

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSESSION
JULY 24, 2013, 8:30 a.m.**

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

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in a Special Meeting to conduct a budget work session at 8:30 a.m. on July 24, 2013 in the City Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Norm Archibald was present and presiding with Councilmen Shane Price, Joe Spano, Anthony Williams, Kyle McAlister, Robert O. Briley and Councilwoman Kellie Miller. Also present were City Manager Larry D. Gilley, Director of Finance Mindy Patterson, Assistant Director of Finance Mike Rains, City Attorney Dan Santee, City Secretary Danette Dunlap, and various other members of staff.

Mayor Archibald gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas was led by Nathalie O'Shaughnessy, Customer Service Rep with the Municipal Court. Nathalie became a United States citizen in June.

Mayor Archibald began the work session by looking at the CityLink – Abilene Transit System Fund. Mr. Gilley and Mrs. Patterson recapped the budget numbers for the Transit System. Council then heard from General Manager Ben Herr.

Council and Staff discussion on the Transit System included: 1) Federal Grants; 2) General Fund Contribution to the Transit Fund; 3) rates – have not been revised since 2007. Rates are being reviewed by Transit Staff; 4) Para-transit vans - service in the extended areas of the city. Serve the disabled. No federal guidelines outside of the required area; 5) average 350 riders per day can spike as high as 400 riders; 6) Drivers – don't have enough qualified CDL drivers; 7) overtime by drivers; 8) quality of life issue; 9) types of vehicles and fuel they use; 10) health insurance for employees; 11) rates of other transit company's in peer cities. In line with some of them and below others; and 12) continue to review rates and bring back to council.

Council and Staff discussion on Animal Services included: 1) Jon James, Director of Planning and Development Services briefed the council on some of the numbers referencing adoption of animals and the shifting of resources; 2) Increased traffic into the shelter; 3) traps – for high risk rabies animals and waiting list for traps; 4) no limit of dogs and cats in the city ordinance; and 5) receive around 60 to 80 animals a day – some animals are coming in from outside of the city.

Council and Staff discussion on Police Staffing included: 1) Chief of Police Stan Standridge briefed the council on the Police departments assessment of staffing; 2) 50 officers are eligible for retirement today; 3) it takes 20 months before new officers are on their own; 4) need 19 patrol officers, 2 detectives, 2 narcotic officers, 2 dispatchers (move from part-time to full time), 2 Customer Service Rep (Records), 1 Child Advocacy Center, 1 Crime Analyst, and 3 School Resource Officers; 5) Cost shared between School Districts and City for the School Resource Officers; 6) overtime for officers has increased; 7) Criminal Investigation Division (CID) detectives have on average a case

load of 40 to 50 cases; and 8) Officers work extra contract hours for several entities in town. Do not have enough officers to cover all extra contract hours that are requested by business in town.

Council and Staff discussion on Salary raises for city employees included: 1) recruitment and retention of employees; 2) outstanding staff for the city; 3) staying competitive on a locally level and with other cities; 4) 3% increase in wages; and 5) 3% increase in health insurance rates.

After a short break Council and Staff discussion on Water issues included: 1) Tommy O'Brien Director of Water Utilities briefed the council on the reuse options and water plant upgrades; 2) treated wastewater to be placed in Ft. Phantom Lake; 3) replacing membranes and filters at Hargesheimer Plant; 4) lake levels; 5) Certificates of Obligations 65 million and a second issuance of CO's in summer of 2014 for another 16 to 26 million for upgrades to Hargesheimer Plant, diversion of reuse water back to Kirby Lake; 6) increase in water rates to be effective in October of 2013 with 2 more incremental increase over the next 2 years; 7) have several large projects that are beginning for the upgrades on the dams of Kirby, Ft. Phantom and Abilene Lake; and 8) Ivie gained around 9 months to a years' worth of rain from the last rainfall last week.

Council and Staff discussion on TMRS Retirement included: 1) Ronnie Kidd Managing Director of Administration briefed the council on the city's retirement system; 2) no state or federal funds are included in the TMRS system; 3) all benefits are fully funded by employees and the city; 4) no plan for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in the budget; and 5) 696 retirees on TMRS today.

Council and Staff discussion on the Tax Rate included: 1) leave tax rate the same as last year; 2) approximately \$208,000 would be added to the General Fund due to increase in values; 3) bond election for road repairs; 4) council priority for use of the extra funds; and 5) added funds to be used for Police staffing.

Mayor Archibald made the motion to approve the first reading of the Ordinance for the Revised 2012-2013 Budget \$79,785,500. Councilman Williams seconded the motion, motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Price, Spano, Williams, Briley, McAlister, Councilwoman Miller and Mayor Archibald

NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING REVISED BUDGET FIGURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013; FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Archibald made the motion to approve the first reading of the Ordinance for the Proposed 2013-2014 Budget \$79,320,270. Councilman Spano seconded the motion, motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Price, Spano, Williams, Briley, McAlister and Councilwoman Miller and Mayor Archibald

NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2013, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Norm Archibald made the motion to approve levying an ad valorem tax for the City of Abilene at .6860. Councilman Price seconded the motion, motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Price, Spano, Williams, Briley, McAlister and Councilwoman Miller and Mayor Archibald

NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR 2013, LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, FOR THE YEAR 2013; PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION THEREOF; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A public hearing and final reading will be held on the Revised Budget 2012-2013 on August 8th.

Public hearings will be held on the Tax Rate on August 22nd, September 12th and the final hearing on September 23rd.

A public hearing and final reading will be held on the Budget 2013-2014 on September 23rd.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Danette Dunlap
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor