

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSESSION
JULY 21, 2015, 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 21, 2015 in the City Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Norm Archibald was present and presiding with Councilmen Shane Price, Bruce Kreidler, Anthony Williams, Kyle McAlister, Jay Hardaway and Steve Savage. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, 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.

Council was provided a list of unfunded initiatives for FY 2015-16.

Deputy Chief Larry Bell with Abilene Fire Department assisted with Assistant Chief Doug Wrenn with the Abilene Police Department began by briefing the council on the Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System. Currently the city uses Intergraph – vendor for the Public Safety Software System and I/Leads (Records Management System). The software is absolutely necessary to continue to provide effective public safety for our city. The current software system is outdated and relies on outdated and vulnerable platforms (operating system – Windows XP) which are no longer supported by Microsoft. Computer hardware is four years out of warranty and no longer supported by the manufacturer.

If the system is not upgraded – an outage in any part of the system will result in increased response times, data security compromised and poor communications resulting in confusion by responders.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) current system is 9 years old; possible data security issues with Windows XP; 2) servers would also be slated to be updated with the new system; and 3) various ways are being vetted to purchase the new system.

Chief of Police Stan Standridge briefed the council on crime statics meeting current and future demands for police service. The city is trending up in Part 1 Crimes which include Murder, Rape, Robbery, Agg Assault also in Part 2 Crimes which include Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, and calls for service.

Calls for service are on track to exceed 100,000 calls which also includes during the first 6 months there has been 291 calls for service when no units are available to be dispatched due to call volume for Priority 1 calls and 84 calls for service for Priority 2 calls.

Arrests over all are trending up and juvenile arrests are also trending up.

Plan of action:

- Recognize source of crime and explain increases
 - Operation Strong Safety
 - Full employment
 - Prosecution is unable to sustain this pace without additional personnel
- Continue to hire sworn and civilian in accordance with 2013 staffing plan (5-year migration plan)
- Consider reduction in services, including but not limited to:
 - No State report for crashes with no injuries
 - Require online reporting of Class C offenses
 - Require online reporting of BURG MV with less than \$500 loss
 - Establish Mental Health Unit to reduce crisis calls handled by Patrol Division
 - Adopt a juvenile curfew
 - Establish citizen advisory council to provide recommendations regarding police services

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) police staffing and a 5 year migration plan for staffing issues; 2) computer forensics specialist; 3) 3,400 crashes per year; 4) car burglaries avg. 120 a mth; and 5) juvenile curfew.

Council took a short break.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) CDBG and Home Funds; 2) Entitlement funds have been decreasing over the last couple of years; 3) Critical Limited Rehab program – for minor small repairs; 4) comparative City Admin % as compared to peer of cities; and 5) Indirect costs have been paid out of general fund money at different times.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) on the unfunded list – discussion on the GIS Aerial Orthophotography. Staff will look at this in next years budget need time to visit with Taylor County and the Central Appraisal District; 2) Radios – 3 different phases cost are not nailed down and look to be around 8 to 9 million. Speaking with vendors don't have hard figures, lots of options for funding; 3) TMRS COLA for retirees. 736 retirees in the city; 4) unfunded full time Medical Director vs part time medical director and the services that the director provides; 5) technologies available for citizens to be able to interact with the city by their iPhone etc.; 6) mobile payment/credit card readers are being changed out with the changes on current new credit cards; 7) unfunded list Patch Truck under Public Works – Michael Rice Interim Public Works Director explained the heated bed vs cold mix for fixing the pot holes; and 8) there are currently 21 vacancies in the Public Works Dept.

Council recessed for lunch at 11:26 and will return at 1:00 pm today.

Mayor Archibald called the meeting back to order at 1:00 and council began further discussion regarding the proposed budget.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) CityLink fuel pump – converting one of the diesel pumps to gasoline came in over budget. Funding for bus purchases come through grant matches and are included in the regular budget process. Last fee increase was in 2007 the last pay increase for

citylink employees occurred in 2014; 2) more money for road repairs. Street repairs. Sales tax. Possible street maintenance fee for repairs. Policy statement as a guide line for priorities of the council in regards to funds that might come available where they could be expended on; and 3) Hotel/Motel Fund – these funds are restricted by statue and DCOA 4A and 4B funds.

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

AYES: Councilmen Price, Kreitler, Williams, Hardaway, McAlister, Savage and Mayor Archibald

NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING REVISED BUDGET FIGURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 20 14-2015; FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING

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

AYES: Councilmen Price, Kreitler, Williams, Hardaway, McAlister ,and Mayor Archibald

NAYS: Councilman Savage

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2015, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, 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 on levying an ad valorem tax for the City of Abilene at .7140. Maintenance and Operations (M&O) is set at .5306 and Interest and Sinking (I&S) is set at .1834. Councilman Williams seconded the motion, motion carried.

AYES: Councilmen Price, Kreitler, Williams, Hardaway, McAlister, Savage and Mayor Archibald

NAYS: None

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR 2015, LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, FOR THE YEAR 2015; 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 2014-2015 on August 13th.

Public hearings will be held on the Tax Rate on August 13th, August 27th and the final hearing on September 10th.

A public hearing and final reading will be held on the Budget 2015-2016 on September 10th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Danette Dunlap
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor