

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 12, 2007, 8:30 a.m.

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

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in Regular Session on April 12, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 555 Walnut Street. Mayor Pro Tempore Moore was present and presiding with Councilmen Sam Chase, Stormy Higgins, Joe Spano, Anthony Williams, and Councilwoman Celia Davis. Also present were City Manager Larry Gilley, Interim City Attorney Dan Santee, City Secretary Jo Moore, and various members of the City staff. Mayor Archibald was late in arriving at the meeting due to his returning from Austin, where he attended, on behalf of the City of Abilene, the legislative hearing.

Councilman Williams gave the invocation.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore introduced Katie'anne Cadjew, a 2nd grade student from Long Elementary School, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Katie'anne's parents and teacher were also in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore introduced Don Green, the newly appointed Director of Aviation for the City of Abilene.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore, assisted by City Secretary Jo Moore, presented Employee Service Awards to the following individuals for their years of service:

30 Years	Santos Perez	Police Officer Police Department
20 Years	Linda Smith	Accounting Technician III Finance Department

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore presented the following proclamations:

- "Community Development Week" for the week of April 9 -15, 2007
- "Occupational Therapy Month" for the month of April 2007

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

2.0 Mayor Pro Tempore Moore stated Council has been given the minutes from the March 22, 2007 Regular Council Meeting. There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Higgins seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Chase, Higgins, Spano, Williams, Councilwoman Davis, and Mayor Pro Tempore Moore.

NAYS: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Spano made a motion to approve consent agenda items 3.1 through 3.3, final reading of item 3.4, and item 3.5, as recommended by staff. Councilwoman Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Chase, Higgins, Spano, Williams, Councilwoman Davis, and Mayor Pro Tempore Moore.

NAYS: None

Resolutions:

- 3.1 Oral Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Temporary Airport Use Agreement with Big Country AirFest, Inc.
- 3.2 Oral Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with the Experimental Aircraft Association, Inc. (EAA) Chapter 471 for T-Hangars 5 and 6.
- 3.3 A Resolution of the City of Abilene approving the City of Abilene/Taylor County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan, and establishing an effective date.

The Resolution is numbered **11-2007** and captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS,
APPROVING THE CITY OF ABILENE/TAYLOR COUNTY MITIGATION ACTION
PLAN AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ordinances:

- 3.4 Ordinance to amend Chapter 18, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" of the Abilene Municipal Code.

The Ordinance is numbered **13-2007** and captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, "MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"
OF THE ABILENE MUNICIPAL CODE, BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS AS
SET OUT BELOW; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING A
PENALTY.

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Bid Award:

3.5 **Bid #CB-7023** – Electrical upgrade to the Civic Center Auditorium Stage. The bid was awarded to Long Electric Co., Abilene, TX in the amount of \$29,990.00.

REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Jon James, Director of Planning and Development Services briefed the Council on **TC-2007-01**, an ordinance considered on second and final reading to abandon the northern 315' of the 20' wide alley from Vogel Avenue to Lowden Street, property located between Grape and Beech Streets.

Hardin-Simmons University is proposing to use two (2) acres of vacant property on the north end of this block for athletic fields. There is currently an alley dividing the property that they would like to have abandoned. Only the northern 315 feet of this alley would need to be closed for the development of the athletic fields. The agent stated they would also like the entire alley abandoned to make some of their property at the southern end of the block more contiguous. Several property owners in the area are opposed to the entire alley being closed. Those property owners showed no objection to closing the northern 315 feet of the alley and reconnecting the remaining portion to either Grape or Beech Streets. The Plat Review Committee recommends that the following conditions be placed on the abandonment:

- The northern end of the remaining alley (if any) must be replatted to connect to an existing right-of-way (either Grape or Beech Streets) with a 20' wide alley.
- A 20' wide drainage and utility easement must be dedicated to accommodate existing utilities and drainage.
- All parcels that are adjacent to the abandoned right-of-way and owned by the applicant must be re-platted.

Staff has no opposition to closing the entire alley subject to the recommendation of the Plat Review Committee. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval of closing the northern 315 feet of the alley with the conditions recommended by the Plat Review Committee.

Council and staff discussed the Beech St. alley currently being used and that the easiest option to connect to a turn around would be at Beech St.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore opened a public hearing on the item and there being no one present and desiring to be heard the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Williams made a motion to approve **TC-2007-01**, an ordinance considered on second and final reading to abandon the northern 315' of the 20' wide alley from Vogel Avenue to Lowden Street, property located between Grape and Beech Streets, as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission and with the conditions as recommended by the Plat Review Committee. Councilman Higgins seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Chase, Higgins, Spano, Williams, Councilwoman Davis, and Mayor Pro Tempore Moore.

NAYS: None

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The Ordinance is numbered 14-2007 and 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.

4.2 Jon James, Director of Planning and Development Services briefed the Council on **Z-2007-07**, an ordinance considered on second and final reading to rezone property from RS-6 (Residential Single-family) to MU (Medical Use), property located at 1818 Walnut Street.

Mr. James stated the applicant owns the subject lot but lives in the residence just to the north (1826 Walnut). The applicant is interested in rezoning the property in order to sell it to the owners of the adjacent dental office (1809 Pine). The applicant states that they would like their proposed parking lot on 1802 Walnut to include the subject property. Staff was opposed to the rezoning of 1802 Walnut from RS-6 (Residential Single-family) to MU (Medical Use) because it was believed to be an intrusion into a viable neighborhood. The City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission have stated this general area will be transitioning to medical uses and given this new direction, staff is in favor of this rezoning. In addition, many property owners that were notified of the request were in favor of the rezoning. Staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval of the request.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore opened a public hearing on the item and there being no one present and desiring to be heard the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve **Z-2007-07**, an ordinance considered on second and final reading to rezone property from RS-6 (Residential Single-family) to MU (Medical Use), property located at 1818 Walnut Street. Councilman Spano seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Chase, Higgins, Spano, Williams, Councilwoman Davis, and Mayor Pro Tempore Moore.

NAYS: None

The Ordinance is numbered 15-2007 and captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 23, SUBPART E, "ZONING", OF THE ABILENE MUNICIPAL CODE, BY CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AFFECTING CERTAIN PROPERTIES; CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING A PENALTY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

4.3 Chief of Police Melvin Martin briefed the Council on a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents to accept the physical improvements located at Safety City and form a non-profit entity to support the mission of Safety City.

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Safety City was constructed through the coordinated efforts of the City of Abilene, Abilene Police Department, Abilene Jaycee Foundation, Dyess Air Force Base and the Abilene Independent School District. Safety City first opened for operation for the 1981-82 school year and currently serves annually, at no charge, approximately 3,700 third grade students from Abilene and the surrounding school districts. Safety City is a child sized model of a city complete with working traffic lights, traffic signs, sidewalks, railroad crossings and other items that simulate a real traffic environment. The Safety Education Office of the Abilene Police Department operates the Safety City Program utilizing a Curriculum Guide developed by the Abilene Independent School District. There has historically been a shared responsibility for the improvements of Safety City. The City has maintained the streets and grounds of the facility while the Jaycees have provided funding for the maintenance of the improvements. For the Safety City Program and facilities to remain viable for future third grade students of the area the Jaycee Foundation recommends the City of Abilene formally accept the donation of all improvements and the ongoing maintenance for said improvements. The City is willing to take all necessary steps to ensure the continued viability of the Safety City Program. One of those steps is the creation of a non-profit entity that would include a Mayor appointed citizen board charged with continuing the mission first begun by the Abilene Jaycees to raise public awareness and funding for the traffic safety education program of Safety City. The City will be accepting the maintenance cost of the structures located at Safety City which the Jaycees have been responsible for. By also forming an entity to fill the fundraising and community awareness function that has been previously filled by the Jaycees, the belief is that there will be no new fiscal impact to the City, but rather, there will continue to be adequate funds donated to cover an equivalent amount of costs as currently needed. Staff recommends Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents to accept the physical improvements located at Safety City and form a non-profit entity to support the mission of Safety City.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) the coordinated efforts and contributions made by those that provided for the construction and maintenance of Safety City; 2) Mr. Bob Deegan being known, due to his contributions to the program, as Mr. Safety City; 3) the Jaycees many years of dedicated commitment to Safety City, and; 4) the 25 year ceremony that will be held to recognize the individual and collective efforts of those that have contributed to the success of the Safety City Program.

Councilman Chase made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents to accept the physical improvements located at Safety City and form a non-profit entity to support the mission of Safety City. Councilman Higgins seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Chase, Higgins, Spano, Williams, Councilwoman Davis, and Mayor Pro Tempore Moore.

NAYS: None

The Resolution is numbered 12-2007 and captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS,
AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ABILENE TO ACCEPT ALL IMPROVEMENTS
LOCATED WITHIN ROSE PARK AT THE FACILITY COMMONLY KNOWN AS

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SAFETY CITY AND TO FORM A NON-PROFIT ENTITY TO SUPPORT AND COORDINATE THE MISSION OF THE SAFETY CITY PROGRAM.

4.4 Jo Moore, City Secretary, presented to Council the certified results of a Supplemental Referendum Petition on Ordinance No. 69-2006, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 of the Code of the City of Abilene by Adopting a Comprehensive Revision of Chapter 10: Fire Protection and Prevention, Article III: Fire Protection Code, Division 2: SMOKING", as approved by Council on December 21, 2006.

Ms. Moore stated on February 19, 2007 a Referendum Petition was filed with the City requesting that a Referendum Election be called to repeal Ordinance No. 69-2006 that established smoking restrictions within the City of Abilene. That petition was deemed insufficient due to the fact that 6,557 qualified voter signatures were required and the petition held only 1,640 valid signatures. The City Charter allowed the petitioner to then file a Supplemental Petition. The Supplemental Petition required 4,917 original valid signatures. A Supplemental Referendum Petition was filed on March 19, 2007. Ms. Moore further stated the Council has been given the Certification of the Supplemental Referendum Petition and the results show that the petition is insufficient due to the fact that it does not contain the number of required signatures. Staff recommends that Council, by Oral Resolution, accept the results of the Certification of the Supplemental Referendum Petition.

Councilman Williams made a motion to accept, by Oral Resolution, the certified results of a Supplemental Referendum Petition on Ordinance No. 69-2006, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 of the Code of the City of Abilene By Adopting A Comprehensive Revision of Chapter 10: Fire Protection and Prevention, Article III: Fire Protection Code, Division 2: SMOKING", as approved by Council on December 21, 2006. Councilman Spano seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Chase, Higgins, Spano, Williams, Councilwoman Davis, and Mayor Pro Tempore Moore.

NAYS: None

4.5 A&B. Billye Proctor-Shaw, Frontier *Texas!, Inc.* Board President presented to Council the 2003-2006 summary of accomplishments at Frontier *Texas!, Inc.*

Ms. Proctor-Shaw briefed the Council on the history and purpose of Frontier *Texas!*, noting the Mission of Frontier *Texas!* is "To enhance the cultural and educational welfare of the citizens of Abilene and the surrounding region." Ms. Proctor-Shaw then presented the following summary of accomplishments for the past three years:

- **Serving Cultural & Heritage Tourism for 3 Years:**
 - Served over 147,000 visitors from all 50 states and 81+ foreign countries
 - Hosted over 20 convention groups for "after hours" special events in 2006
 - Hosted over 120 total facility rentals (approximately 40 each year)
 - Abilene moves into the top 10 tourist destinations in the state for first time
 - Record increases in Abilene hotel revenue

- **Serving Our Educational Community for 3 Years:**
 - Served over 11,000 school students from all over Texas on educational tours
 - Served over 1,000 area school teachers for professional in-service training

- **Awards/Special Recognitions in 3 Years:**
 - American Institute of Architects, Merit Award for facility design
 - “Heroes of Tourism – Hot Host Award” voted by convention meeting planners
 - Addy Awards (Abilene Advertising Club Awards):
 - ✓ Century of Adventure Illustration, Gold Addy
 - ✓ Website Design, Silver Addy
 - ✓ Mixed Media Campaign, Gold Addy
 - ✓ Postcards, Gold Addy
 - Abilene Reporter News Readers Choice, Best Local Tourist Attraction (2 years)

- **Frontier Texas! Major Events in 3 Years:**
 - Spirit of the Frontier Festival – 3 years, serving over 7,000 people
 - Frontier Kids Summer Camp – 2 years
 - Black History Month “Heritage Talk”
 - Hispanic Heritage Month “Heritage Talk”
 - Mayor’s Round-Up for Fitness 5k Run – 2 years
 - Created and displayed four new exhibits in the Frontier Gallery in 2006:
 - ✓ Celebrating Women’s History: The Abilene Woman’s Club
 - ✓ Homeland Security: The Texas Forts Trail Then & Now
 - ✓ Vaqueros: The Spanish in Texas
 - ✓ Faith on the Frontier: Christmas and Other Early Traditions

- **National and Regional Media Recognition in 3 Years:**
 - New York Times “Go to Frontier Texas! to learn about the region’s history, exclamation point and all. It’s kind of like a little Disney World, only with Cowboys and Indians”
 - Texas Monthly “At this innovative museum in Abilene, technology and history come together to give visitors a one-of-a-kind experience”.
 - Texas Highways “with lights, cameras, action, and big-screen special effects...It’s a heart-pounding even emotional experience”.
 - Dallas Morning News; Fort Worth Star Telegram; The Shape of Texas-radio

Jeff Salmon, Executive Director of Frontier Texas! presented to Council the Financial Statements and Independent Auditors’ Report for September 30, 2006 and 2005.

Mr. Salmon noted the Independent Auditors’ Report states that in the auditor’s opinion the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Museum as of September 20, 2006 and 2005, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Mr. Salmon referenced the Statement of Cash Flows for Year Ended

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September 30, 2006 and 2005 and noted the statement reflects the fact that Frontier Texas! is planning for the future. Mr. Salmon further noted an increase in the Venue Tax revenue which is crucial in supporting the operations and marketing of Frontier Texas!.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) the basis for the decrease in the contributions and fundraising revenue, with staff noting a commitment to maximizing those dollars and using them as effectively as possible; 2) staff noting the importance of local contributors; 3) the benefit of good public relations and articles written about Abilene (i.e. recent Texas Co-Op magazine article), and; 4) a key strategy to the success of a community being to focus on “getting the story out”.

No Council action was required.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore stated at 11:30 a.m. Council will recess from Executive Session to attend the I-Can Luncheon at the Civic Center and at 1:30 p.m. Council will reconvene in Executive Session. The Mayor Pro Tempore further stated following Executive Session Council will then reconvene in the Council Chambers for Agenda Items 5.5, *Oral Resolution considering an appointment to the Housing Authority Board*, and 5.6, Budget Policy Statement Workshop for *discussion and possible action concerning the FY 07-08 Budget Policy Statement*.

Mayor Pro Tempore Moore then convened the Council into Executive Session pursuant to Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.087 of the Open Meetings Act, to seek the advice of the City Attorney with respect to pending and contemplated litigation, to consider the appointment and evaluation of public officers, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, and to discuss contemplated business prospects and or economic development matters.

Mayor Archibald arrived during the Executive Session.

Council recessed from the Executive Session at 11:30 a.m. to attend the I-Can Luncheon at the Civic Center. Councilman Williams left the Council meeting following the Executive Session at 11:30 a.m.

Following the I-Can Luncheon Mayor Archibald reconvened the Council in Executive Session at 1:30 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Archibald reconvened the Council from the Executive Session and reported no votes or action was taken in Executive Session.

5.5 No action was taken on an appointment to the Housing Authority Board.

BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT WORKSHOP

5.6 City Manager Larry Gilley briefed the Council on the FY 07-08 Budget Policy Statement.

Mr. Gilley stated the FY08 Budget process has begun with the budget kick off, at staff level, having been set. Mr. Gilley further stated that today's workshop is being held in order for staff to receive general direction from the Council on priority areas that need to be focused on as the proposed budget is developed.

Mr. Gilley referenced the three documents Council had been provided and would be reviewing: 1) 2007 Budget Policy Statement of the Abilene City Council; 2) Strategic Objectives of the City Council, and; 3) the Community Outreach Survey: 2006.

Mr. Gilley noted the following 2007 Budget Policy Statement reflects the direction as provided by Council last year and was based on the four strategic objectives that the City Council had previously adopted:

**2007 Budget Policy Statement
of the
Abilene City Council**

The following policy statement shall be used as a guide by the City Manager as he develops the proposed budget for the City of Abilene for the 2007 Fiscal Year. This policy statement is not intended to mandate any specific action by City staff; rather it is to serve to provide preliminary guidance from the City Council in the development of the proposed budget.

Strategic Objective: Comprehensive Plan

We want to fully implement the Comprehensive Plan to aid and encourage the growth of the city in a systematic manner for present and future generations.

- **Continue to support the Code Enforcement program and consider adding additional code enforcement officers.**
- **Provide funding for update of the Parks Master Plan.**
- **Evaluate continued funding for the Land Development Code.**
- **Evaluate cost/benefit of areas being considered for annexation.**
- **Provide Council with a status update of the Comprehensive Plan.**
- **Proceed with a development plan for the Fort Phantom Hill Lake area.**

Strategic Objective: City Management

We want to be inclusive and efficient in our stewardship of Council perspective, staff expertise, and capital resources to continuously improve the delivery of city services.

