

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 19, 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 November 19, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Jack Rentz and Councilmembers Weldon Hurt, Kyle McAlister and Travis Craver. Mayor Pro-tem Shane Price and Councilmember Donna Albus were absent. 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:

- 20. A. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
 - 1. Governors Executive Orders – COVID-19
 - 2. Extension of Disaster Declaration (Agenda Item #7)
- 20. B. 551.072 (Deliberations About Real Property)
 - 1. Extension of Disaster Declaration (Agenda Item #7)
- 20. F. 551.087 (Business Prospect/Economic Development)
 - 1. Abilene Convention Center Hotel Project

The Executive Session ended at 5:10 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 Kyle McAlister delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and State of Texas Flag.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Employee Service Awards
 - James Bradshaw – 25 Years – Public Works

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of items 4-16. Items #7 and #11 were pulled for individual consideration.

Items pulled for individual consideration were as follows:

- Councilmember Hurt and David Swart, citizen– Item #7
- David Swart, citizen – Item #11

Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Rentz moved to approve the Consent Agenda, now consisting of items 4-6, 8-10 and 12-16. Councilmember Hurt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (5): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Rentz, and Councilmembers Hurt, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Mayor Pro-tem Price and Councilmember Albus

4. Minutes: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on November 5, 2020
5. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to Approve the Contract with United Way of Abilene to Manage the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning (RCTP)
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 221-2020]
6. Resolution Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to Approve Individual Purchases from Various Vendors that may exceed an Aggregate Expenditure of \$50,000 for each Vendor in Fiscal Year 2021
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 222-2020]
8. Ordinance (First Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Operating Budget for the City of Abilene by Appropriating Funds from the Bureau Justice Assistance Grant to Add One (1) Civilian Position to the Abilene Fire Department Budget Ordinance
9. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-15: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Carriage Hills Development Corporation, agent Jacob & Martin LLC, to rezone property from Agricultural Open Space (AO) to a Residential Single-Family (RS-6) District on 52.88 acres of now-vacant land in the 7700-7800 blocks (east side) of Maple Street in far south Abilene
10. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-16: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Carriage Hills Development Corporation, agent Jacob & Martin LLC, to rezone property from Agricultural Open Space (AO) to a Planned Development (PD) District allowing residential townhome development having clusters of as few as two dwelling units, on 22.13 acres of now-vacant land located east from the 7700-7800 blocks of Maple Street and west from Kristie Path and Alex Way in the Sawgrass Addition
12. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-19: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Oldham Partners LP and Windmill Circle Partners LP, agent Tony Conder, to rezone approximately 3.8 acres in a General Retail (GR) District extending 300 feet north from the 900 block of Gateway Street, and approximately 4.3 acres in an adjacent Neighborhood Retail (NR) District extending 300 feet west from the 3600-3700 blocks of Oldham Lane, to a General Commercial (GC) District
13. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-20: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Albert Houle, agents Chris Barnett and Dale Scoggins, to rezone approximately 8.14 acres at 7602 thru 7734 Hwy. 83-84 and situated at or near the southwest corner of Waldrop Drive and U.S. Hwys. 83-84, from an Agricultural Open Space (AO) District to a General Commercial (GC) District
14. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-21: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Vinson Higginbotham, agent Jack Zanger of Triangle Engineering, to rezone approximately 4.04 acres on the 4900-5000 blocks (southwest side) of South Clack Street, from an Agricultural Open Space (AO) to a General Commercial (GC) District

15. Ordinance (First Reading) CUP-2020-08: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Oldham Partner LP and Windmill Circle Partners LP, agent Tony Conder, for approval of a Conditional Use Permit allowing retail sales and rental of trucks and other large vehicles and equipment on 24.371 acres in a General Commercial (GC) District at 750 Gateway Street and the 3600-3700 blocks (east side) of Loop 322
16. Ordinance (First Reading) OAM-2020-02: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending the Land Development Code, Chapter 2, "Zoning Regulations," Article 3, "Zoning Districts," Division 3, TABLE 2-4: Site Layout and Building Requirements for Nonresidential Zoning Districts," and Article 4, "Use Regulations," Division 3, "Requirements Applicable to Specific Land Uses," Section 2.4.3.3, "All Other Uses with Specific Requirements," to clarify Multiple Family Dwellings by Conditional Use Permit in Certain Non-Residential Districts

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Modifying and Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster Issued October 22, 2020
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 223-2020]

The item was pulled by Councilmember Hurt and David Swart, citizen.

Having pulled the item, David Swart stated that he understands that we have to keep approving this in order to receive funds, and thanked the Mayor for not having our officers issue citations for not wearing a mask. There are people who want to shut down the country, but he does not believe that is the answer.

Each Councilmember expressed their opinions and concerns in regards to this item.

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would modify and extend the Declaration of Local Disaster issued on October 22, 2020.

Annette Lerma, Health Director, gave a short presentation on the current COVID-19 numbers for Taylor County, and tips for staying safe during the upcoming holidays.

