

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSESSION
JULY 29, 2014, 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 29, 2014 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, Jay Hardaway 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 and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

Mr. Tommy O. Brien Director of Water Utilities gave a brief overview of the proposed 2014-2015 water & sewer budget and the revised 2014-2015 water & sewer budget.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Cedar Ridge and the Corp 404 permit is in process. We will need to hire a 3rd party to conduct the environmental study; 2) West Texas Water Project and the evaluation of water for the tri-cities currently in the project; 3) water & sewer rates are being driven by debt from projects at the Hamby Wastewater treatment plant and the upgrades to the Hargesheimer Water Treatment Plant; 4) the balance between conservation of water and the need to sell water; and 5) Reuse water and the customers we serve.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Solid Waste Division – increase of residential and commercial rates. Proposing to add an additional residential and commercial route. Staff continues to review and look at curbside recycling; 2) Stormwater budget – review of other services; 3) Fleet Maintenance and Fleet Replacement Fund; 4) Fire Apparatus Fund – Chief Dozier briefed council that the NFPA requires replacement of equipment every 15 years; 5) Self-Insurance Fund – reviewed expenditures. COACH benefits are at breakeven and is a real benefit to employees; 6) retirees health insurance rate is paid for by the retirees; 7) Technology fund; 8) General Special Services Fund; 9) Personnel – salary increase and vacancies are budget driven; 10) bond committee will be going to work this week; 11) Deputy City Manager David Vela gave an update regarding the status of Ambler Ave and the need for some critical attention from Shelton Street to Kirkwood Street. We will see the project begin within the next 60 days.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) hearing from James Childers Director of Community Services who discussed his vision for the Parks Programs. Needing to engage more of the public and adult population is changing how we look at the programs we provide. Looking at creative ways to fund programs – example given was the City of Odessa and how they work with the non-profits.

Councilman Price made the motion to approve the first reading for the Revised Budget for FY 13-14. Councilman Williams seconded the motion, motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Price, Spano, Williams, Hardaway, McAlister, Councilwoman Miller and Mayor Archibald
NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING REVISED BUDGET FIGURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 20 13-2014; FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING

Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the first reading for the proposed Budget for FY-14-15. Councilman Hardaway seconded the motion, motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Price, Spano, Williams, Hardaway, McAlister, Councilwoman Miller and Mayor Archibald
NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2014, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING.

Councilman Spano made the motion to approve the first reading on levying an ad valorem tax for the City of Abilene at .6860. Maintenance and Operations (M&O) is set at .5215 and Interest and Sinking (I&S) is set at .1645. Councilwoman Miller seconded the motion, motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Price, Spano, Williams, Hardaway, McAlister, Councilwoman Miller and Mayor Archibald
NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR 2014, LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, FOR THE YEAR 2014; 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.

14th. A public hearing and final reading will be held on the Revised Budget 2013-2014 on August

Public hearings will be held on the Tax Rate on August 14th, August 28th and the final hearing on September 11th.

A public hearing and final reading will be held on the Budget 2014-2015 on September 11th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Danette Dunlap
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor