

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
January 19th, 2016, 5:30 p.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 Called Meeting to hear an update of the 2015 Bond Projects and other Capital Projects. Mayor Norm Archibald was present and presiding with Councilmen Shane Price, Jay Hardaway, Steve Savage, Anthony Williams, and Bruce Kreitler. Councilmen Kyle McAlister was absent. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, Interim City Attorney Stanley Smith, City Secretary Danette Dunlap, and various other members of staff.

The Mayor led the pledge to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.

Wayne Lisenbee, Director of Capital Improvement Projects briefed the council on the Bond Projects.

Accomplishments

RFQs/RFPs Issued

Aquatics Center (Design & CMAR)
SODA (South downtown)
CBD (Central Business District)
Fire Stations (Design & CMAR)
Fire Maintenance Facility
Civic Center
Sidewalks

Projects Bid

Antilley Road

Contracts awarded

Aquatics Center Design

Public Involvement Strategy Developed

Bond Program Logo created
Annual Report written & printed

Larry Wright Engineer briefed the council on Proposition #1 Streets:

Streets

The bond program is funding 130 lane-miles of street improvements, prioritized according to current conditions and traffic.

The first projects are:

- ***West Lake Road*** from Ambler Avenue to Anson Avenue will be reconstructed with paved shoulders and culvert improvements.

- **Antilley Road** from Buffalo Gap Road to Clack Street will be repaved, with bicycle route signs installed.
- **Catclaw Drive** from Rebecca Lane to Curry Lane will be reconstructed.
- **Judge Ely Boulevard** will be repaved from East Highway 80 to East North 13th Street, and reconstructed from East North 13th to Ambler Avenue.



Where we are

- Design is complete for West Lake and is out for bid.
- Design is near complete for Catclaw and Judge Ely projects
- Bids have been received for Antilley and were under budget.

This year

- Construction of the first four projects will begin in the spring and is expected to be complete in the fall.
- Design of Central Business District and South of Downtown Area projects, as well as traffic signal improvements, will take place this year.

Down the road

- The Ambler Avenue project has been moved to year two to accommodate utility improvement projects under the roadway.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) Pedestrian bridge on schedule to cross Elm Creek at Clack Street.

Lesli Andrews Interim Director of Community Services, briefed the council on **Proposition #2 Civic Center**.

Civic Center

Renovations to the Abilene Civic Center Exhibit Hall

- Upgrade lighting
- Remove ceiling tiles
- Paint the ceiling black
- Stain the concrete floors
- Kitchen upgrade
- A service alley constructed

The Civic Center Auditorium

- Will be equipped with an automated fly system to move curtains. It will replace the current 50-ton counterweight fly system, which is nearly 45 years old and must be operated manually.

Where we are

- Selection of design-build services is underway for both the exhibit hall renovations and the auditorium fly system

This year

- Construction on both Civic Center projects is scheduled to begin in the summer and finish in the fall

Funding progress

Of the \$2.81 million in bond funds dedicated to Proposition 2, \$2.81 million have been sold.

100% sold

Council and staff discussion included: 1) sound system upgrade; and 2) fly system.

Dana Schoening Director of Planning & Development Services briefed the council on the **Proposition #3 Sidewalks.**

Sidewalks

Proposition 3 will fund 10-12 miles of sidewalks. Locations will be selected based on where people are most likely to travel by walking.

The first five sidewalk projects each include streets that were designated in Abilene's Safe Routes to School Plan:

- North 10th Street from Westwood Drive to Magnolia Street, near Lee Elementary School
- Westmoreland Street and Vogel Avenue, near Ortiz Elementary School and Mann Middle School
- South 32nd Street and Barrow Street, near Jackson Elementary and Madison Middle School
- Corsicana Avenue and Texas Avenue near Reagan Elementary School and Clark Middle School
- Richland Drive from North 18th Street to North 10th Street, near Lee Elementary School

Funding progress

Of the \$3.82 million in bond funds dedicated to Proposition 3, \$143,250 have been sold.

4% sold

Plus matching funds from outside organizations

Where we are

- The review process is underway to select the design firm.

This year

- Design is scheduled to begin in the spring, with construction to begin later in the year.

Down the road

- The full timeframe for the sidewalks project will be determined after design begins.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) ADA compliant; 2) safe routes to school; and 3) grants are available to apply for to assist in the safe routes to schools.

Weldon Wilkerson, Deputy Fire Chief briefed the council on **Proposition #4 Public Safety:**

Public Safety

Three New Fire Stations:

- No.3, No. 4 and No. 7
- Apparatus bays to accommodate larger modern apparatuses
- Designed for future growth

New Fire Maintenance Facility

- Multiple bays
- Specialized equipment
- Customized storage and office space

New Fire Training Center

- Provide more space for classes
- Additional office space

Funding progress

Of the \$12.9 million in bond funds dedicated to Proposition 4, \$6.6 million have been sold.

51% sold

Where we are

- CMAR RFPs for the Fire Stations are due this week.
- Design Build SOQs are due this week for the Fire Maintenance Facility.

This year

- Design of the fire maintenance facility is scheduled to begin in the spring, with construction in the summer. It is scheduled to open in the fall.
- Design of Fire Station no. 4 will begin in the spring, with construction in the fall.

Down the road

- The fire training center is expected in 2018, and all three fire stations by 2019.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) station #4 priority; 2) size of new stations; 3) training facility and engine room bay for reserve engine; and 4) ISO rating for insurance ratings based a large part on the locations of the stations.

Doug Wrenn Assistant Police Chief briefed the council also on **Proposition #4 Public Safety:**

Proposition 4 also funds a facility to meet the Police Department's records and evidence storage needs.