- **Continue the pay-for-performance program for non-civil service employees and appropriate salary increases for civil service employees.**
- **Evaluate the Individually Assigned Patrol Vehicle program for the Police Department.**
- **Provide funding to conduct a compensation study.**
- **Support programs that promote a more inclusive city government and continue funding for City University.**
- **Evaluate the cost of providing for bulky waste drop-off facility.**
- **Address self-insurance fund issues.**
- **Provide a status update of unfunded items from FY 2006 budget.**
- **Prioritize unfunded needs identified in the budget process.**
- **Evaluate the mission and strategic direction of the fire department.**

Strategic Objective: Water

We want to fully implement a water management plan that adequately provides water quantity and assures water quality for current and future needs.

- **Evaluate the appropriateness of current water rates.**
- **Implement coordinated water use policy.**
- **Continue to evaluate water resource issues:**
 - **Cedar Ridge reservoir**
 - **Expanded use of treated effluent**
 - **Distribution of treated effluent**
 - **Evaluate wetlands for advanced treatment and discharge of treated effluent into Lake Fort Phantom Hill**
- **Evaluate regional stormwater detention policies**

Strategic Objective: Economic Development

We want to focus our resources to create an environment conducive to expansion of existing business and the attraction of new business and capital investment.

- **Continue to fund Economic Development Department and strategic partners with 4a sales tax funds.**
- **Provide necessary resources to facilitate permitting and inspections for new businesses and expansion of existing businesses.**
- **Begin necessary procedures to privatize City-owned land around Lake Fort Phantom Hill.**
- **Determine Council's funding strategies for "quality of life" projects.**

Mr. Gilley further stated the following is the Strategic Objectives in their entirety as adopted by the Council a couple of years ago:

Strategic Objectives of the City Council

Strategic Objective: Comprehensive Plan

We want to fully implement the Comprehensive Plan to aid and encourage the growth of the city in a systematic manner for present and future generations.

- **Develop infill strategies through incentives and public services designed to provide long-term fiscal gain for the community.**
- **Develop a plan for Lake Fort Phantom that balances all interests of the community for the benefit of the region.**
- **Develop an annexation plan that is fiscally responsible, ensures quality development and is compatible with community desires.**
- **Complete the parks master plan and begin its implementation.**
- **Use the established planning process to identify Comprehensive Land Use Plan priorities for review and ratification.**
- **Use the Office of Neighborhood Services to support and develop neighborhood associations town wide.**
- **Promote and develop strategies that are compatible with the Comprehensive Land used plan that utilize our proximity to I-20.**

Strategic Objective: City Management

We want to be inclusive and efficient in our stewardship of Council perspective, staff expertise, and capital resources to continuously improve the delivery of city services.

Council Optimization

- **Develop a plan for better communication with the public through the possible use of: evening meetings, question and answer sessions, surveys and forums.**
- **Improve communications among Council members and between Council members and staff.**

Staff Effectiveness

- **Maximize staff efficiency by completing the organizational reviews focusing on: Managed Competition, Rightsizing, Structure and Revenue.**
- **Implement a process to review and monitor city reports and guiding documents such as the ACE, Wadley-Donovan, and Moskin reports.**
- **Develop a plan to make the City of Abilene the employer of choice.**
- **Promote and encourage employee development by creating a long-range plan to recruit, retain and reward employees, focusing on: training, technology, pay for performance, flexible scheduling and other benefits (health, daycare, etc.).**
- **Improve our cultural image and reputation by striving to help the customer accomplish his objective. Think outside the box to attempt to say “yes” to the citizen whenever possible.**

Capital Resources

- **Develop a long term Budget Plan by using a capital development process that allows the Council to plan 3-5 years in advance (CIP, and other financing tools and mechanisms).**

Strategic Objective: Water

We want to fully implement a water management plan that adequately provides water quantity and assures water quality for current and future needs.

- **Support regional efforts to develop future water supplies by developing and maintaining strong relations with other entities such as: West Central Texas Municipal Water**

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District, Brazos River Authority, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Corps of Engineers, cities and counties, Texas Legislature, and U.S. Congress.

- **Consider all potential resources in development of future water supplies, including treated effluent, creeks and detention facilities, scalping operations, and groundwater.**
- **Build and maintain water treatment and distribution facilities capable of meeting or exceeding federal and state water quality standards and capacity for present and future needs of the community.**
- **Include flood control and flood plain management when developing new or maintaining existing water resources.**
- **Consider recreational uses as a part of water resource planning.**

Strategic Objective: Economic Development

We want to focus our resources to create an environment conducive to expansion of existing business and the attraction of new business and capital investment.

- **Have the DCOA report to the City Council on the top priorities for Economic Development identified in the Wadley-Donovan Study action items.**
- **Create opportunities for the City Council to interact with other elected officials and interest groups, (e.g., Texas Midwest Community Network, Texas Municipal League Region #6, regional Workforce Board), on common Economic Development issues.**
- **Recognize that tourism is an important component of the economy and deserves our support.**
- **Discuss and analyze the most effective use of the ½ cent sales tax for Economic Development.**
- **Facilitate private (and possibly public) investment to put Abilene in the forefront of technology for our city and businesses; for example, development of a citywide WiFi network.**

Mr. Gilley also stated the Community Outreach Survey: 2006, which was just received this week in its final form, may provide Council guidance as they review the priorities of the community.

Council and staff's review and discussion of the Community Outreach Survey included: 1) the most characteristic general findings; 2) ratings of the importance of current issues; 3) access to city government findings (Council noted the need to address the communication strategy); 4) findings of the average likelihood of using e-government services, and; 5) priority community needs as listed by respondents.

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Council noted a preference to review the Strategic Objectives today but then allow for Council consideration time prior to decisions being made.

Council and staff's review and discussion of the Strategic Objectives included: 1) under the Comprehensive Plan objective, issues concerning the infill incentive funds, the development of an infill policy and how areas of the community could be designated, promoting and encouraging the neighborhood services, possibly providing sidewalks on a repay by residents program, to receive state funding Parks Master Plan must be updated and the Plan will identify dedicated park land, adding an item to explore what can be done, and collaborating with the Abilene Independent School District, concerning the use of abandoned campuses, and adding an item to clearly identify the city working closely with Dyess Air Force Base acknowledging their importance to the community; 2) under the City Management objective the four committees (Managed Competition, Rightsizing, Structure and Revenue) organizational reviews include privatization issues but not energy audit issues, adding an item to implement energy audit (and possibly include evaluating the city's entire operation), adding an item to discuss holding bond elections more often, providing a broader statement to address staff effectiveness (i.e. maximizing city/employees/facilities), the need to address self insurance fund issues and making Abilene the employer of choice; 3) under the Economic Development objective, adding neighboring counties and school districts to interact with City Council on common Economic Development issues, add DAFB waste of energy project, the potential for more neighborhood collection points for recycling and cost issues involved, it was noted that Hendrick Medical Center will now be a new recycling drop off point in place of the one lost, due to construction, at Hardin-Simmons University, currently evaluation of city efficiencies is done through business practices, evaluation and recommendation concerning the Fire Department's mission to be a priority following the appointment of a new Fire Chief, staff addressed Council's concerns related to the community's lack of understanding of the function of the Economic Development Department, and add an item to discuss and analyze the most effective use of the one half cent sales tax and communicate to the public it's appropriate use; 4) Council noted the adequacy of the current Water objective and stated that they are anticipating the reports (i.e. effluent). Council also requested that detention ponds be included in the policy statement.

Mr. Gilley stated the four Strategic Objectives remain consistent and are the framework to be used as a guide during the development of the FY08 proposed budget. Mr. Gilley further stated that he would develop a matrix for the Council that list all completed items addressing the objectives on an ongoing basis (tracking the progress of each item, and of each of the four committees, under the objectives). Council requested Mr. Gilley edit, and submit to them electronically, the current objectives to include items as noted by Council today and to also include any other strategic objectives, policy statements or issues that he would recommend to Council.

No Council action was required.

Mayor Archibald noted a ceremonial signing of water agreements, that will provide long term security for the City's water supply, between the City, the Brazos River Authority and the West Central Texas Municipal Water District will take place at the Texas Capitol in Austin, Texas at 9:30 a.m., April 18, 2007. The Mayor also noted that Founders Day, Texas Trash Off Day and the Mayor's 5K Walk/Run would be taking place in Abilene this weekend.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Jo Moore
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor

Laura Moore
Mayor Pro Tempore