

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 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 March 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 Pro-tem Jack Rentz and Councilmembers Donna Albus, Weldon Hurt, and Travis Craver. Councilmember Kyle McAlister was not present. 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:

- 8. A. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
 - 1. Robert Steven Reitz v. City of Abilene, Case No 1:16-cv-00181-BL
 - 2. Rosie Tonche v City of Abilene, Cause No 50955-A
 - 3. Frontier Texas! Discussion of Bylaws
- 8. D. 551.074 (Personnel Matters)
 - 1. Personnel Matters – City Manager
- 11. F. 551.087 (Business Prospect/Economic Development)
 - 1. Abilene Convention Center Hotel Project

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 Anthony Williams delivered the invocation.

Ava Lucio, 2nd grader at Bassetti Elementary, and Lucy Craig, 2nd grader at Taylor Elementary, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and State of Texas Flag.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Proclamation:
 - World Down Syndrome Day, accepted by Ethan Etter, Hope Martin and members of the Upside Down Club

REGULAR AGENDA

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

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

Councilmember Hurt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Albus seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Councilmember McAlister

5. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the purchase of six Front Loaders from Chastang Autocar for Solid Waste
[RESOLUTION 35-2021]

Tim Cass, Assistant Director of Fleet Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve the purchase of six front loader refuse trucks for solid waste, to replace existing unites that meet the criteria established in the Fleet Replacement Policy.

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

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

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Councilmember McAlister

6. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Award of a Contract for Emergency Street Repairs Related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event
[RESOLUTION 36-2021]

Greg McCaffery, Director of Public Works, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve a contract with Bontke Brothers Construction for the repairs of excessive damages to various roadway segments throughout the City, as a result of the sub-zero freeze during the winter storm event.

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

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Councilmember McAlister

7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Awarding a Contract for Emergency Water Main Leak Repairs Related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event
[RESOLUTION 37-2021]

Rodney Taylor, Director of Water Utilities, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve a contract with Starks Construction to repair water main breaks throughout the City, as a result of the sub-zero freeze during the winter storm event.

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

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

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

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Councilmember McAlister

9. **Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending, Restating, and Approving the City of Abilene City Manager Employment Agreement [RESOLUTION 38-2021]**

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would amend, restate and approve the City Manager's employment agreement.

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

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

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

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Councilmember McAlister

10. **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. 39-2021]**

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

- Della Beasley, president of the Keep Abilene Beautiful Board – stated her support of the newest member of the Keep Abilene Beautiful Board, Crystal Saling. Crystal attended the last meeting and was very involved, so they are eager to have her on the board.
- Toby Poppla – wanted to thank the Council for accepting Crystal Saling on the Keep Abilene Beautiful board.

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

Councilmember Albus moved to (re)appoint the following:

Board	Term End Date
Keep Abilene Beautiful	
Crystal Saling [New]	September 2024
Street Maintenance Advisory & Appeals Board	
Wayne Lanham [Reappointment]	March 2023

Mayor Pro-tem Price seconded the motion; motion carried

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

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Councilmember McAlister

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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


- David Swart – stated the Council workshop on Monday was very informative, and it was a shame that no other citizen attended. Mr. Swart stated that Rodney Taylor, Director of Water Utilities, and his staff couldn't have done a better job during the winter storm. Mr. Swart is in support of Fire Chief Flores's request for 12 additional firefighters, and that the Senior Centers will open on Monday following Easter.
- Della Beasley – stated that the Keep Abilene Beautiful board would like to be involved with assisting the trash concerns in the proposed Entertainment District. Ms. Beasley and Tobi Poopla both requested advertisement for their Spring Clean and Music Services occurring every Saturday in April.
- Sam Hatton – stated that he raised serious concerns two weeks ago about how the DCOA is spending tax dollars. Mr. Hatton stated that DCOA employees are posted on the City's website and paid by the city, but he would like a clear answer on who employees the DCOA workers. He has a petition to get a ruling on this matter. Mr. Hatton stated when he asked the City Manager these questions the communication ended, and that it is infuriating to use money for the DCOA's unnecessary items, but not use that money to fix roads.
- Samuel Garcia – stated he would like to know the status of the downtown hotel project, and that instead of talking about another street bond election, the DCOA has over \$30 million in the bank that could be used for commercial streets that we should look into using first. The DCOA is considering giving \$27 million to a large business from outside of Abilene, and that the DCOA staff wastes money so we should at least let the citizens to vote on how they want to use that money.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.


Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary


Anthony Williams
Mayor

Minutes approved on: April 8, 2021