Where we are

- For the police records center, a feasibility study was conducted on an existing building for sale. A decision was made to forego the purchase of the building. Currently exploring other options.

This year

- Design of the police records center is scheduled to begin this summer, with construction in the fall. It is scheduled to open in the winter-spring timeframe.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) the use of the basement of the law enforcement center.

Lesli Andrews Interim Director of Community Services briefed the council on **Proposition #5**

Zoo:

Proposition 5 comprises five projects at the Abilene Zoological Gardens:

- New entry exhibit for African lesser flamingos, complete with a shaded gathering spot for visitors
- Expansion of the existing jaguar facility, including space for breeding this endangered species
- New bird rehabilitation center
- New giant anteater exhibit adjoining the maned wolf exhibit
- Renovations to the fishing pier, including covered guest seating available for rent

Where we are

- The design phase is underway for the flamingo exhibit

This year

- The flamingo exhibit is expected to begin construction in the spring and open in late summer.
- For the bird rehabilitation center and jaguar facility, design will begin in the spring and construction in the fall.

Down the Road

- The bird rehabilitation center and jaguar facility are scheduled to open in 2017; the anteater exhibit in 2018; and the fishing pier in 2019.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) the timing of the exhibits.

Lesli Andrews Interim Director of Community Services briefed the council on **Proposition #6 Aquatic Center:**

The new Rose Park Family Aquatic Center could include:

- A leisure pool with a zero-depth beach entry
- A lazy river
- Open and enclosed water slides
- Shade structures
- A new bathhouse and restrooms
- New concession area
- Expanded parking

Where we are

- Eikon was selected as the design firm.
- 2 proposals are being evaluated for the Construction Manager at Risk.

This year

- The design phase will extend from the spring through late fall.
- The Construction Manager at Risk delivery method will enable this project's design and construction phases to overlap and save time; construction is expected to begin in late summer.

Down the road

- The aquatic center is expected to open by Memorial Day 2017.

Funding progress

Of the \$1.03 million in bond funds dedicated to Proposition 5, \$645,000 have been sold.

63% sold

Plus \$1.2 million in private funding raised by the Zoo

Funding progress

Of the \$6 million in bond funds dedicated to Proposition 6, \$1.0 million have been sold.

17% sold

Council and staff discussion included: 1) CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk); and 2) Memorial Day opening is the goal.

Lesli Andrews Interim Director of Community Services briefed the council on **Proposition #7**
Splash Pads:

New splash pads will be constructed at four parks across Abilene:

- Scarborough Park
- Stevenson Park
- Sears Park
- Red Bud Park

Funding progress

Of the \$2.5 million in bond funds dedicated to Proposition 7, \$1.25 million have been sold.

50% sold

This year

- Design phase for Scarborough Park and Stevenson Park has begun.
- Construction beginning in early summer
- Expected to open in the fall

Down the road

- Splash pads at Sears Park and Red Bud Park are scheduled to open by summer 2018

Council and staff discussion included: 1) open from sun up to sun down.

Lesli Andrews Interim Director of Community Services briefed the council on **Proposition #8**
Trails:

This project will create nature trails along Cedar Creek and Lytle Creek from South 11th Street to North 10th Street. This is a public-private partnership between the City of Abilene and Cedar Creek Waterway Development Inc., a local nonprofit organization.

Funding progress

Of the \$1.49 million in bond funds dedicated to Proposition 8, \$1.49 million have been sold.

100% sold

Where we are

- The City is obtaining easements, purchasing property and securing agreements for the trail project.
- Several studies of select parcels are also underway.

This year

- The design and construction of the railroad trestle are scheduled to begin in 2016 for the trail segment under the Union Pacific Railroad

Down the road

- Cedar Creek Trail design is scheduled to take place in 2017 and construction in 2018.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) railroad trestle.

Don Green Director of Transportation briefed the council on **Proposition #9 Airport:**

Bond project will upgrade runways, taxiways and aircraft parking ramps at Abilene Regional Airport.

The \$4.2 million from the bond program makes up the 10 percent local match required for Federal Aviation administration (FAA) grants over three to five years. The match enables the airport to receive \$38 million in grants, making a total of \$42 million available for capital improvement projects.

Where we are

- The reconstruction of Runway 17R/35L, a \$19.6 million project, began in November 2015.

This year

- The runway reconstruction project is expected to continue through the summer.
- Work on the airport master plan update and security system improvements will begin in the summer.

Down the road

- A coal tar sealant project for the asphalt taxiways is planned for 2017.
- A ramp rehabilitation project on the northwest side of the airport is expected to begin in 2020 or 2021, using FAA grant funds carried over from 2018-20.
- Priorities may be adjusted depending on airfield needs and direction from the FAA.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) Security upgrades; 2) exceed FAA regulations with 2 fire trucks; and 3) need to update the master plan.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) different types of contracts whether they are the design, bid, build, CMAR (Contract Manager at Risk); 2) local firms encouraged to bid; and 3) Freese and Nichols Engineering.

Mayor Archibald opened a public comment period for those citizens that would like to speak.

- Cassie Hughes – spoke on the construction projects
- Caroline Kreitler – spoke on road maintenance and an interactive website
- Chad Carter – voiced a complaint about a prior 2006 bond project
- Winston Ohlhausen – spoke on streets
- Gary Pullen – size of bond projects and job creation/ local preference
- Doug Kirkpatrick – spoke against the CMAR process

Mayor closed the public comment period.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Danette Dunlap
City Secretary

Norm Archibald
Mayor