

AGENDA

Special Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, to be held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Thursday, October 29, 1981, at 9:00 a.m.

1. Invocation.
2. Discussion and consideration of possible ways to handle alcoholic beverages at the Civic Center.
3. Appointment of Boards and Commissions.

ADJOURN

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas on the 23rd of October, 1981, at 5:00 o'clock p.m.


Assistant City Secretary

CHAMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL,
CITY HALL, THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS.

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in Regular Session, Thursday, October 29, 1981, at 9:00 a.m. with Mayor Elbert E. Hall, present and presiding. Councilmen Seaton Higginbotham, Dick Bowen, Juan C. Rodriguez, A.E. Fogle, Jr., L. D. Hilton, & Councilwoman Kathy Webster, present. City Manager Ed Seegmiller, City Attorney Harvey Cargill & City Secretary Ruth Hodgins, present.

Invocation by Councilman L. D. Hilton.

Mr. Seegmiller asked the News Media if they had any questions of how the Federal Disaster Assistance Center was being administered. He said that he appreciated the help that the Media had done in getting information to the public during the flood situation and he wanted to alleviate any problems before they came up, by asking them to help get the news to the people now.

Councilman Bowen said that the people who were affected by the flood need to come in to the Center and let it be decided if they would be eligible for a grant or loan.

Wayne Jepson, Civil Defense Coordinator, said that Ruth King was in charge of the Center and she had twelve years experience in this type of work. She had said that the Flood Center had operated real smoothly for the first day. He said that he had talked with some of the citizens being dealt with at the Center and they felt that they were being treated fairly. He said that they had a problem with the telephone system at first but it was working smoothly now. He said that they had about 175 individual requests, with about twice that many people in the Center. The people with the Federal Disaster Assistance Center hope that they can close out everything by Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Rodriguez was concerned with how long the people would have to wait for their grant or loan.

Councilman Bowen said that depend on the individual case, as to how long it would take. He pointed out there were a great number of programs, whereby assistance could be rendered. He said that he had been over there and that the Staff at the Center were doing a good job in helping people who came in.

Mr. Seegmiller said that people who were affected by the flood should go to the Center to see what, they as individuals, could qualify for.

Mayor Hall read a note from a citizen saying that they liked the new refuse collection system.

Mayor Hall said that a workshop was needed to give the Council information on just how liquor at the Civic Center was being handled now.

Mr. Seegmiller said that he had discussed with the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, John Dechant, Civic Center Manager, Ray Williams, Assistant Community Services Director, Harvey Cargill, City Attorney, the need for a better way of dealing with the alcohol problem at the Civic Center. He said that we need to give good service to all citizens and yet be concerned with legalities of the situation with regard to those who utilize the Civic Center.

John Dechant explained that alcoholic beverages are permitted as long as they are free to anyone who comes through the door, at the present time. Groups are not allowed by the State Liquor Law to cover the cost of the liquor in the meal ticket. He pointed out that the Civic Center Board had voted 8-0 to recommend that they contract with a vendor for the catering and selling of alcoholic beverages at the Civic Center.

Joe Russey, spokesman for Civic Abilene, Inc. said that a bartender would better control those who might drink too much. He said that they would be afraid of losing their license if they served someone under age or served someone who had already had too much to drink.

Councilwoman Webster said that she felt that was what the Security Guard was for, to control the serving of under aged people and those who had already drank too much.

Councilman Hilton asked if the liquor would not be better controlled, if they did not allow it in the Civic Center.

Mr. Russey said that it was decided several years ago that the City was voted wet, so since most of the conventions who met there requested it, the liquor just needed to be regulated.

Mr. Dechant said that security will be provided to all events that alcohol is served. OSI and Eagle Security are usually used, he said. Those people who do not request alcohol to be served at their meetings will not be required to have security.

Councilman Rodriguez questioned whether some brownbagging could continue, saying that some non-profit organizations that hold fund raising events at the Civic Center might not want the cash bar option.

Mr. Cargill explained that all or part of the Civic Center could be included in the contract for the caterer. He said that it was the free bar part that would have given trouble, if someone had made a complaint.

Councilman Hilton said that he had received numerous calls on the Civic Center liquor item and that they had also felt that it would be better not to have it at all.

Councilman Fogle said that he was under the impression that the Council was only seeking more control of alcohol consumption at the public facility. He said that since they already had the practice of allowing open bars, which was not quite legal, this is what he objected to.

Councilman Bowen moved to allow the Civic Abilene Inc. to contract with a licensed vendor for the catering and selling of alcoholic beverages at the Abilene Civic Center, limiting the actual lease area to the Red Carpet Lobby. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez. The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmen Higginbotham, Bowen, Rodriguez, Councilwoman Webster & Mayor Hall.

NAYS: Councilmen Fogle & Hilton.

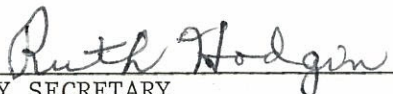
Mayor Hall asked the Council to approve a replacement member on the Civic Abilene Board.

Councilman Fogle moved approval of the name of Col. Larry F. McLendon, replacing Col. William Anderson on the Civic Abilene Inc. Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Higginbotham. The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmen Higginbotham, Bowen, Rodriguez, Fogle, Hilton, Councilwoman Webster & Mayor Hall.

NAYS: None.

There being no further business, Mayor Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.


CITY SECRETARY


MAYOR ELBERT E. HALL