

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING & CITY COUNCIL RETREAT
January 18, 2005**

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

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in a Special Called Meeting on January 18, 2005, at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 555 Walnut Street. Mayor Archibald was present and presiding with Councilmen Sam Chase, Anthony Williams, John Hill, Stormy Higgins, Kris Southward, and Councilwoman Laura Moore. Also present were City Manager Larry Gilley, City Attorney Sharon Hicks, City Secretary Jo Moore, and various members of the City staff.

Mayor Archibald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Higgins gave the invocation.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Second Public Hearing:

Annexation of property located between Hardison Lane and Colony Hill Road from Maple Street to the existing City limits located east of Vinson Road; and set the First Reading of the Ordinance for February 10, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Mayor Archibald stated in compliance with State Law today's public hearing is for public comment only and that there will be no Council dialogue. The Mayor further stated the first reading of the annexation ordinance is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. and the second and final reading of the ordinance is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Mayor Archibald then opened the public hearing and the following individuals addressed the Council:

- Charles Crandall – opposed. Mr. Crandall read his letter of protest and concerns to the Council and stated he doesn't want to live in the City limits. Mr. Crandall also stated that Jeff Armstrong of Planning & Development Services told his family that the City doesn't usually involuntarily annex property.
- Ms. Gibson – opposed.
- Randy Russell – opposed.
- Spencer Butcher – opposed. Mr. Butcher stated that Jeff Armstrong of Planning & Development Services also told him that the City's policy is not to involuntarily annex property.
- Mary Mercer – opposed. Ms. Mercer asked if the land is annexed if the City will provide services to the property owners.

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- M.L. Hughes – opposed. Mr. Hughes stated he recently purchased property adjacent to the north of the Waldrop property and feels the annexation will be a detriment to the property. Mr. Hughes also asked to sign the petition that had been submitted in opposition to the annexation.
- Aaron S. Payne – opposed. Mr. Payne submitted a statement in opposition to the annexation noting a detriment to the existing oil production on his property if annexed.
- Sue Beth Jolly – opposed. Ms. Jolly submitted a statement in opposition to the annexation noting her and her husband’s desire to stay in the country.
- Marie Vinson – opposed. Ms. Vinson stated that she has owned her land in the country for a long time and wants to stay in the country.
- Laurence Hudson – opposed. Mr. Hudson stated scout troops use his property for outdoor activities.
- A.J. Draper – opposed. Mr. Draper stated he cannot pay more taxes.
- Gary Hoffman – opposed. Mr. Hoffman stated he doesn’t want the increase in traffic and road damage that a new development will cause.
- Larry Ekerd – opposed. Mr. Ekerd stated he wants to live outside the City and noted that although there were some restrictions on the property when he moved there he is hearing something different now.
- James Richie – opposed. Mr. Richie asked if TXU has run a gas line to the area, would the property owners have to pay for a sewer line to be laid and would there be fire hydrants.
- David Jolly – opposed. Mr. Jolly stated he is opposed to Mr. Waldrop using City funds for his development and asked Council to consider peoples lifestyles.
- Doug Kincaid – opposed. Mr. Kincaid stated the Council has not explained the value of why the City wants to annex the property and how the annexation will benefit the citizens of Abilene. Mr. Kincaid also asked if Council budgeted for future services and will the residents have to pay for these services.
- Jerald King – opposed. Mr. King stated he owns land in the area and is having to sell due to financial problems.
- Ken Barbian – opposed. Mr. Barbian stated there has been no service plan established and the law requires the city to provide equal services. Mr. Barbian asked if the City is prepared to spend money for those services. Mr. Barbian

further stated he sees no benefit to the City to extend those services. Mr. Barbian also stated he feels the proposal could be put before the voters.

- Tiffany Payne – opposed. Ms. Payne stated her family moved out of the City to be in the country and that they want to stay in the country.

There being no one else present and desiring to be heard the public hearing was closed at 8:40 a.m.

Mayor Archibald stated appreciation to those present for attending the public hearing. The Mayor noted Council's interest in the concerns of those in the area proposed for annexation and encouraged the property owners to continue to express those concerns to the Council.

Mayor Archibald stated the second public hearing, as required by State Law, was held today and the first reading of the annexation ordinance is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers. The Mayor noted the first reading of an ordinance is a formality that moves the ordinance forward to the second reading.

Following the public hearing the Council convened in the Basement Conference Room for the Council Retreat.

COUNCIL RETREAT

Mayor Archibald convened the Council Retreat at 8:55 a.m. Those present were Councilmen Sam Chase, Anthony Williams, John Hill, Stormy Higgins, Kris Southward, and Councilwoman Laura Moore. Also present were City Manager Larry Gilley, City Attorney Sharon Hicks, City Secretary Jo Moore, and various members of the City staff.

