

COUNCIL RETREAT

June 12, 1991
1:30 p.m.
Basement Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Discussion of Budget Strategies for FY-92 Budget
2. Prioritization of Strategies

CERTIFICATE

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 7 day of June, 19 91, at 11:30 o'clock A.M.
(A.M. P.M.)


CITY SECRETARY

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

JUNE 12, 1991

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in a City Council Retreat on June 12, 1991 at 1:30 p.m., in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall. Mayor Gary D. McCaleb was present and presiding with Councilman Paul R. Vasquez, Councilwoman Betty Ray, Councilmen Jack Grable, Bill Terry, Councilwoman Liz Herrera, and Councilman Jimmy McNeil. Also present were City Manager Jim C. Blagg, Assistant City Manager Roy L. McDaniel, Assistant to the City Manager Debra Guerra, City Secretary Jo Moore, Assistant City Attorney Sara Fauls, and various members of the City staff.

Mayor McCaleb called the meeting to order. Assistant to the City Manager Debra Guerra gave an update on the status of the Strategic Planning process, explaining why we're doing strategic planning and where we were. Ms. Guerra stated that today we have a one-year operating plan based on feedback from the City Council. Jim Blagg, City Manager, explained the changes today from prior retreats. The City Council is asked to provide guidance in terms of alternative expense and revenues of the budget, and to prioritize within each key direction strategies. Mr. Blagg recapped the last seven years' budgets, which impacts where we are today. Health Insurance, Utilities, Workman's Compensation, and FICA have all gone up approximately two million dollars in the last 7 years. Salaries have increased 1.1 million out of the general fund in the last seven years, which is equivalent to approximately 1% per year. Other costs have been reduced by \$300,000 out of the General Fund in the same 7 years. The cost of doing business has only increased 1.2 million for the city in the past 7 years. A \$37.7 million dollar General Fund revenue is needed in FY 92, but general fund revenues are estimated at \$35.6 million dollars. Revenue alternatives include refuse rates change, and staff is currently looking at a 56 cent effective tax rate.

Councilman Vasquez asked if there are other areas (such as parks donations) that could generate revenue. Mr. Blagg stated that would be looked into.

Councilwoman Ray was concerned with maintaining basic services, and requested staff look at user fees, developmental areas, no additional hiring or increases.

Councilman Grable indicated he hates to see us go backward, he would like to see an alternative for more revenue; and suggested we look to staff for a program reduction in the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Councilman Terry suggested looking for additional revenue sources.

Councilman McNeil recommended we look at it from a needs standpoint - don't go backward. If we have to have a tax increase, he would agree to that.

Councilwoman Herrera was concerned with a need for tax increase, stating it is not affordable for the citizens. Councilwoman Herrera directed staff to review and come up with bare necessities.

Mayor McCaleb directed staff to:

1. look at projects
2. evaluate dollar-for-dollar good use
3. we've done more with less due to our efficiency

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4. realize we are a people intensive business.
- 3.4% fewer people now than 7 years ago.
5. Groups B, C, D, E priority groups are on hold.
6. User fees - are they covering costs of what they should be?
7. Look at whole budget - grant funding available, etc.
8. Could things be funded other than city funding (charitable?)
9. Committed to keeping the City fiscally solid and sound.

Mr. Blagg - Look at Group B through E:

1. Do we have important issues close to the top?
2. Is there something that needs to be funded?

Crime prevention, streets, and neighborhood quality of life were the primary concern noted by the Council.

Mayor McCaleb recommended prioritizing into general groups as noted in each group, then have the City Council later note any specifics.

Councilman Terry suggested placing them under classifications.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.


Jo Moore
City Secretary


Gary D. McCaleb
Mayor