

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

May 23rd 2017, 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 Workshop Meeting on May 23rd 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Pro-tem Shane Price was present and presiding with Councilmen Bruce Kreidler, Weldon Hurt, Kyle McAlister, Steve Savage, and Councilwoman Albus. Mayor Norm Archibald was absent. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, City Secretary Danette Dunlap, and various other members of staff.

Mayor Pro-tem Price gave the invocation.

Mayor Pro-tem Price led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

Item 3.1 Discussion of the Land Development Code.

Dana Schoening Director of Planning & Development Services briefed the city council on some of the items in the Land Development Code that staff was requesting direction from council on.

Discussion included: 1) Staff has been working to improve the engagement and relationship with stakeholders regarding improvement in efficiency and program responsiveness; 2) working on the review process to a more efficient process; 3) Development Review Committee; 4) certificate of mailing for zoning public notifications; 5) website to alert public to zoning applications; 6) putting together a subdivision plat & site plan review guide; 7) Board of Adjustment and the number of carport variances they receive; and 8) look at instituting staff discretion to approve minor variances.

Zoning Regulations discussion included: 1) Multi-family designation use in commercial zoning districts; 2) consider staff approved carport exceptions; and 3) Food Truck Ordinance proposed.

Site Development Regulations discussion included: 1) Sign ordinance; 2) sidewalk development; 3) landscape ordinance revisions; 4) infill development standards; and 5) design standards for Central Business District.

Long-term Planning discussion included: 1) Comprehensive Plan Update – last one 2004; and 2) Thoroughfare Plan Update needed.

Councilman Kyle McAlister left the meeting.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) Sidewalks and waivers. Safe routes to school. Leave up to developers in the developments; 2) landscape – drought resistance, xeriscape, 15% of non-vegetation look at increasing the percentage; 3) Infill development; 4) software – would help to track permits etc; 5) parking lots; 6) food truck court ordinance; and looking at adding a comment card for citizen feedback regarding zoning items.

Mayor Pro-tem Price opened public comment on the Land Development Code and council heard from the following:

- Bob Thomas – discussed the regulations of signs

The public comment period was closed.

3.2 Discussion: Discussion of the Convention Center – Capital Improvements.

Molly Moser, Abilene Convention Center Manager briefed the city council on the capital improvements that are needed for the Convention Center.

History of the Facility included: 1) main building was completed in 1970 at a cost of \$3,488,864, funded through General Obligation Bonds in 1967; and 2) Conference Center Addition was added on in 1990 at a cost of \$3,150,000 through Tax Increment Financing.

Some of the facility improvements in the last 15 years included: 1) Sound system replacement for the conference center; 2) roof replacement; 3) exhibit hall renovation; 4) motorized fly system; 5) restoration of main foyer and conference center Terrazzo floor and Staircases; 6) Emergency Lighting Upgrade; 7) Parking lot; 8) stage lift; and 9) update foyer elevator.

Facility Needs	Projected Costs
Auditorium	\$4,500,000
Foyer	\$2,600,000
Exhibit Hall & Kitchen	\$600,000
Conference Center, Kitchen, Service Alley, and Hallway	\$2,250,000
Upstairs Conference Room, All Meeting Rooms and VIP Suite	\$950,000
Equipment Needs	\$1,287,100
Exterior Needs	\$2,500,000
Additional Facility Needs	\$1,100,000 (does not include facility expansion)
Projected Total	\$15,787,100

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) 2015 Bond Program – projects were presented to the Bond Committee for review; 2) Projects have been apart of the Capital Improvements Program; 3)

sound system; 4) parking lot improvements; 5) Civic Abilene Inc; 6) Rates and fees; 7) immediate needs; and 8) important face to the community.

Mayor Pro-tem Price opened public comment on the facility needs of the Convention Center and council heard from the following:

- Jerry Smith – proper maintenance; ordinances and common sense
- Tim McClarty – Architect – was the one that has reviewed the Convention Center regarding the needs
- Winston Ohlhausen; - hard decisions, based upon needs
- Bob Thomas – prioritize maintenance
- Chad Carter – spoke on the Land Development Code and the street budget

The public comment period was closed.

Mayor Pro-tem Price opened up the conversation of naming the Convention Center, some suggestions were given were: 1) Former Mayor Ralph Hooks; 2) Judith Matthews; 3) Lyn Barnett for the Theater; 4) Former Mayor Gary McCaleb; and 5) Current Mayor Norm Archibald.

Council and staff discussion included: 1) selling of naming rights; and 2) Judith Matthews.

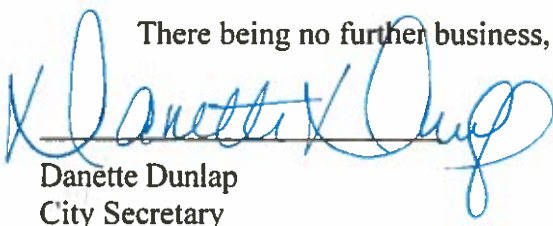
3.3 Public Comment:

Mayor Pro-tem Price opened public comment on the naming of the Convention Center and council heard from the following

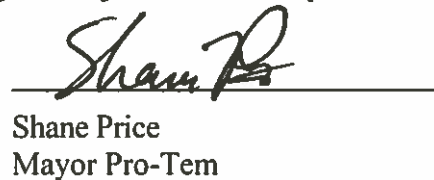
- Jerry Smith – Keep the name of the Abilene Convention Center
- Winston Ohlhausen – Abilene Convention Center – could honor with naming of the rooms
- Bob Thomas – Convention Center of Abilene

The public comment period was closed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



Danette Dunlap
City Secretary



Shane Price
Mayor Pro-Tem