

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 23, 2020 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 Regular Session on July 23, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Mayor Pro-tem Weldon Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Donna Albus and Councilmembers Shane Price, Jack Rentz, Kyle McAlister and Travis Craver. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, City Secretary Shawna Atkinson, and various members of the City staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Williams recessed into Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. pursuant to the following of the Open Meetings Act, with the following issues discussed during this session, as listed on the agenda and authorized by the noted Texas Government Code Section:

- 15. A. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
 - 1. Governor's Executive Order COVID-19
 - 2. Claim of Discrimination – Rita Monterossa
 - 3. West Texas Water Partnership
- 15. B. 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property)
 - 1. T&P Freight Warehouse, 901 North 1st Street, Abilene
- 15. D. 551.074 (Personnel Matters)
 - 1. City Manager

The Executive Session ended at 5:06 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 5:30 p.m. as noted on the posted agenda. Mayor Williams reported no votes or action were taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Jack Rentz delivered the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and State of Texas Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of items 3-14. Item 8 was pulled from consideration. Item 14 was pulled for individual consideration.

Items pulled for individual consideration were as follows:

- David Swart, citizen – Item #14

Item #8 was pulled from consideration by staff prior to the meeting.

Councilmember McAlister moved to approve the Consent Agenda, now consisting of items 3-7 and 9-13. Councilmember Rentz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver
NAYS (0): None

- 3. Minutes: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on July 9, 2020

4. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Ordering a City of Abilene General Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the purpose of Electing Members to City Council Places 3, 4 and Mayor
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 130-2020]
5. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Authorizing a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Jones County for a General Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 131-2020]
6. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Authorizing a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with Taylor County for a General Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 132-2020]
7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action to Authorize a Revised Economic Development Agreement with Silverthorne Properties Regarding 1162 North 2nd
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 133-2020]
9. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Acknowledging Receipt and Review of the Abilene-Taylor County Events Venue District's Budget for Revised FY 2020 and Approved FY 2021
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 135-2020]
10. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Awarding a Bid to GT Distributors, Inc, for Police Level IIIA body armor pursuant to BuyBoard Contract 603-20
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 136-2020]
11. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on authorizing a contract with Parkson Corporation for the Purchase and Installation of two Replacement Drum Screen Units for the Hamby Water Reclamation Facility
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 137-2020]
12. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on awarding the bid to Bo Simon, Inc. for the Griffith Road Water Line Replacement.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 138-2020]
13. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Authorizing a Contract with Insituform Technologies, LLC for the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Clean and TV Project
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 139-2020]

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

14. Ordinance (First Reading) CUP-2020-04: Receive a Report and Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing on a request from AT&T, agent David Draper, for Conditional Use Permit to allow construction of a 75' tall monopole within General Retail (GR) zoning district located at 3309 N. 10th Street, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

The item was pulled by David Swart, citizen.

Having pulled the item, David Swart stated that he understands that the church is just trying to make money, but that he is against AT&T putting this tower up. They couldn't find a better location, and he doesn't think that 75 feet is tall enough, as their service is not good enough in this area. Stated his opposition to the item.

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

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember McAlister seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

NAYS (1): Councilmember Rentz

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSIDERATION

8. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on approving the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, FY 2020/2021 Action Plan, and proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds
[NOT CONSIDERED]

REGULAR AGENDA

15. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Approving an Extended Term Street Use License-TTY Holdings, LLC
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 129-2020]

This item was tabled at the July 9th meeting. Mayor Pro-tem Hurt moved to remove the item from the table. Councilmember Price seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

Michael Rice, Assistant City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve an extended term street use license with TTY Holdings, LLC, to use a portion of City right-of-way in front of the building addressed as 630 N 5th Street. The applicant will construct and maintain a permanent loading platform and an ADA service ramp.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- Tim Yandell – spoke on behalf of TTY Holdings. Stated their appreciation of Mr. Rice and all of the staff's help during this process.

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented. Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

16. **Presentation: Receive a Report and Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Provide Direction on Downtown On-Street Parking**

Michael Rice, Assistant City Manager, presented the item. This presentation was the final recommendations of the Mayor's Downtown Task Force, Downtown On-Street Parking Plan. The Task Force held a town hall meeting to get input from the community on functional on-street parking downtown, as well as increase the number of spaces. Mr. Rice presented the Task Force's proposals. Mr. Rice also introduced Yvonne Batts, Chair of the Mayor's Downtown Task Force, who stated the board's excitement for this project.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- David Swart – stated that this is a good idea, but would still like the City to consider something along the lines of a paid parking structure, that would go to free after the structure is paid off. He also questioned if there will be additional money needed to change the streets from two-way to one-way, and vice versa.. Mr. Swart also stated his disapproval of parallel parking as he feels it's a danger with oncoming traffic and possibly losing a door.

With no other speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to leave Pine Street at four lanes, but otherwise go with the Task Force's recommendations, and for Staff to begin preparation to bring this item to Council for an official vote.

This item was for presentation only. No votes or action were taken at this time.

17. **Presentation and Resolution: Receive a Report and Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing on the City of Abilene Municipal Solid Waste Cost of Service Analysis, and Proposed Future Rate Increases [ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 140-2020]**

Max Johnson, Assistant Director of Public Works, introduced Dave Yanke with New Gen whom presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve the Solid Waste Cost of Service Analysis and Proposed Future Rate Increases as presented.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. With no speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Craver seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

18. **Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a Council Policy Statement Regarding COVID-19 Reporting Requirements [ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 141-2020]**

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve the policy statement regarding COVID-19 reporting requirements. Annette Lerma, Director of the Health Department also spoke regarding the health side of the reporting.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- Cynthia Alvidrez- suggested staff look at the DSHS website and the format they use, as it is more user friendly. She would like to see a seven day average of positivity rate included, as that is what the Governor will use to determine if there needs to be another shutdown.
- David Swart- stated that there is a lot of discussion about the misreporting. He stated that the numbers reported are confusing, and gave an example of the trinity tests from 75 years ago, and how double checking numbers can save lives.

With no other speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Price seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

19. Ordinance (Final Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on an Ordinance amending Chapter 32 "Utilities", Article VI "Water Conservation Plan", of the Abilene Municipal Code by amending Section 32-141, Section 32-142, Section 32-143, and Section 32-145
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 28-2020]

Rodney Taylor, Director of Water Utilities, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve amending Chapter 32 "Utilities", Article VI "Water Conservation Plan", of the Abilene Municipal Code by amending Section 32-141, Section 32-142, Section 32-143, and Section 32-145 in response to elements missing from the current ordinance, identified by the TCEQ.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. With no speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro-tem Hurt moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Price seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

20. Resolution Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Appointing Members to Various Boards and Commissions per the City Charter
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 142-2020]

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- Cynthia Alvidrez – asked if the information regarding the TIRZ board was available on the city's website, she cannot locate it.

Mayor Williams addressed the citizen's concerns and stated that all the information in regards to the TIRZ board can be located on the website in the board's minutes.

With no other speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Craver moved to (re)appoint the following:

Board	Term End Date
<i>Betty Hardwick Center Board of Trustees</i>	
Priscilla Rayford [Reappointment]	August 2022
<i>Landmarks Commission</i>	
Josh Black [New] [Abilene Preservation League]	November 2023
<i>Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) Board</i>	
Charles Black [Reappointment]	August 2022
Sam Vinson [Reappointment]	August 2022
Petty Hunter [Reappointment]	August 2022
Stormy Higgins [Reappointment]	August 2022
Ben Grant [Reappointment]	August 2022

Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus seconded the motion; motion carried

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

21. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Modifying and Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster Issued June 25, 2020
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 114-2020]

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would modify and extend the Declaration of Local Disaster issued on June 25, 2020

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. With no speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Rentz seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (1): Mayor Pro-tem Hurt

22-25. Budget Ordinances

- 22. Consider on First Reading - Ordinance Approving Revised 2019-2020 Budget
- 23. Consider on First Reading - Proposed 2020-2021 Budget
- 24. Consider on First Reading - Ordinance Setting Tax Levy
- 25. Consider on First Reading - Ordinance adopting fees and charges for FY 2020-2021

These items were not considered due to the completion of the budget workshop on Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

No action was taken at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- David Swart – spoke about adding the Juneteenth holiday for City employees and asked if this would be optional for a city employee to take. Mr. Swart also spoke about his water bill and that he had zero usage but was still billed for water. He stated that there is no explanation on his bill and that they need to be specific on charges.
- Elda Salinas – stated to due to COVID everyone has experienced cut backs. She contacted the Taylor County Appraisal District to request a decrease in her property taxes, and they denied her request. She stated that they suggested she contact the City to request a decrease in the tax rate.
- Mary Ross – from Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas. Ms. Ross thanked everyone for success at the Convention Center in helping citizens looking for jobs. The City allowed them to have it at the Convention Center and AISD loaned them Chromebooks, and they helped over 100 citizens get jobs. They also had a second event, a virtual job fair, that was a success as well, and thanked the community for their generous support.
- Cynthia Alvidrez – stated that she came to the meeting to speak on the Budget Workshop items. Ms. Alvidrez stated that our appraisals have gone up and have increased revenues. She stated people are struggling and we should consider lowering to the 2017 tax rate. This will allow us to keep our budget and not burden citizens. Ms. Alvidrez also stated that she is requesting \$700,000 of the MIP funds available to be used towards upgrades at Arthur Sears Park and went over the various items she is asking for.

Mayor Williams addressed Ms. Alvidrez's comments and let her know the Budget Workshop was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, and was concluded that same day. The items on today's agenda were only if they did not get done before then, and he would not be opening the items back up for discussion.

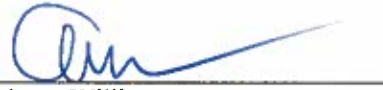
With no other speakers coming forward, the public comment period was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary



Anthony Williams
Mayor

Minutes approved on: August 13, 2020

