

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ABILENE CITY
COUNCIL AND ABILENE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

Monday, January 31, 2005

6:00 p.m.

Abilene Civic Center

Conference Room 2

1100 North 6th Street

Abilene, Texas

The Abilene City Council and Abilene Independent School District Board of Trustees of Abilene, Texas met in a Special Joint Meeting.

Mayor Archibald and AISD Board President Susan King called their respective boards to order. Councilmen Sam Chase, Anthony Williams, John Hill, Stormy Higgins, Kris Southward and Councilwoman Laura Moore were present. Also present were City Manager Larry Gilley, City Attorney Sharon Hicks, City Secretary Jo Moore, and various members of the City staff. AISD Board of Trustees present were Gary Lamb, Robert Laird, Danny Wheat, Charles Wolfe, Barry Hoefler, and Susan King. AISD Superintendent Dr. David Polnick and various members of AISD staff were also present.

Councilman Williams gave the invocation.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag. Ms. King introduced the Franklin Middle School Hand Bell Choir who then presented "America the Beautiful" and "Texas Our Texas", under the direction of Elaine Palmer, Choral Director.

Ms. King recognized Cub Scout Troop 271 from Bonham Elementary.

Jim Bryan, the City of Abilene's Emergency Operations Manager briefed the Council and Board on Homeland Security. Mr. Bryan stated the Homeland Security Act of 2002 was established after September 11, 2001 (9/11). Mr. Bryan noted the mission of the Homeland Security Act is as follows:

- Prevent terrorist attacks in U.S.
- Reduce U.S. vulnerability
- Minimize damage if attacked and assist in recovery within the United States.

Mr. Bryan further noted the organizational structure consists of the National Homeland Security, FEMA, Texas Homeland Security – Governor's Division of Emergency Management, and the City of Abilene Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Bryan stated the Alerting and Warning Systems were the Joint Regional Information Exchange (JRIES) and Homeland Security Advisory System. Mr. Bryan further stated the levels of the Alerting and Warning Systems are: severe; high; elevated; guarded; and, low.

Joint City Council/AISD Meeting

January 31, 2005

Page 2

Mr. Bryan reviewed the City Government's response for each warning level as follows:

Elevated Warning:

- Increase surveillance of locations.
- Assessing refinement of protective measures within context of current threat information.
- If necessary, implementing protective measures.

High Warning:

- Coordinating necessary security efforts with armed forces or law enforcement agencies.
- Taking additional precautions at public events.
- Consider restricting or screening personnel at government buildings.

Severe Warning:

- Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning specially trained teams.
- Closing public and government facilities.
- Consider postponing major events.

Mr. Bryan stated the Homeland Security Grants consisted of the Emergency Management Program Grant, the Law Enforcement Program Grant, the Bio Terrorism Grant, and the State Homeland Security Grant. Mr. Bryan noted the City of Abilene hosted the following Homeland Security Exercises:

- Weapons of Mass Destruction – September, 2002
- Weapons of Mass Destruction and SWAT Drill – January, 2005

Mr. Bryan briefed the Council and Board on the Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise held in the Emergency Operations Center on January 11th and 12th, 2005. Mr. Bryan described the Emergency Operations Center located at City Hall.

Council, Board and staff discussion included: 1) the next exercise offering the opportunity for AISD personnel to interact; 2) AISD and city employees being part of a team and the benefits of having a joint exercise; 3) possible drills being conducted for school children in relation to Homeland Security; 4) an explanation of the current plan for students and review of check list; 5) what is provided on the radio link and warning systems, and; 6) training program for emergency transportation.

