

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
February 3rd 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

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 Session on February 3rd 2015, at 2:00 pm in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Archibald was present and presiding with Councilmen Shane Price, Joe Spano, Anthony Williams, Jay Hardaway, Steve Savage and Kyle McAlister. Also present were Interim City Manager David A. Vela, City Secretary Danette Dunlap, City Attorney Dan Santee and various members of the City 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.

Mayor Archibald gave an overview of today's meeting and the 2nd workshop meeting to be held on February 5th.

Council and Staff discussion regarding the Street Improvements included: 1) Megan Santee Director of Public Works briefed the council on the street improvement projects; 2) there are a total of 68 street projects – the top 25 were discussed; 3) Public Works budget covers maintenance of roadways – road construction projects are funded through the CIP process and bond process; 4) discussed the South Downtown street project (SODA); 5) Industrial Street; 6) Judge Ely and previous work done in 2009; 7) Right-of-way issues and Railroad ROW's; and 8) Hardwick.

Council and Staff discussion regarding the Public Safety projects beginning with Fire Chief Ken Dozier included: 1) top priority would be – Maintenance building; 2) concerns regarding the possibility of consolidating Station 4 & 7 – Chief Dozier explained the layout of the stations and the function of these stations; 3) the ISO rating and how it affects the homeowners insurance. The ISO rating is based on review of Fire, Police and Communications; 4) Training facility – would have an extra bay to house a rescue engine that could be used in response to a fire at Lake Ft. Phantom; 5) have reviewed cost estimates and the difference in prices are based on locations etc.; 6) Chief of Police Stan Standridge briefed the council on the need for a Records Storage Facility; 7) staff has looked at various options regarding using current city owned property vs building a new storage facility; 8) square feet needed is an estimate based on past which would be approximately 17,000 sq. ft.; and 9) and the security needs of the Impound Facility where vehicles are stored for various reason.

Council and Staff discussion regarding the Zoo projects included: 1) James Childers Director of Community Services briefed the council on the request for improvements at the Zoo; and 2) there is a proposed match from a private donor who would complete the two behind the scenes projects of the Hospital and Maintenance Facility if the bond passes the city would complete several of the exhibit rehabs. Anteater, Flamingo, Fish Pier, Bird Rehab and Jaguar Facilities.

Council and Staff discussion regarding the Parks and Recreation projects included: 1) James Childers Director of Community Services briefed the council on the Recreation projects; 2) Cost of the proposed Recreation Center at \$9 million; 3) the various amenities that could be included in the Recreation Center; 4) would not compete against private fitness centers; 5) the 4 splash pads and their locations; and 6) what the purpose could be for the old recreation centers.

Mayor Archibald opened the public hearing and council heard from the following citizens:

- Myra Dean – spoke in favor of the projects
- Betty Hukill – spoke in favor of bond projects
- Denise Garcia – spoke in favor of bond projects

- Jack Wilson – served on the Bond Committee – spoke in favor of projects
- John Chalmers Jr. – spoke against the Cedar Creek Waterway
- Keith Garner – spoke in favor of the Zoo projects
- Gail Russey – spoke in favor of the bond projects
- Sara Core, DVM – spoke in favor of the Zoo projects
- Donna Albus – Need to invest in our community for Economic Development
- Charles Byrn – voiced concern about projects as it relates to street projects
- Louis Paulsen – spoke on a request to have his street repaired Pebblebeach
- Dale Boecker – pick and choose what are the best projects
- Carrie Casada – spoke in support of repairs that need to be done on the Library
- Bruce Kreitler – spoke about the streets
- Winston Ohlhausen – plan on things to wear out
- Britain Paulk – support new recreation center
- Randy Barnett – support of the Cedar Creek Waterway
- David Hendricks – CEO of the YMCA – support of projects
- Trish Dension – need to educate public and talked in support of projects
- Janet Batiste – Realtor – support the bond projects

Mayor Archibald closed the public hearing. Councilman McAlister had to leave during the meeting. Mayor announced that the next meeting on Feb. 5th the council would review the airport project and sidewalk projects.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Danette Dunlap, TRMC
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor