

**PRE-COUNCIL WORK SESSION, THURSDAY
October 24, 1996, 8:30 A.M.**

**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 Pre-Council Work Session on October 24, 1996, at 8:30 a.m. in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall. Mayor Gary D. McCaleb was present and presiding with Councilmen Paul R. Vasquez and A. Don Drennan, Councilwoman Carol Martinez, and Councilmen Rob Beckham and Ray Ferguson. Also present were City Manager Lanny Lambert, Assistant City Manager Roy L. McDaniel, City Attorney Harvey Cargill, City Secretary Jo Moore, Assistant to the City Manager Debra Guerra, and various members of the City staff. Councilwoman Kay Alexander was absent.

City Manager Lanny Lambert distributed a proposal and briefed the Council on the Employee Budget Savings Incentive Program. Councilman Ray Ferguson stated his approval of requesting a recommendation from the Employee Committee on the program. Donna Albus, Abilene Clean & Proud Coordinator, introduced Phyllis Conn, who assisted Ms. Albus in briefing the Council on the upcoming Make A Difference Day Saturday, October 26. Mayor McCaleb stated appreciation to Ms. Albus and Ms. Conn for their work on Make A Difference Day; and noted two positive articles in the Abilene Reporter-News on Abilene: "Abilene Crime Statistics Drop", and an article written by Assistant to the City Manager Debra Guerra on "Creating the Child Friendly City". City Manager Lanny Lambert informed Council that item 3.4, Resolution approving CDBG funds to secure subdivision improvements for Cornerstone Addition (Habitat for Humanity Project), would be pulled from the agenda at the request of staff to be considered at a later date. The Council briefly discussed various other consent and regular agenda items. There being no further discussion, the meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m. for the regular Council Meeting.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 24, 1996, 9:00 A.M.**

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

Mayor McCaleb reconvened the City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, into Regular Session October 24, 1996, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Invocation was given by Councilman Paul Vasquez.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Evan Tindall, fifth grader at Bonham Elementary School, and accompanied by his great aunt and uncle and school secretary Linda Gilliam.

Mayor McCaleb presented a Certificate of Excellence in Management Operations in Public Housing to Earl Williams, Chair of the Housing Authority Board, and Roberta Thompson, Housing Administrator.

Earnest Merritt, Special Assistant to the City Manager for Youth Services, presented to the Mayor and Council a Texas Teen Court Association Spotlight Achievement Award.

Mayor McCaleb presented a proclamation for the month of October as March of Dimes Campaign for Healthier Babies Month.

There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes of the Pre-Council Session and Regular City Council Meeting held October 10, 1996, Councilman Vasquez moved to approve the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drennan and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

NAYS: None.

Item 3.4 was pulled from the Consent Agenda at staff request to be considered at a later date. All other Consent Agenda items were removed from Consent Agenda to be considered separately at the request of Bobbie Hotchkiss, 4065 Waldemar.

Resolutions

3.1 Mike Morrison, Assistant City Manager, briefed the Council on a Resolution amending an agreement for Tax Abatement dated June 13, 1991 between the City of Abilene; Eula Independent School District; Taylor County; West Central Texas Municipal Water District and Bandag, Inc. Staff recommends approval.

Mrs. Hotchkiss questioned why we're giving Tax Abatement to Bandag, Inc. again; Mr. Morrison stated this is an amendment to an existing agreement and noted Bandag's significant capital investment since 1991.

Councilman Vasquez moved to approve the Resolution amending an agreement for Tax Abatement dated June 13, 1991 between the City of Abilene; Eula Independent School District; Taylor County; West Central Texas Municipal Water District and Bandag, Inc. as recommended by the staff. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martinez and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

NAYS: None.

The Resolution is numbered **37-1996** and is captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR TAX ABATEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ABILENE; EULA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT; TAYLOR COUNTY; WEST CENTRAL TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ("TAXING ENTITIES"), AND BANDAG, INC. DATED JUNE 13, 1991.

3.2 Elizabeth Miller, Downtown Manager, briefed the Council on a Resolution approving submission of the 1997 Great American Main Street Awards application. Staff recommends approval.

Mrs. Hotchkiss questioned where the money will go if we win; Ms. Miller stated it would go for further preservation in the City. Ruby Perez, Abilene Preservation League (co-sponsor of the application), stated it could go into pending projects for downtown, and the Abilene Preservation League recommends it be used for the Elks building at N. 1st and Cedar.

Councilman Drennan moved to approve the Resolution authorizing submission of the 1997 Great American Main Street Awards application as recommended by the staff. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

NAYS: None.

The Resolution is numbered 38-1996 and is captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AWARD APPLICATION FOR THE 1997 GREAT AMERICAN CITY AWARD TO BE CO-SPONSORED BY THE ABILENE PRESERVATION LEAGUE.

3.3 Elizabeth Miller, Downtown Manager, briefed the Council on an Oral Resolution approving a contract amendment to include Phase II of the Cypress Street Improvements. Staff recommends approval.

