

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**January 31<sup>th</sup> 2017, 9:00 a.m.**

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS,**  
**ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY SOUTH BRANCH – MALL OF ABILENE**

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, met in a Special Called Workshop Meeting. Mayor Archibald was present and presiding with Councilmen Shane Price, Bruce Kreitler, Anthony Williams, Kyle McAlister and Steve Savage. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager Audria Hammond, and various other members of staff.

Councilman Price gave the invocation.

**Item 3.1:** Robert Hanna City Manager led the discussion regarding today's Budget Retreat and began with City Governance.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) policy governance is about accountability and achieving the ends identified by the City Council; 2) Means Policies for council; 3) council speaks with one voice; and 4) city charter.

Discussion regarding Council Rules of Procedures

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) suggestion of possible committee of Councilman Kreitler and Price to review and suggest rules of procedures; 2) roadmap for how council functions and streamline the procedures; and 3) rules of order.

Discussion regarding City Strategic Objectives and Goals

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Focus area; goals: 2) Eight strategic focuses – Effective Governance, Financial Discipline, Quality of Life, Reliable Infrastructure, Excellent Service, Economic Growth, Employer of Choice, Engaged Community; 3) Employer of Choice – workforce, retirement, insurance, pay structure, unique service, compensation; 4) Debt reduction and Financial Discipline – purchasing, allocation of funds, employee driven, service driven organization; 5) Destination of Choice and Economic Growth; 6) Goals – Business Friendly Environment, Technology Enabled, Effectiveness Driven; and 7) Infill Development.

FY 2018 Budget Priorities

Robert Hanna City Manager along with Nanci Liles Executive Director of the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau presented the following – Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds. Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds – what they can be used on and how they are currently being used; 2) Planning Fees and Development fees vs cost of doing business; 3) General Fund Overview – Fund balances for both General Fund and Utility Fund; 4) Property taxes and sales tax revenues; and 5) policy language for retiring Interest and Sinking debt to be more transparent during budget discussions.

Rodney Taylor Director of Water Utilities presented the following – Automated Water Meter Reading System. Council and Staff discussion included: 1) current setup – 40,000 water meters, 1900 existing meters are capable of conversion to automatic meter reading technology, 7 meter readers; 2) Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) allows for a direct uploading of the consumption and possibly other water use data from water meter; 3) Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology that allows digital information flow between the meter, the utility and the customer; 4) estimated cost and considerations; and 5) staff will review numbers and bring back during budget process.

Michael Rice Director of Public Works presented the following - Street and Alley Maintenance (Hot Shot) Crews. Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Additional Knuckleboom Crew – advantages increased response times, picks up heavy and bulky items safely; 2) cost of a new truck is \$185,000, annual operating costs for truck \$29,000 and labor costs \$76,000; 3) goal – improve solid waste brush & bulky service; 4) possible options – change brush and bulky service or add an additional Brush & Bulky Service crew; and 5) council was looking more toward changing up the brush and bulky service for better results.

Brenda Alexander Assistant Director of Administrative Services presented the following - Compensation Study Overview. Council and Staff discussion included: 1) hired a firm that is working on our classification and compensation study; 2) goals include recruitment and retention of staff, flexible structure to pay employee fairly; and 3) the survey data will help us understand our market position compared to others.

Michael Rice Director of Public Works presented the following - Street Maintenance. Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Needs include – dedicated revenue for major street maintenance, revenue that cannot be moved or transferred to fund other needs, target amount; 2) possible options include – Ad Valorem Tax (M&O) increase dedicated for streets, repeal portion of the 4A tax, then elect local option sales tax for street maintenance, street fee; 3) Street index study will come to council in March; and 4) possibly bringing the street fee to a vote of the voters in November.

Don Green Director of Transportation presented the following - Overview of the Fleet maintenance and management. Council and Staff discussion included: 1) responsible for purchase and management of City vehicles and motorized equipment; 2) additional funds for staff training and development are needed and vehicle/equipment purchasing process is being adjusted to better meet council needs; 3) Police and Solid Waste receive priority over other departments; 4) Fire has specialized maintenance requirements and is separate from other city vehicles; 5) discussed tools, training, software updates, etc.; and 6) solutions include – repurpose Abilene Fire Department maintenance facility to create a Police patrol and light vehicle shop, consider facility renovations in a future bond election, evaluate some services for out sourcing and increase training and specialization.

Lesli Andrews Director of Community Services presented the following - After School program Council and Staff discussion included: 1) after school program operates from 3 pm to 6 pm for ages 6 to 13, 230 enrolled with daily attendance of 185; 2) private agencies are available; 3) why eliminate this program? – private agencies can offer more services, staffing challenges, funding and provide new recreation and quality of life programs; 4) Option 1 – elimination of after school program - reduction in 3 part time staff positions and programs savings of \$57,000 and possible make Rose Gym a rental facility/league facility – reduction in 4 part time staff positions and program savings \$75,000. Staff

recommends infusing these dollars into programming and facilities; 5) Option 2 – place a charge on the after school program; and 6) organizations in the community that provide these services.

Dana Schoening Director of Planning and Development Services presented the following - Zoning portion of Land Development Code. Council and Staff discussion included; 1) 21 zoning districts, specialized districts College/University, Medical Use and Central Business District; 2) insignificant differences in uses between districts – review districts for combination to reduce total number of districts and explore the adoption of cumulative zoning strategies and greater support for conditional use zoning; 3) RS-8 zoning; 4) Neighborhood and General Office zoning; 5) Mixed use zoning; 6) planned development; and 7) landscaping issues.

Mindy Patterson Assistant City Manager presented the following - Healthcare Costs. Council and Staff discussion included; 1) Claims by year; 2) Steps to reduce accelerating costs the city took the following – employee cost share increased 40%, employer cost share increased 10%, changed from a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) to exclusive provider Organization (EPO), which covers in-network coverage only, went from three tier options to two tier options, eliminated the employee plus spouse tier and implemented pharmacy management controls; 3) have an RFP out for a benefits consultant; and 4) transfer \$1,000,000 from FY 2016 end of year funds to the Self Insurance Fund.

Larry Bell Fire Chief presented the following – Community Paramedic Program. Council and Staff discussion included; 1) Mobile Integrated Health – Inter-professional partnerships to support effective patient care in the community; 2) Community Paramedicine – EMT's and Paramedics operate in expanded roles in an effort to connect available resources to serious need patients; 3) Program would provide the use of available resources to provide an elevated level of EMS service to citizens; 4) Provide healthcare services directly to patients on location; 5) effective and efficient use of the EMS system; 6) lower costs for patients and healthcare facilities; 7) 10,515 of 15,826 of emergency calls are EMS (66%); and 8) Outcomes would be improved patient care, costs savings and a catalyst for further improved services.

Stan Standridge Chief of Police presented the following - Mental Health Officers. Council and Staff discussion included; 1) calls for welfare check in 2016 4,450 calls for service; 2) work with Betty Hardwick; 3) transport to various sites across the state; and 4) 2 person units.

Michael Rice Director of Public Works presented the following - Right-of-way Mowing. Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Stormwater mows 1,614 acres; 2) Parks mows 1,107 acres; 3) Goodwill mows 88 acres; 4) Utilities mows 57 acres; 5) TXDOT mows 12,539 acres in Taylor County; 6) TXDOT does not mow until June 1 to protect the migration of the monarch butterfly; and 7) controlled access on TXDOT intersections and commercial corridors are a major concern.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

  
Danette Dunlap, City Secretary

  
North Archibald, Mayor