The Mayor stated he views today's retreat as a 2005 planning session. The Mayor then distributed a list of items for discussion, which included:

Review of Strategic Objectives from Fall 2004 Council Retreat

Comprehensive Plan Implementation

- As approved by Planning & Zoning on November 15, 2004
- Review priorities and implementation schedule

Budget Planning for 2005-2006 Budget

- Workshops to be presented by staff during the year
- Schedule for budget planning
- Big items for consideration – Public Safety Communications

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Bond Issue

- Issues for the Bond Election
- Time line
- Use of citizen review board
- Council limitations
- Key people to lead effort

City Surveys – Laura Moore

City Boards

- Term limits
- Attendance
- Ability to attract more citizens to serve

Smoking Issue

- Bring issue off from table
- Council to decide themselves or have citizens vote
- How will smoking ordinance approach various areas for ban?
- Public Hearing

Hear from Young Professionals Group about Abilene

- As part of the Wadley-Donovan Study and the Workforce Board

125th Birthday Celebration for Abilene in 2006

Mayor Archibald stated the Strategic Objectives include the review of the following four categories:

- The Comprehensive Plan
- City Management
- Economic Development
- Water

Council and staff discussion included: 1) Council formally adopting the four strategic objectives; 2) setting priorities and time schedules for implementing the objectives; 3) the value of forming smaller Council groups to review the objectives and to avoid the task of providing for full Council meetings; 4) having the strategic objectives printed and displayed, and; 5) Richard Burdine, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development providing the Council with the “Industrial Foundation “E” Newsletter”.

Following Council and staff discussion Mr. Gilley stated it would be good for Council to formally adopt the four strategic objectives and to possibly have an annual review of the objectives. Mr. Gilley further stated staff perceives Council sub-committees to be of value for the purpose of moving forward with the understanding that the sub-committee’s recommendations are to come back to the full Council before they are implemented.

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Mayor Archibald reminded Council if the sub-committees were to include four Councilmember's those meetings would require posting. Council suggested only three Councilmember's serve on each committee and that written summaries to be brought back to the full Council for review. The sub-committees were formed as follows:

- The Comprehensive Plan:
 - Councilman Hill – *Lead person*
 - Councilman Southward
 - Councilman Chase

- City Management:
 - Councilwoman Moore – *Lead person*
 - Councilman Higgins
 - Councilman Williams

- Economic Development:
 - Councilman Williams – *Lead person*
 - Mayor Archibald
 - Councilman Hill

- Water:
 - Councilman Chase – *Lead person*
 - Mayor Archibald
 - Councilman Higgins

Mayor Archibald announced Council would recess for a break at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Archibald requested Mr. Gilley place the item to formally adopt the four strategic objectives on a future Council agenda. The Mayor stated the need to target dates for the sub-committees to report back to the full Council and to determine the impact on the budget.

Council and staff discussed calling a Council Retreat on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for the sub-committees to report their findings to the full Council.

Mr. Gilley addressed the need for staff involvement with the sub-committees and requested that he and appropriate staff members be included in the meetings.

Mayor Archibald distributed correspondence that the Council had received in November 2004 concerning the November 15, 2004 Planning & Zoning Commission workshop where the commission gave direction to staff to proceed with the priorities as set by the P&Z in the implementing of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Mayor noted that the Council could discuss what they view as priorities in relation to what the Planning & Zoning Commission established as priorities in order for staff to have clear direction in proceeding with the implementation.

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Mr. Gilley referred to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation document that he had distributed to Council noting the document is detailed and summarizes the implementation of the plan. Mr. Gilley then briefed the Council on the status of what is currently in progress and the expected process for further implementation. Mr. Gilley stated it is the Council's responsibility to decide if they are ready for the issues as outlined by the Planning & Zoning Commission to be brought forward for consideration.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) possibly forming a committee to include a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, a Councilmember, and small and large business owners to provide the opportunity for them to discuss issues and work toward a compromise early in the process; 2) the committee soliciting input from citizens; 3) recognizing that the Council is the final decision maker; 4) perimeters would need to be established for the committee; 5) staff researching what other communities have done in the area of best practices for community involvement; 6) freight containers and itinerant vendors issues having gone through the Planning & Zoning Commission process and community appearance (including signage) to be considered in the near future; 7) the Comprehensive Plan implementation process and Council's priorities; 8) infill and annexation issues, and; 9) the status of the two phase study of Ft. Phantom.

Mayor Archibald summarized Council's discussion on prioritizing and planning for Abilene's future as follows:

1. A sub-committee of the Council has been formed to review the Comprehensive Plan and bring back a summary of their review to Council.
2. Council will be reviewing freight containers and itinerant vendor issues.
3. Council will consider infill development, signs and regulations.
4. In October the Land Development Code process will begin.
5. Annexation issues will be considered in the future.

Council recessed for a break at 10:05 a.m.

Council reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Mayor Archibald addressed the budget planning process for FY05-06 noting the need to schedule for budget planning, have staff presentations throughout the year, and for Council to discuss major budget items (i.e. public communication).

