

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

March 20, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas met in a Special Called Work Session Meeting on March 20, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Mayor Pro-tem Shane Price, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Steve Savage, and Councilmembers Bruce Kreidler, Donna Albus, and Weldon Hurt. Councilmember Kyle McAlister was absent. Also present were Assistant City Manager Mindy Patterson, City Attorney Stanley Smith, City Secretary Rosa Rios, and various members of the City staff.

Councilmember Albus delivered the invocation.

Mayor Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction/take action on the Homeless Needs Assessment Study

The item was presented by Police Chief Stan Standridge. Also presenting the results of the study conducted by the Institute for Social and Community Development, School of Social Work, Abilene Christian University was Dr. Tom Winter, Director. Staff sought the City Council's acceptance of the Study and its recommendations.

Results of the study were the following recommendations:

- Housing/Shelter for a minimum of 30 unaccompanied school age students, developed through coordination with Region 14 and AISD
- Coordination and a community plan to provide shelter for a minimum of 100 current adult homeless, with 50 beds for females
 - 30 of the 100 beds should target homeless with substance abuse/mental health issues (half females)
- Funding for mental health marshals and a comprehensive, formalized jail diversion program for those suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues
- Resource needs include technical assistance to address planning, programming, and evaluation of efforts (e.g., graduate student interns)

Mayor Pro-tem Price moved to approve the recommendations noted above. Councilmember Albus seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Price, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Savage, and Councilmembers Kreidler, Albus, and Hurt

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Councilmember McAlister

3.3 Public Comment

Mayor Williams opened the public comment period. The following addressed the city council:

- John Cooper – support and appreciation of the city’s approach to addressing homelessness
- Shelby Lark – hard workers at the Animal Shelter; need more funding
- Heather Melcher – Abilene ISD’s statistics with homeless youth
- Jenny Goode – services provided by the Betty Hardwick Center
- Jorita Hagins – invites everyone to go to places where the homeless are; will see what they go through
- Dave Dalzell – history of Housing First Model; will send information to councilmembers
- Joel Johnson – personal experiences with being homeless

With no other speakers coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the public comment period.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Rosa Rios, TRMC
City Secretary



Anthony Williams
Mayor

Minutes approved on: April 12, 2018