

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 24, 2020 at 4:00 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 September 24, 2020, at 4:00 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 4:00 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:

- 22. B. 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property)
 - 1. 200 Block of Walnut Street
- 22. D. 551.074 (Personnel Matters)
 - 1. Municipal Court Judge (also agenda item #23)
 - 2. City Attorney (also agenda item #24)
- 22. F. 551.087 (Business Prospects/Economic Development)
 - 1. DCOA Project ERG-9 (also agenda item #25)

The Executive Session ended at 5:25 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.

Mayor Pro-tem Weldon Hurt delivered the invocation and led 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 4-18. Item #7 was pulled for individual consideration.

Items pulled for individual consideration were as follows:

- David Swart, citizen – Item #7

Councilmember McAlister had a conflict of interest on Item 16 and abstained from voting on that item alone. The vote for Item 16 only was as follows:

AYES (6): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz and Craver
NAYS (0): None
ABSTAIN (1): McAlister

Mayor Pro-tem Hurt moved to approve the Consent Agenda, now consisting of items 4-6, 8-15 and 17-18. 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

4. Minutes: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on September 10, 2020
5. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Utilizing Cares Act Grant Funds for Abilene ISD's Distance Learning Initiative
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 185-2020]
6. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to Award a Contract to Collier Construction to Build the New Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station at Abilene Regional Airport
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 186-2020]
8. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to Approve a Contract with Informa Princeton, LLC for Air Service Development Consulting
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 188-2020]
9. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to award a Restaurant Operating Agreement to Jessie L. Scifres dba Abilene Pizza Company and The Flour Shop Bakery at Abilene Regional Airport
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 189-2020]
10. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Awarding Purchase of Two Stop Trucks from Rush Truck Center for Sewage Collection
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 190-2020]
11. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Awarding Purchase of One Backhoe Loader for Water Distribution
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 191-2020]
12. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Approval for a Change Order with Bontke Construction for Minter Park
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 192-2020]
13. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Water Department Street and Miscellaneous Repair Work 2019-2020 Change Order
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 193-2020]
14. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Awarding Annual Street Services Division Materials Bid #CB-2077
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 194-2020]
15. Ordinance (First Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action to Change the Time Limits and Metered Parking Zones for Downtown Parking
16. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-10: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Sharon Riley, agent H.C. Zachry, to amend existing Planned Development (PD) District Number 32 by removing from subparagraph (f) 1 and 2 stating "no other signs shall be allowed" from Lots 25-30 and allowing all signage allowed in General Retail (GR)

17. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-13: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Denise Dilliard Rister and Jerry Lynn Rister to rezone property from General Commercial (GC) to General Retail (GR) District
18. Ordinance (First Reading) CUP-2020-06: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Hit Ventures LLC, agent Cody Myers, for approval of Conditional Use Permit allowing light manufacturing and, in particular, coffee processing in a Heavy Commercial (HC) District

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to Approve Change Order 1 to the Contract with Collier Construction for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station [ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 187-2020]

The item was pulled by David Swart, citizen.

Having pulled the item, David Swart stated that this is a 28-year-old station, which leads him to believe that it was not built big enough the first time. Mr. Swart urged staff to ensure that this station is built big enough to accommodate bigger vehicles.

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

Don Green, Director of Transportation, responded to Mr. Swart's concerns stating that they have made significant changes to the design, and that the large bays will accommodate everything to FAA specifications.

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember McAlister 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

REGULAR AGENDA

19. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action to Approve an Agreement with Ceridian HCM, Inc. to provide a Human Capital Management (HCM) System [ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 195-2020]

Brenda Alexander, Director of Human Resources, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve an agreement with Ceridian HCM, Inc. to provide a Human Capital Management System, that consists of managing the entire life cycle of an employer's workforce.

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

- David Swart – questioned that since this system will be implemented in October 2021, which budget will the first payment come out of – fiscal year 2021 or 2022?

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

Robert Hanna, City Manager, responded to Mr. Swart's question stating that the one time cost would come out of FY 2021 and the monthly subscription will start in October 2021, which would be FY 2022.