Melvin Martin, Chief of Police briefed the Council and Board on the School Resource Program. Chief Martin reviewed the history of the School Resource Program noting it has been in operation for 14 years and that the networking and collaboration

Joint City Council/AISD Meeting

January 31, 2005

Page 3

between the City of Abilene and the Abilene Independent School District has resulted in better control of drug problems. Chief Martin stated under the program both Abilene High and Cooper High Schools currently have police officers on campus. Chief Martin noted the campus assignments and costs involved as follows:

High Schools

- Abilene High School – Officer Mike McAuliffe
- Cooper High School – Officer David Sprayberry

Middle Schools

- Madison Middle School – Officer Bernie Kastner
- Clack and Lincoln MS – Officer Donnie Brown
- Franklin and Mann MS – Officer Tony Jenkins
- Alternative Campuses – Officer Jim Walker

Total Cost

- \$346,132

City of Abilene

- \$173,066

AISD

- \$173,066

Chief Martin explained the benefits that the program provides to the schools and the city and expressed the importance of sharing information between the schools and the Police Department. Chief Martin reviewed the Abilene Campus Crime Stoppers Statistical Report for 2004 as follows:

<u>Statistic</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Since Inception</u>
Tips Received	46	1,325
Arrests Made	59	1,061
Cases Cleared	56	1,368
Admin. Discipline	47	497
# of Rewards Approved	19	728
Rewards Approved	\$1,775	\$28,006
# of Rewards Paid	19	718
Rewards Paid	\$1,775	\$28,841
# Weapons Recovered	12	158
Property Recovered	\$13,426	\$40,841
Narcotics Seized	\$279	\$5,241
Total Recovered	\$13,705	\$46,082

Chief Martin concluded the presentation stating the juvenile crime rate over the past 6 years has decreased due to the success of the School Resource Program.

Joint City Council/AISD Meeting

January 31, 2005

Page 4

Council, Board and staff discussion included: 1) the success of the program and the benefits of students being involved in the Crime Stoppers Program; 2) officers not currently being needed in the grade schools; 3) the drug problem seen at schools is “ice” a frozen methamphetamine which is very easy to produce, and; 4) an increase in marijuana use.

Jon James, Director of Planning & Development Services briefed the Council and Board on the City’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Mr. James stated a Comprehensive Plan is a document that provides a community with a reference for how development can best be accommodated for the present and future. Mr. James further stated a plan considers not only physical development issues, but social and economic issues as well and used properly the Comprehensive Plan serves as the community’s policy guide for future development decisions. Mr. James further stated the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to:

- Establish a coordinated set of policies to guide Abilene’s physical development over the next 10-15 years.
- To ensure that future public and private investment decisions are consistent with the public’s long-range vision of what Abilene should be.
- Be used as a guide for decision-makers as they are challenged with land use questions.

Mr. James noted the planning process for the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Abilene commenced in August 2001 with the hiring of a professional consultant, formation of a 23 member Steering Committee, and public participation including public workshops, surveys, newspaper articles and editorials, website, billboards, and artwalk booths. Mr. James stated the Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City Council in January 2004. Mr. James noted the fundamental debate is how, where, and to what extent should Abilene grow and how should future development be managed to improve the quality of life for residents.

Mr. James listed the land use scenarios as follows:

- Mixed Use Districts
- Strategic Infill
- Resource Management
- Continuing Trends

Mr. James stated the guiding principles for infill and redevelopment are prioritizing the redevelopment of older facilities that might not otherwise have an economically viable use, such as distressed retailing shopping centers, industrial sites, and vacant schools. Mr. James further stated other guiding principles are to target development and redevelopment as follows:

- Activity centers that are linked with attractive street corridors coupled with a community-wide pedestrian network.
- Maximize efficient use of limited resources, such as water, roads, and public services, by targeting new development in areas with existing services.
- Use water and sewer infrastructure more efficiently to promote development in the urbanized areas, rather than extending infrastructure to the urban fringe.
- Promote the development of gateway districts that promote strong visual impacts at entrances to the community.
- Preserve flood sensitive areas for environmentally compatible development and passive recreation (trails, wildlife habitat, and natural green spaces).
- Guide the community to broaden its balanced economic growth.

