

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1990 AT 10:00 A.M.; IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SECOND FLOOR OF CITY HALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF THE PRISON SITE AND ADJACENT AREAS BEING LOCATED IN JONES AND TAYLOR COUNTIES.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Invocation - Councilman Jimmy McNeil.
3. Other Business:
 - a. Public Hearing on proposed annexation of land in the vicinity of the new prison site.

ADJOURN

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board at City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 2nd day of March, 1990, at 5:00 p.m.



City Secretary

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SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 7, 1990
10:00 A.M.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS,
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met for a Special Council Meeting on March 7, 1990 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the proposed annexation of land in the vicinity of the new prison site. Mayor Dale E. Ferguson was present and presiding with Councilwoman Betty Ray, Councilmen Walter E. Wheat, Tom Ceniglis, Jimmy McNeil, and Councilwoman Liz Herrera. Also present were City Manager Jim C. Blagg, Assistant City Manager Roy L. McDaniel, City Attorney Harvey Cargill, and City Secretary Jo Moore.

Invocation was given by Councilman Jimmy McNeil.

Lee Roy George, Director of Planning, reviewed the history of the proposed annexation, bringing Council and the audience up to date. One hundred property owners were notified of the March 7 and 8 public hearings. Mr. George cited Council's authority to annex according to City Charter and Legislation, and reviewed the study report with the Council, which included 9.6 square miles.

Wayne Herrington, Planner, reviewed Section 4 of the report, outlining statistics on what it will take to service the area, and reviewed what services would be offered; along with expected revenue and expenditures. Staff recommendations as stated on page 49 of the report were reviewed.

Council noted that the property will remain Agricultural Open Space until the property owner requests different zoning. Reasons for annexation included expected growth due to the prison and in order to provide proper roads. Council is committed to listen and do what is necessary to help Abilene grow and prosper.

Mayor Ferguson opened a public hearing on the item, stating that in the interest of time, there would be a limit of five minutes per person. The following individuals spoke in response to the item:

For:

Bill Wright, Chamber of Commerce president, 1473 Woodland, supports Council decision - whatever it will be.

Don Boles, Clyde ISD, stated the most productive students come from small schools. He thinks Hamby Water District and Abilene can cooperate. Growth does not hurt agribusiness, lack of zoning creates problems, therefore he urged maximum annexation.

- Raymond McDaniel, Abilene Industrial Foundation, indicated the prison is a fact, urged the Council and citizens to plan development before it takes place.

Against:


- Clyde Emmons, property owner, questioned why we need to annex - the ETJ should take care of this. Will there be tax breaks due to minimum services? He is not interested in developing or selling his land, asks to be left out of annexation.
- Thomas Caton, Jones County Commissioner, Hamby Chairman.
- Steve Lollar, Precinct 4 Jones County Commissioner, cannot see economic feasibility. He submitted a Resolution from the Commissioner's Court urging the City Council to annex the least amount possible.
- Bertha Cunningham, property owner, read a prepared statement. Water lines and a storage tank already exist in the proposed area, to lose 73 customers would jeopardize the Hamby water system loan, consult with them before annexation, limit annexation to bare minimum.
- Maudie Reeves, Rt. 1 Box 91, Abilene. Small business in Hamby school district, Abilene expects residential growth in area, why move that far out, and have children bused so early, so far. Agriculture is an industry, give thought to that before a decision is made.
- Ken Macbeth, Rt. 1, Hamby. His home is in the proposed area. Police patrol 1082, but will they have time to patrol all areas, questioned the feasibility of the study on the unknown of growth, the majority of Hamby residents are against this, bad for Abilene financially, elderly can't afford to be annexed.
- Gerald Rutledge, Merkel; Hamby Fire Department representative, reviewed expected expenses for fire protection. No sewer needed, they have water, consider less annexation.
- Shirley Chapman, Hamby, was concerned with the necessity of police protection, since they now have the county. Abilene police are overworked now, will save \$903,000 to leave Hamby alone, annexation is not feasible due to cost.
- Bill Evans, Rt. 9, Lubbock, owns land for agricultural use, concerned with future zoning. He feels ETJ now controls area, plat requirements, subdivisions, etc.. Less annexation is needed.
- Robin Hicks, Rt. 1, Box 439, Abilene, house by water tower. She looked for a house in country, development won't come as Abilene expects, proposed zoning shows her home as general commercial. She urged Council to annex as little as possible.


- Robert Dean, 1709 Kirby Lane, salesman for John Deere, spoke on the impact of agriculture/ agribusiness on Abilene. Farm land is an important resource.
- Janie Propst spoke on choices/freedoms. She urged the Council to study the plan, study costs, including the cost of freedoms, country life is quiet.
- Judy Rutledge, Merkel, Hamby Landowner. Their land has been in the family many years. The sewage plant caused numerous problems, she requested Council not take more land that is absolutely necessary for the road and actual prison site.
- Rob Haley, 926 Harwell, Folks don't want to live in Abilene City Limits. He lives in Abilene because his wife wants to.
- Regis Russell, Rt. 1, Abilene. Abilene property owner, taxes, fees collected don't counterbalance with the cost of annexation. He is concerned with the burden to Abilene residents in relation to cost.

• Jim Norvell, 1 City Center, Abilene, provided handouts, stated violations, and indicated he was speaking as legal counsel and citizen. He requested Council annex the minimum, stating there is no reason to annex agricultural open land, page 8 of the study shows justification for annexation, and indicated it is not feasible to expect growth. He objects to the annexation, because of the people who don't want to be, because of expenses and because there is no compelling need to annex. Violates principle of consent of government, minimum annexation and fiscal responsibility.

There being no one else present and desiring to be heard, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Ferguson announced a second public hearing to be held at the Regular City Council meeting on Thursday, March 8, at 9:00 a.m.; and another on May 24, 1990.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.


 Jo Moore
 City Secretary


 Dale E. Ferguson
 Mayor