Mrs. Hotchkiss questioned the purpose of the request; Ms. Miller stated it is a contract amendment for professional services in the amount of \$44,000.

Councilman Vasquez moved to approve by Oral Resolution a contract amendment to include Phase II of the Cypress Street Improvements as recommended by the staff. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beckham and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

NAYS: None.

3.4 Resolution approving CDBG funds to secure subdivision improvements for Cornerstone Addition (Habitat for Humanity Project), removed from Consent Agenda at the request of staff to be considered at a later date.

Bid Awards

3.5Ed Dye, Deputy Police Chief, explained to the Council and Mrs. Hotchkiss the request for relocation of the Street Crimes Unit office, **CB#7002**. Staff recommends Light Storm Enterprises, Inc. of Abilene be awarded the contract in the amount of \$23,900.00.

Councilman Vasquez moved to award the contract for relocation of Street Crimes Unit office, **CB#7002** to Light Storm Enterprises, Inc. of Abilene in the amount of \$23,900.00 as recommended by the staff. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martinez and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

NAYS: None.

Mayor McCaleb noted that although items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Council, any citizen wanting additional information concerning these items can contact the City staff prior to the Council meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Appearance

4.1 Wilbur Lamb, 881 Sunset, presented to the Council a petition concerning Catclaw Creek flooding. City Manager Lanny Lambert noted staff had conducted a neighborhood meeting October 7 with approximate 100 in attendance. Mr. Lambert stated staff is presently reviewing the existing situation and possible improvements, and will develop a written proposal which will be reviewed with the neighborhood within the next six weeks, with a final proposal being presented to the Council.

No action was required; therefore no vote was taken.

4.2 Lanny Lambert, City Manager, distributed a map and presented to the Council a brief history and status report on outdoor Public Warning Systems. He then introduced Lieutenants Eddie Chrane and Mark Whitten of the Abilene Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Lambert recommended that the old system not be reactivated, and if it is decided to return to an outdoor warning system, it should never be the only warning system. He asked Council to allow staff to monitor the effectiveness of Doppler to see if effectiveness increases; staff is ready to conduct further research and answer questions.

Mayor McCaleb stated it is important to continue to monitor Doppler for accuracy and effectiveness in interpreting and communicating. He questioned voice instruction over sirens, asking if people would have to come outside to get voice messages. Mr. Lambert stated they could be transmitted through radio, outdoors, and cable. Mayor McCaleb stated surveys from other cities indicate there are still questions about outdoor sirens being the best method of warning.

Councilman Vasquez questioned the possibility of Certificates of Obligation being

considered to cover the cost of outdoor sirens, and suggested staff look at privatization.

Councilman Ferguson questioned if the media or some other organization might be more effective in getting the message out.

No action was required; therefore no vote was taken.

Ordinances

4.3 Carl Lockett, Assistant Director of Development Services for Planning, briefed the Council on an Ordinance considered on second and final reading - **TC-10196** - Thoroughfare abandonment of north/south alley bounded by Sewell & Portland and S. 3rd & S. 5th Streets. The Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommends approval SUBJECT TO retention of a utility and open drainage easement the length and width of the area affected.

Mayor McCaleb opened a public hearing on the item, and the following individuals spoke in favor of the request:

.Starla Currier, 2634 S. 5th, stated she has been maintaining the alley and would like to fence it in. She is concerned with trash and parking cars.

There being no one else present and desiring to be heard, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Vasquez moved to approve the Ordinance for thoroughfare abandonment of north/south alley bounded by Sewell & Portland and S. 3rd & S. 5th Streets SUBJECT TO retention of a utility and open drainage easement the length and width of the area affected, as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ferguson and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

Nays: None.

The Ordinance is numbered **52-1996** and is captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY; PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH ABANDONMENT, AND CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING.

Resolutions

4.4 Mayor McCaleb stated one of the recommendations of the Task Force on Technology was to create a Technology Committee. Therefore, he is recommending a Resolution be passed establishing a 12-member committee.

Councilwoman Martinez moved to approve the Resolution establishing a Technology Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ferguson and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

Nays: None.

The Resolution is numbered 39-1996 and is captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS,
ESTABLISHING A TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Other Business:

Mayor McCaleb recessed the Council into executive session pursuant to Sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Open Meetings Act, and to seek the advice of the City Attorney with respect to pending and contemplated litigation and to consider the appointment and evaluation of public officers.

The Council reconvened from executive session and reported no action taken.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of the Technology Committee members as follows: Randy Nicholson, Chair, Dixie Bassett, Scott Dueser, Neil Fry, Don Harrison, Homer Hillis Jr., Dr. Candice Chandler Jordan, Phil Morehead, Dr. Jeri Pfeifer, Scott Smith, Jesse Vasquez, and Lydia Walsh. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Vasquez and Drennan, Councilwoman Martinez, Councilmen Beckham and Ferguson, and Mayor McCaleb.

Nays: None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Jo Moore
City Secretary

Gary D. McCaleb
Mayor