact City Secretary Leah Granger with any questions. Sachse Scholarship applications are due and must be postmarked by March 25 to be considered. One student will be awarded \$1,000 for the 2025-2026 academic year at an accredited institution beyond the high school level. Contact Logan Thatcher with questions. The Community Summit for Shaping Sachse Comprehensive Plan Update will be on February 10 from 6-8 PM. The event will provide an opportunity for residents to provide feedback in response to the data gathered so far. More information will be forthcoming on the website, social media pages, and the Sachse Scene. Mayor Bickerstaff also encouraged residents to sign up for the weekly e-newsletter, the Sachse Scene to get information about what is going on in the city. Visit the website and click on NotifyMe to sign up.

D. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items are routine or administrative in nature, have been discussed previously at a Council meeting, and/or do not warrant discussion. Council will act upon these items with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember requests the item be removed from the consent agenda. **If you have comments related to items on the Consent Agenda, please address them in the Public Comment section of the meeting.**

1. Approve the December 2, 2024, City Council meeting minutes.
2. Approve the December 16, 2024, City Council - Economic Development Corporation Board joint meeting minutes.
3. Accept the monthly revenue and expenditure report for the period ending November 30, 2024.
4. Adopt a resolution accepting and approving the Dallas County 2024 Tax Roll; resolving other matters relating to the subject; and providing an effective date.
5. Approve a resolution adopting the City of Sachse Legislative Priorities for the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature.

Councilmember Buhler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Howarth seconded the motion, and it carried 7 - 0. None voted against.

E. Action Items

Action items are for Council discussion and consideration for action. **The Mayor will invite comments before the Council votes.** A Public Comment Card should be given to the City Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

1. Conduct a public hearing to consider and act on an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 11 "Zoning," Section 11-3 "Planning and Zoning Commission," Subsection C "Rules and Regulations," by modifying Paragraph 2 related to public hearing notice distance requirement, adding a new Paragraph 3 related to zoning change sign posting requirements, and recodifying the former Paragraph 3 through 11 to the new Paragraphs 4 through 12; providing a conflicts clause; providing a repealing clause; providing a severability clause; providing a savings clause; providing for a penalty of fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00); and providing for an effective date.

Development Services Director Matt Robinson provided a background for the zoning ordinance and the proposed changes. Specifically, the amended ordinance would reduce the notice requirement from 1,000 feet to 200 feet and add a requirement for placing zoning signs on the subject property for a constant reminder and notification any person passing the area. Mailed notices run the risk of being lost in the mail or discarded before reading. Generally, there is a one to three percent response rate for the current process. He specified that the applicant would be responsible for the new sign requirement. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved recommendation of the amendment 5-1.

In response to questions, Mr. Robinson specified that the state requirement is 200 feet, and best practice in the state is this distance plus the sign requirement. The information required on the signs could be tailored to Council's wishes. Overall, Councilmembers were in favor of the change noting increased notification, education, and transparency that the signs will provide. Councilmember Millsap was not in favor of the change, particularly noting the extra costs to the applicant.

Mayor Bickerstaff opened the public hearing at 7:12 PM.

Sachse resident, Jeff Emmett, addressed Council noting opposition to the amendment as written but in favor of the signs.

The public hearing was closed at 7:15 PM.

After additional discussion, Councilmember Howarth made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Lindsey seconded the motion, and it carried 6 - 1. Councilmember Millsap voted against the item.

2. Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Facility Solutions Group (FSG) for the installation of LED lighting at Salmon Park for an amount not to exceed Forty Thousand, Seven Hundred Twenty-Two and No/100 Dollars (\$40,722.00).

Ms. Nash explained that staff selected Salmon Park as a pilot project to upgrade the lighting. The idea is to start small and see how well money is saved over time. If effective, staff would start looking at other parks. Leisure Services Director Lance Whitworth provided an overview of the proposed project. He noted that the current lights work but LED would improve the lighting quality with nearly no overflow light pollution. Annual savings is estimated at roughly \$36,000 over five years. LED lights should not need to be replaced for over 10 years. Marcus Johnson from FSG answered questions from Council.

Sachse resident, Jayne Reed, addressed Council with comments and questions about the project. In response, Ms. Nash commented that staff started pursuing this project after the budget was adopted. She has recommended using fund balance so no interest would be incurred. If passed, the lighting will be increased but will not affect the neighbors. Mayor Pro

Tem Franks would like Park Development Fees to be used for this project rather than fund balance.

Mayor Pro Tem Franks made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Prestenberg seconded the motion, and it carried 7 - 0. None voted against.

F. Discussion Items

These items are for Council and staff to discuss as needed. **Comments on Discussion Items should be addressed in the Public Comment Section of this meeting.**

1. Discuss the upcoming Street Maintenance Sales and Use Tax election on May 3, 2025.

Director of Public Works and CIP Corey Nesbit provided an overview of the street maintenance tax. A Street Maintenance Sales Tax Program is a method of funding street maintenance projects through the allocation of local sales tax. The Texas Tax Code authorizes all cities to establish a special sales tax for the repair and maintenance of city streets. This requires voters to consider approval of the program in an election every four years. When people purchase taxable goods in the city, they pay a sales tax on that purchase. If reapproved, $\frac{1}{4}$ of each penny of the collected sales tax will go to the Street Maintenance Tax Fund. The current sales tax is 8.25% which is congruent with other cities throughout Texas.

Councilmember Howarth clarified that if the tax was not reauthorized in the May election, .25% of the sales tax goes away and revenue will not be collected to help maintain roads. Councilmembers were in favor of reauthorization of the tax. Ms. Nash reminded Council that once the election is ordered, the City may only present facts about the tax.

G. Executive Session

1. The City Council shall convene into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section §551.087 Economic Development Deliberations: Deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive relating to the development of a project generally located along Ranch Road and Hwy 78, for Project Yellowstone.
2. The City Council shall convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Section §551.074 Personnel Matters: regarding the annual review of the City Secretary.

Mayor Bickerstaff adjourned the Council to Executive Session at 8:02 PM.
The Council returned to Regular Session at 9:10 p.m.

H. Action Resulting from Executive Session

Action items are for Council discussion and consideration for action. **The Mayor will invite comments before the Council votes.** A Public Comment Card should be given to the City Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

1. Take any action as a result of Executive Session - deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive relating to the development of Project Yellowstone.

Sachse resident, Matthew Holboke, addressed the council regarding the economic reward of the project for the City.
No action was taken.

2. Take any action as a result of Executive Session regarding the annual review of the City Secretary.

Councilmember Prestenberg made a motion to approve a 7% increase for the City Secretary effective on January 27. Councilmember Howarth seconded the motion, and it carried 7 - 0. None voted against.

I. Adjournment

Mayor Bickerstaff adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM.



Jeff Bickerstaff, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leah K Granger, City Secretary

