

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

August 22nd, 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 on August 22nd 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Councilmen Shane Price, Bruce Kreidler, Weldon Hurt, Kyle McAlister, Steve Savage and Councilwoman Donna Albus. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, City Secretary Danette Dunlap, and various other members of staff.

Councilman Weldon Hurt gave the invocation.

Councilman Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

3.1 Presentation & Discussion: Sidewalks in the Land Development Code.

Dana Schoening Director of Planning and Development Services briefed the council on the issues dealing with sidewalks and how the Land Development Code addresses sidewalks.

Benefits of Sidewalks are: 1) health and public safety; 2) quality of life; 3) property asset; 4) reduce vehicular traffic congestion; and 5) assists with public transportation.

Administration Issues include: 1) waiver requests (36 since 2010); 2) deferral requests (30 since 2010); 3) sidewalks to nowhere comments; 4) perceived costs to construct sidewalks; and 5) locations.

Sidewalk requirements for new streets – no administration issues

Sidewalk requirements for existing streets include; 1) Exceptions appear to apply only to platted/subdivision of property not to site plans (rural road or road maintained by TxDOT where drainage ditches are present (not specific language in LDC pertaining to site plans); 2) Significant number of waiver requests (shall be rare is not the case); and 3) deferrals provided to address “sidewalks to nowhere” basis for waiver has been considered as “reasonable justifiable good cause” to defer.

Council and Staff discussion included: 1) deferrals; 2) waivers; 3) the process for waivers and deferrals; 4) locations of sidewalks; 5) crumbling sidewalks that have been in place for many years; 6) tie the next bond proposal for streets to include the sidewalks in the totals; 7) sidewalks in the ETJ; 8) how street lights are treated in new neighborhoods; 9) creek crossings in town; and 10) safe routes to schools.

No action taken by council.

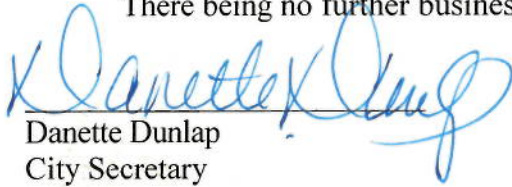
3.2 Public Comment:

Mayor Williams opened the public comment period and the council heard from the following citizens:

- Shelby Lawrence – spoke on spay and neuter ordinance request
- Linda Goolsbee – for sidewalks
- Debra Turner – for sidewalks
- Mary Kindrick – for sidewalks
- Mike Vandervoort – for sidewalks
- Al Houle – for sidewalks
- JoAnne Fluke – for sidewalks
- Jerry Smith – for and against sidewalks
- Mike Vandervoort – would like to see more conversations on sidewalks
- Robert Morris – spoke on animal issues
- David Swart – for sidewalks
- Caroline Kreitler – for sidewalks

There being no one else present and desiring to be heard the public hearing was closed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



Danette Dunlap
City Secretary



Anthony Williams
Mayor