



ABILENE LANDMARKS COMMISSION
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
January 15, 2020

**ABILENE LANDMARKS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
ABILENE, TEXAS
2ND FLOOR, WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
CITY HALL**

Members Present: Mr. Steve Butman, Chair
Dr. Michael McClellan, Sergeant at Arms
Ms. Pebbles Lee, Secretary
Mr. John Scott
Mr. James Wagstaff
Ms. Sidney Levesque

Members Absent: Ms. Jamie Dalzell, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Mr. Michael Rice, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Mike Warrix, Director of Planning and Development Services
Mr. Zack Rainbow, Assistant Director of Planning and
Development Services
Ms. Kelley Messer, First Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Melissa Farr, Executive Assistant

Others Present: Judge Downing A. Bolls, Jr. Commissioner Chuck Statler
Ms. Tamra Lewis Ms. Morgan Roden

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Butman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Update from Taylor County, discussion and possible action, including possible vote to stay demolition of property on the Abilene Register of Historic Properties, pursuant to Section 2.3.4.4(h)(1)(c) of the Land Development Code, regarding demolition of old jail building located at 341 Pecan Street.

Mr. Butman removed the item from the table. Mr. Rainbow provided an update on the previous discussion of this item, which took place at the last meeting.
Mr. Butman opened the public hearing.

Judge Bolls provided an update on the process of the Commissioners' Court meeting held on December 10, 2019, where this item was placed on the agenda for public comments. The Court anticipated a full house, but unfortunately, there were only four individuals who responded.

Due to the lack of public support, contracts have been signed and plans are made to demolish the building. The first step is to remove the asbestos.

Judge Bolls provided interesting facts from history of the building. The construction date of the Old Taylor County Jail is 1931. It has become an eyesore after being vacant for approximately thirty years. Additionally, its unusual history is not one that people like to remember.

Seeing no one else present and desiring to be heard, Mr. Butman closed the public hearing.

Discussion among the Commissioners and Judge Bolls was based upon ideas for which the concrete quartered panels might be saved and reused. Mr. David S. Castle, who dominated architectural design in this community, left his trademark design of Art Moderne style in response to the Great Depression. Two commissioners mentioned they might be used for the new Abilene Heritage Square project.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, The Landmarks Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Approved:
Chairman

Steve Butman