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

- Samuel Garcia – stated that everything the experts have been telling us will happen, has happened, and that everyone needs to start wearing a mask. Mr. Garcia went to the Farmer's Market recently and stated vendors were not wearing their masks there.

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

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

AYES (4): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (1): Councilmember Hurt

ABSENT (2): Mayor Pro-tem Price and Councilmember Albus

11. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-17: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from QT South LLC, agent Lauren Montgomery, to change the terms of Planned Development (PD) District Number PD 116 located on southeast corner of Old Anson Road and Interstate Highway 20 in northwest Abilene, specifically regarding the height and area of signs allowed there. Legal description being Lot 1 in Block 1 of the subdivision known as QT South LLC

The item was pulled by David Swart, citizen.

Having pulled the item, David Swart stated that he thinks they are just making an adjustment on their signage. Walmart requested a 75ft sign recently and he thinks this is similar. Mr. Swart is in favor of this since it will benefit them to have a taller sign, which will then benefit the community with more sales tax.

Mike Warrix, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would amend the PD ordinance to allow a free standing pole sign as tall as 100-feet, and as large as 700 square feet, at the above noted location.

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

- Mike Talca, with QT – stated that this is really about visibility from the eastbound traffic. The trees block the visibility from that side and they want to make it easier to see so people don't have to turn around. Mr. Talca stated that they came to a compromise with Planning and Zoning in regards to the dimensions of the sign.

With no other 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 (5): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Rentz, and Councilmembers Hurt, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Mayor Pro-tem Price and Councilmember Albus

REGULAR AGENDA

17. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Authorizing the Renewal of the Water Supply Contract with the Hawley Water Supply Corporation
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 224-2020]

Rodney Taylor, Director of Water Utilities, presented the item. Adoption of the item would authorize the renewal of the water supply contract with the Hawley Water Supply Corporation for a period of 40 years.

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

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

AYES (5): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Rentz, and Councilmembers Hurt, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Mayor Pro-tem Price and Councilmember Albus

18. 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. 225-2020]

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

- Samuel Garcia – stated that he has questions on the board appointment process. Mr. Garcia stated there is a position on the Development Corporation of Abilene board that will be expiring this month, and asked what the policy was to fill those positions, along with a timeline for filling them.

Mayor Williams addressed Samuel Garcia questions and stated that when some terms expire, members will stay until the position is filled.

Councilmember McAlister moved to (re)appoint the following:

Board	Term End Date
<i>Airport Development Board</i>	
Joe Crowder [Reappointment]	November 2023
Gray Bridwell [Reappointment]	November 2023
<i>Board of Building Standards</i>	
Gary Webb [Reappointment]	November 2022
<i>Citizens Advisory Board for People with Disabilities</i>	
Michelle Daniels [New]	October 2022

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

AYES (5): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Rentz, and Councilmembers Hurt, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Mayor Pro-tem Price and Councilmember Albus

19. Discussion: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Provide Direction on Recommended Budget Cuts FY 2021

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. He presented Council with several options for budget cuts for FY 2021, including 2-1-1 A Call for Help, the Adaptive Recreation program, the dental program, senior transportation, and closing the Mockingbird Library branch (which he did not recommend). Mr. Hanna also presented a few revenue enhancements, including charging \$2.50 for senior meals, and charging a \$20 per player, per season facility use charge for ball teams. He recommended reallocating money from the Convention Center Capital Improvement fund to the General Fund, and some 9-1-1 fees to the General Fund. Mr. Hanna also stated that there are a few unfilled vacant positions in the City that he will not be filling.

Mayor Williams would like the Parks Board to weigh in on the closing the Adaptive Recreation program and the Senior Transportation. Councilmembers discussed their concerns regarding these cuts.

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

- David Swart – stated that a lot of citizens do not know where to start and if you eliminate 2-1-1, they won't be able to help them. He also stated that he went to the Mockingbird Library without realizing it was closed, as the internet showed it to be open. Mr. Swart questioned if the hotel project was on pause because of these cuts, and his thoughts on event cancellations in the area.
- Samuel Garcia – stated his concerns about cutting the dental program. He thinks that in the middle of a pandemic, cutting a health program is not a good idea. Mr. Garcia stated if we are putting the hotel on hold, why not use those funds to keep the dental program.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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


- David Swart – stated AEP finally repaired the lights under the Mockingbird underpass, and that the new fixtures look great. He expressed his thanks to whoever got that done. Mr. Swart stated Dr. Fauci wants everyone to do Zoom meetings for Thanksgiving and stated we shouldn't let fear stop us from gathering on holidays.
- Samuel Garcia – stated that the Development Corporation of Abilene's bylaw changes were passed at their last board meeting and will now go to Council for approval. Mr. Garcia stated that they have gone from four to nine employees recently. The last CEO made \$174,000 annually and the new one makes \$194,000 annually, plus benefits. The DCOA is spending money when the Council is talking about making cuts to the budget, and he thinks that when the CEO of the DCOA makes more than the Chief of Police, there is a problem.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary


Anthony Williams
Mayor

Minutes approved on: December 3, 2020