Council and staff discussion included: 1) budget items that Council needs to be aware of; 2) the need for short departmental presentations at Council meetings; 3) Council requesting presentations from specific departments they would like to learn more about; 4) reviewing the entire City operation; 5) the goal of the four Task Force committees is to bring recommendations concerning the entire City organization to Council by April 2005; 6) reviewing current city operations and needs (i.e. is there a need for the Housing Authority?); 7) a presentation from the Airport staff informing Council of progress made over the past year at the airport and what will be done in the next year; 8) the possibility of Council field trips to various city departments; 9) the City Manager choosing 10 broad based issues to bring before Council; 10) half of the City of Tyler's 4B funds being utilized for infrastructure and questions raised by Abilene citizens

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concerning Abilene not being a 4B city. Council requested the City Manager contact the City of Tyler for information concerning their 4B status and it's impact on their city, and; 11) staff's responsibility to bring the findings of the Task Force committees to Council and Council providing input after staff presents those findings.

Mayor Archibald stated the Council's most important responsibilities are setting the budget and tax rate, noting education concerning the budget is very important and Council also needs to know how major projects beyond FY05-06 will be financed. The Mayor reiterated the City Manager's duties and responsibilities as the CEO of the City and the Council's as policy makers.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) the 5 budget issues that will be addressed within the next 18 months; 2) the three staff budget presentations that will occur between February and June of 2005, and; 3) the time frame for implementing division reports, field trips, and general overview of city operations.

Mayor Archibald addressed potential Bond Issues and requested the Council receive input from staff at the February 22, 2005 Council Retreat concerning a bond election process and issues that can be put before the voters.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) Abilene's history of bond elections; 2) appointing a citizen committee possibly by March 2005 to review bond issues; 3) the timeline for coordinating a bond election being a minimum of 12 months, possible election in 2006, and; 4) the fact that city time and resources cannot be used to promote a bond election, only facts can be provided.

The Council addressed the possibility of conducting City Surveys. Council and staff discussion included: 1) conducting city surveys resulting in helping to determine what citizens care about; 2) merging staff review, strategic objectives, and the citizens survey results; 3) surveys assisting the Council in determining the quality of the services being provided; 4) establishing dialogue with citizens; 5) the cost and time of conducting a survey; 6) beginning the survey in a 3 to 4 month timeline; 7) The National survey costing approximately \$5,200; 8) the preference of using some form of a National citizen survey; 9) if a survey is implemented the need for it to be a multi-year commitment utilizing the same instrument through those years; 10) comparison of survey results to that of other cities; 11) adopting or combining methodologies of the survey at the February 22, 2005 Council Retreat, and; 12) the preference to have results of the survey prior to discussion of budget issues.

Councilman Higgins left the Council Retreat at 11:15 a.m.

Mayor Archibald addressed the issue of City Boards/Commissions. Council and staff discussion included: 1) if term limits are established Council may consider implementing a "grandfather" clause; 2) surveying the 10 comparison cities to see how term limits are established; 3) attendance issues; 4) letters from the Mayor to be sent to all board/commission members stating the importance of attendance at their respective board meetings; 5) residency requirements; and, 6) developing a complete matrix of current boards makeup.

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Following the Boards/Commissions item the Council addressed the issue of the proposed smoking ordinance. Sharon Hicks, City Attorney distributed a list of "Smoking Questions" that had been created to be distributed with water bills for the purpose of surveying citizens. Ms. Hicks noted if a survey is done the Council could use those results to help determine if the smoking issue should go to a public vote.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) removing the smoking issue from the table with the possibility of a public vote; 2) "Smoking Questions" to be placed in water bills for the purpose of feedback from the public; 3) government not regulating businesses due to this being a free enterprise issue; 4) smoking as a health issue but placing the issue before the voters; 5) time limits and additional restrictions that can be added to the ordinance for all restaurants; 6) viewing the smoking issue as an "all or nothing" decision, and; 7) staff researching and providing information to Council on various cities smoking ordinances, including the City of Lubbock's.

Councilman Hill left the Council Retreat at 11:40 a.m. Councilman Williams left the Council Retreat at 11:45 a.m.

Mayor Archibald noted the Wadley-Donovan Study and the Workforce Board addressed the concern of why young people have left or are considering leaving Abilene. The Mayor noted the Workforce Board had solicited information from a group of 20-30 year olds concerning Abilene's economy and jobs. Following Council and staff discussion Mayor Archibald submitted a summary of the "Young Professionals Group" responses to the City Manager for his review.

Mayor Archibald noted in 2006 there are several major celebrations occurring including: in March the 20th anniversary celebration of the B1 Bomber; 2006 is the 50th Anniversary of Dyess Air Force Base; 2006 is Abilene Christian University's 100th Anniversary; and 2006 is also the 125th Birthday of Abilene. The Mayor addressed the opportunity to celebrate the 125th birthday, noting a committee could be formed to coordinate the event. A research of the city's archives will be conducted to determine how the City's Centennial Celebration was coordinated.

Mayor Archibald addressed the question that had been raised by Chris Kyker, Speaker of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, concerning a possible tax freeze for citizens 65 years of age and older. The Mayor stated the issue can be considered at the February 22, 2005 Council Retreat.

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

Jo Moore
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor