

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE FEBRUARY 17, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Monday, February 17, 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 Matt Prestenberg.

Those absent were: Councilmember Lindsay Buhler.

A. Meeting Opening

1. Call to Order: The City Council of the City of Sachse will hold a regular meeting on Monday, February 17, 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.

Councilmember Prestenberg 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, Christine Horning, addressed the Council regarding advertising deliveries creating trash in neighborhoods.

C. Council/Staff Reports and Updates

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

Mayor Pro Tem Franks announced that volunteers are needed for the Arbor Day Jubilee on March 29. Visit the City's website for more information and to sign up. Councilmember Millsap pointed out the Black History Month book displays in the Library, the teen weekend donut bath bombs activity on February 22, and the Dog Man party family event on February 28. Councilmember Prestenberg highlighted the featured pet of the month, Odin, and invited the public to come meet him and other pets at the Animal Shelter. He also reminded the public of the upcoming Daddy-Daughter dance at the Michael J. Felix Community Center on February 21.

Ms. Nash welcomed new Utility Billing Customer Service Representative Charles Anderson to the team and congratulated Leisure Services Director Lance Whitworth on passing his Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) exam. She also thanked Emergency Management Analyst Kyle Potraza and Assistant to the City Manager Logan Thatcher for their efforts in

securing a full reimbursement of \$300,000 from FEMA and the state for the extensive cleanup of the May 28 storm. This reimbursement will go back into the General Fund.

Mayor Bickerstaff announced that the application period for the Sachse Scholarship is still open and submissions must be postmarked by March 25. More information may be found on the City website. He noted that the State of the City event, honoring volunteers on the City's Boards and Commissions, was a great night. He thanked the sponsors of the event, whose contributions paid for all expenses. The video address is posted on the City YouTube channel.

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 February 3, 2025, meeting minutes.
2. Cancel the March 17, 2025, Council meeting due to the Wylie ISD and Garland ISD spring breaks.
3. Approve the use of park development funds 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).

Councilmember Howarth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Prestenberg seconded the motion, and it carried 6 - 0. None voted against.

E. 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. Receive Sachse Police Department's 2024 Year End Review presentation.

Assistant Chief Steven Baxter provided an overview of crime and arrests in Sachse in 2024. He noted that major crimes (Part I) are down 19 percent overall. Of the 26 vehicle burglaries in 2024, only three were forced entries. He encouraged people to please lock their cars and take their belongings to prevent crime. Criminal mischief (Part II) crimes increased by four percent overall. These include officer-initiated charges such as public intoxication, alcohol violations, and DWIs that will help produce more serious crimes. The increase shows that officers are out on the streets and in the community finding offenses. Priority one crimes involve a potential loss of life or crimes in progress. The target response time is below four minutes and the average in 2024 was 3:49 minutes. Target response time for priority two crimes is below six minutes, and the department averaged 5:19 minutes in 2024.

Police Chief Sylvester highlighted the accomplishments of the department, including improved transparency policies on the webpage and new autism awareness training for staff. Partnerships were a big factor in accomplishments in 2024. The code ambassador program involved Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) helping the code enforcement team, which saved them time to focus more on compliance issues. He discussed community outreach activities and recalled the Animal Shelter completion project, on time and under budget. Lastly, Chief Sylvester reviewed goals for 2025.

F. 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. Consider approving a revised list of comparator cities for the purpose of labor market benefits and compensation surveys.

Sarah Towne, project manager at Baker Tilly, provided an overview of the project to select an updated list of comparator cities. Input from leadership regarding what cities Sachse loses to and gains employees from. The initial list included 28 cities, then she used demographics and economic indicators to narrow that list down to 13. Previous comparator cities may no longer be relevant due to the amount of growth and change in the area. In considering new comparator cities, Council should be aware of aspirational peers, direct competitors stealing talent now, and those cities that are growing. Ms. Towne presented the narrowed list of 13 and the top six peer organizations pulling from the Sachse talent pool. She noted that understanding the appropriate comparator cities will affect the compensation rates study. Ms. Nash recommended that Council revisit the list of comparator cities in two years, if not sooner, due to the amount of growth and change in the region. Ms. Towne took Councilmembers through an exercise to narrow down the list from 13 to 10.

Sachse resident, Matthew Holboke, addressed Council regarding comparison points for types of jobs with the comparator cities.

Councilmember Prestenberg made a motion to approve the cities of Richardson, Farmers Branch, Rowlett, Wylie, Rockwall, Anna, Princeton, Celina, Murphy, and Royse City as the new comparator cities for Sachse. Councilmember Howarth seconded the motion, and it carried 5 - 1. Councilmember Millsap voted against the motion.

G. Adjournment

Mayor Bickerstaff adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.


Jeff Bickerstaff, Mayor

ATTEST:


Leah K Granger, TRMC, City Secretary