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented. 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

20. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Modifying and Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster Issued August 27, 2020
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 196-2020]

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would modify and extend the Declaration of Local Disaster issued on August 27, 2020.

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

- David Swart – stated that the City and State government budgets will start over on October 1st, as well as any left over Cares Act benefits will expire at the same time. Mr. Swart stated he understands why we need to modify this declaration, but expressed his support for reopening everything.

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 (6): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver
NAYS (1): Mayor Pro-tem Hurt

21. Oral Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the Letter Sent to the Governor of Texas Regarding Support of Local Businesses and Local Control of COVID-19 Response
[ORAL RESOLUTION]

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve a letter sent to the Governor of Texas regarding support of local businesses and local control of COVID-19. This letter was supposed to be approved by the Committee only (Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt and Councilmember Price), but the Committee felt like the original language wasn't strong enough and wanted the rest of Council to weigh in. City Manager Hanna read the proposed letter.

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

- David Swart – stated that this is at the national level and all regions are not the same. Abilene is not Dallas, Houston or even Lubbock and we need to be able to handle our own situation.

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

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Hurt 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

23. Oral Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the Evaluation of the Municipal Court Judge
[ORAL RESOLUTION]

Earlier in the meeting, under Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) of the Open Meetings Act, the item was discussed during the Executive Session, which started at 4:00 p.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m. No votes or actions were taken at that time.

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

Councilmember McAlister moved to approve the evaluation and salary adjustment of the Municipal Court Judge. 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

24. Oral Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the Evaluation of the City Attorney
[ORAL RESOLUTION]

Earlier in the meeting, under Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) of the Open Meetings Act, the item was discussed during the Executive Session, which started at 4:00 p.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m. No votes or actions were taken at that time.

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

Councilmember Craver moved to approve the evaluation and salary adjustment of the City Attorney. Councilmember McAlister 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

25. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Project ERG-9
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 198-2020]

Earlier in the meeting, under Section 551.087 (Business Prospects/Economic Development) of the Open Meetings Act, the item was discussed during the Executive Session, which started at 4:00 p.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m. No votes or actions were taken at that time.

Misty Mayo, CEO of the Development Corporation of Abilene, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve an agreement with Petrosmith for Project ERG-9.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing and with no other speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

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

AYES (5): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt and Councilmembers Price, McAlister and Craver
NAYS (2): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmember Rentz

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- David Swart – spoke in regards to the group of local preachers petitioning to keep Police Chief Standridge. Mr. Swart is in support of selecting someone local for the position.
- Chuck Farina – stated he is in support of keeping Police Chief Standridge and presented a petition with over 2,000 signatures asking Council to reconsider his resignation and ask him to stay.
- Jeff Hatcher – spoke in support of keeping Police Chief Standridge.
- Terry Davis – questioned if anyone had outright asked Police Chief Standridge to stay in Abilene. Mr. Davis is in support of keeping Police Chief Standridge.
- Scott Beard – stated that he is a good friend of Chief Standridge and is urging Council to reconsider his resignation letter.
- Victoria Caren – stated that there was a survey taken within the Police Department and the morale there was low, and also that a lawsuit was brought against Police Chief Standridge. Ms. Caren stated the reason he resigned was because of a group of officers complained about his relationship with the Police Chaplain and he took the noble way out by resigning. Ms. Caren is against keeping Police Chief Standridge.
- Randy Roy – stated that we do not need a “metroplex-type” for our Chief of Police. Mr. Roy is in support of reconsidering Police Chief Standridge’s resignation.
- Harold Summerall – stated that he has spent his life in Abilene and Taylor County law enforcement and the employees at the Police Department are afraid of Chief Standridge. Mr. Summerall stated that keeping Chief Standridge would be a disservice and we need new blood.
- Anne Holder – stated that Police Chief Standridge has been the Chief of Police for 11 years and that she would like Council to ask him to stay.
- Ryan Goodwin – stated he is in support of keeping Police Chief Standridge.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.


Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary


Anthony Williams
Mayor

Minutes approved on: October 8, 2020

