

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 25, 2021 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 February 25, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Mayor Pro-tem Shane Price, Deputy Mayor Jack Rentz and Councilmembers Donna Albus, Weldon Hurt, Kyle McAllister 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:

11. A. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
1. Officer Patrick Sumrall & City of Abilene, Case No 01-18-000-8653
2. Rosie Tonche v City of Abilene, Cause No 50955-A
11. D. 551.074 (Personnel Matters)
 1. Personnel Matters – City Manager
 2. Boards & Commissions – Frontier Texas!
11. F. 551.087 (Business Prospect/Economic Development)
 1. Abilene Convention Center Hotel Project

The Executive Session ended at 5:12 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 Travis Craver delivered the invocation.

Jettson Gazaille, Kindergarten, Kipplyn Gazaille, 4th Grade, and Griffin Gazaille, 5th Grade, from Allie Ward Elementary 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 4-8. No items were pulled for individual consideration.

Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Rentz moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Albus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Pro-tem Price had a conflict of interest on Item 5 and abstained from voting on this item alone. The vote for Item 5 only was as follows:

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

Councilmember Craver had a conflict of interest on Items 7 and 8, and abstained from voting on those items alone. The vote for Items 7 and 8 only was as follows:

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

4. Minutes: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on February 11, 2021

5. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2021-03: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Abi Harvest, LLC to rezone property from Agricultural Open Space (AO) to a mixture of both General Commercial (GC) and Residential Single Family (RS-6) District and located on approximately 172.98 acres near the northwest corner of FM 707 & FM 89

6. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2021-04: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Kickapoo Land Company and SKLM Properties, LP to rezone property from Agricultural Open Space (AO) to General Commercial (GC) and located on approximately 82.3 acres near the northwest corner of FM 707 & FM 89

7. Ordinance (First Reading) TC-2021-05: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Hardin-Simmons University to rezone property from Residential Single Family (RS-6) District to General Retail (GR) and located on approximately 1,203 acres at the 1500 and 1600 blocks (north side) of Ambler Avenue in north Abilene

8. Ordinance (First Reading) TC-2021-03: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Hardin-Simmons University to abandon an approximately 60-foot-width of public right-of-way available for Beech Street wedged between the westernmost boundary of Block C in Darby of North Park Subdivision and the easternmost boundary of Block B in Darby of North Park Subdivision. Extending approximately 150-feet north from northernmost right-of-way boundary for Ambler Avenue. Additionally the request is to abandon the 20-foot-wide alley north of lots 5 & 6 of Block C in Darby of North Park Subdivision extending approximately 98-feet from the easternmost right-of-way boundary of Beech Street in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Awarding Bid No. 2124 to Bonke Brothers, Inc. on Griffith Road Improvements Project [ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 24-2021]

Greg McCaffery, Director of Public Works, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve a contract with Bonke Brothers for the reconstruction and widening of Griffith Road from EN 10th Street through the intersection of Marathon Road, including a concrete channel and other miscellaneous drainage improvements.

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

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

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

10.

Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the Winter Weather State of Emergency Declared by the Mayor
[NOT CONSIDERED]

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Mayor Williams signed a declaration of a state of emergency and per the City Charter, he is allowed to authorize the use of 10% of the emergency funds in the budget. City Staff is working with contractors on this and once they have a dollar amount, it will be brought to Council for approval. City Staff will also bring forward options on a self-generation system for the water plants in time for the July Budget Workshops. There will be a Council Retreat on March 22nd to discuss this further. An option for rewarding City employees who worked tirelessly the past week will also be brought forth to Council at the next meeting, as well as some type of a credit for customers on their water bills.

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

- David Swart – stated that he is a National Weather Association Chapter member and that he is working on getting broadband in the rural area to notify people of emergencies like this. Mr. Swart didn't realize that wireless networks are considered broadband and you can still receive emergency alerts and text messages. Mr. Swart gave the public background on public alert messages and how to receive them.
- Rosten Callarman - gave recognition to several employees for outstanding work and stated that much of the community recognizes City Manager Hanna for the work he has done as well.

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

Council determined that no action was needed at this time. City Staff will bring any related items back to Council for approval at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- David Swart – stated that next week starts the severe weather awareness week in Texas. Mr. Swart encouraged the public to purchase weather radios.
- Rosten Callarman – gave information about the Interested Citizens of Abilene North (ICAN) organization. Mr. Callarman informed the Council that this group is working to build a relationship with the Chamber of Commerce.

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



Minutes approved on: March 11, 2021

Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Anthony Williams
Mayor

Shawna Pica
Mayor Pro Tem