Mr. James also stated the Comprehensive Plan promotes the efficient use of city resources, good development decisions, and quality of life for the community. Mr. James further stated to implement the Plan city actions and decisions should be in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan, including the need to revise development regulations to implement the strategies of the Comprehensive Plan, and the City should encourage other entities, such as the school district, to follow the Plan. Mr. James then addressed the question of how the Comprehensive Plan relates to the Abilene Independent School District as follows:

- AISD is a major developer in Abilene
- What is good for the AISD is generally good for the city of Abilene, and vice versa
- AISD school closing criteria:
 - Site size
 - Facility condition
 - Cost of renovation vs. replacement
 - Demographics
 - Neighborhood impact

Mr. James reviewed how these concepts can be applied noting the neighborhood impact factors include walkability, environmental justice, stability, adaptive reuse, core density, added value, and plan conformity. Mr. James used the examples of walkability and plan conformity noting that 30-40 years ago 2 out of 3 children walked or biked to school and that today it's less than 1 in 10 and that plan conformity consists of considering the geographic distribution of schools and their service areas, the availability of infrastructure and underutilized or vacant land. Mr. James stated school stability is a major factor influencing future private investment in existing neighborhoods. Mr. James concluded the presentation stating the decisions made must benefit the students and the public/taxpayer.

Joint City Council/AISD Meeting

January 31, 2005

Page 6

Council, Board and staff discussion included: 1) sidewalks in relation to walkability and the effects on school children; 2) the importance of safety; 3) the need for the City and AISD to work together on safe routes for school children; 4) new development and how peer cities partnership with developers; 5) common practice to share the cost of installing sidewalks; 6) I-20 being the City's gateway and the possibility of a school being used to develop that gateway; 7) walkability issues and walkability being a good way to present a good image of the city; 8) the cost and reality of infill; 9) ensuring as a city that one type of development is not being promoted at the risk of others; 10) the need for shared services between the city and school district; 11) the types of available grants; 12) city initiated grant requiring strong support from the school district; 13) connecting as many sidewalks as possible to schools for walkability purposes; 14) Council recommending AISD follow up with the Friends of the Library on the study conducted by them and that was previously presented to Council; 15) the role that AISD could play in the grant process; 16) providing the list of Abilene's 10 peer cities to AISD and the fact that AISD does not have peer districts; 17) the benefits derived from making comparisons to other cities; 18) "The Neighborhood Impacts of School Closings" document being a document that could be used as a basis for the Council and AISD to work together for the benefit of all children; 19) infill in the developing of schools, and; 20) Council encouraging the AISD to consider adopting the Comprehensive Plan, resulting in good stewardship of citizens tax dollars and an opportunity to combine city and school district efforts.

Ms. King distributed a list of the Abilene Independent School District closed campuses. Dr. Polnick reviewed the list as follows:

- Campuses to be used for staging schools
 - Jefferson
 - Jones
 - Valley View
- Campuses that will not be used as staging schools
 - Administration Building
 - DY-10
 - Fair Park
- Campuses to be considered for consolidation after staging schools
 - Alta Vista
 - Franklin
 - Houston SAC
 - Travis
 - Woodson High School
- AISD plans to continue using the Lincoln Middle School building for some purpose – such as a career institute.

Joint City Council/AISD Meeting

January 31, 2005

Page 7

Following the review of the list Dr. Polnick proposed that the City look at the closed campuses and see how they could be utilized in relation to the Comprehensive Plan. Dr. Polnick stated the staging schools are those used for relocating students while schools are being renovated.

Council, Board and staff discussion included: 1) the possibility of recycling campuses and reviewing all options; 2) the possibility that more schools will be needed in the future; 3) land being valuable and the benefits of AISD having in the future all the land needed in the right locations, and; 4) if and how peer cities work with their school districts.

Mayor Archibald stated the Youth Advisory Council, a Mayor/Council appointed committee, needs to be re-activated for the benefit of the AISD and the City.

Ms. King stated the need for consistent joint meetings between the City and AISD.

Ms. King announced that Abilene will be given national recognition February 1, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre when the AISD Orchestra Program "Revolution" is featured in the broadcast recording National Venue "From the Top".

Mayor Archibald expressed appreciation to the School Board and Dr. Polnick for providing the meal for the joint meeting and stated the Council looks forward to more opportunities to partner with AISD.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Jo Moore
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor