

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 8, 2021 at 8:30 a.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 April 8, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding, along with Mayor Pro-tem Shane Price, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Jack Rentz, and Councilmembers Donna Albus, Weldon Hurt, Kyle McAlister, and Travis Craver. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, and City Secretary Shawna Atkinson.

Councilmember Donna Albus delivered the invocation.

From Bassetti Elementary, Tye Kohler, 5<sup>th</sup> Grader, and Emelynn Kohler, 1<sup>st</sup> Grader, 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
  - Rodney Abila – 20 Years – Public Works

#### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of items 3-8. Item 5 was pulled for individual consideration.

Item pulled for individual consideration were as follows:

- Councilmember McAlister– Item #5

Councilmember Albus moved to approve the consent agenda, now consisting of items 3, 4 & 6-8. Councilmember Hurt seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

NAYS (0): None

3. Minutes: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Special Retreat Agenda on March 22, 2021, and the Regular Meeting Held on March 25, 2021
4. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Modifying and Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster (COVID-19) Issued March 11, 2021  
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 40-2021]
6. Resolution: Receive a report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to Approve a Master Contract with Kutchins & Groh for Consulting Work for Abilene Regional Airport  
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 42-2021]
7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action to Approve Task Order I with Kutchins & Groh  
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 43-2021]

8. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action to approve Task Order 2 with Kutchins & Groh  
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 44-2021]

**ITEM PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

5. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Awarding a \$75,000 Grant Match for Public Art  
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 41-2021]

*The item was pulled by Councilmember McAlister.*

Having pulled the item, Councilmember McAlister asked for clarification on where the \$200,000 was coming from.

Robert Hanna, City Manager addressed the Council and stated that \$75,000 was coming from TIRZ funds and the remaining amount is coming from private citizens. The General Fund budget will not be used for this project.

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 Albus seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

NAYS (0): None

**REGULAR AGENDA**

9. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action to Approve the Airport Master Plan  
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 45-2021]

Don Green, Director of Transportation, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve the Airport Master Plan.

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 McAlister seconded the motion; motion failed.

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

NAYS (0): None

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- David Swart – stated he attended the DCOA virtual meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and can see why some people complain about the DCOA, as they do not follow the rules of procedure in their meetings. Mr. Swart stated there was a vote and then immediately went to a presentation, then two more people joined the meeting and then they went back and let them vote. Mr. Swart thinks they need to go back to in person meetings, as all other city boards are back to normal. Mr. Swart also stated that there were media reports that the Code Red system was incorrectly calling wireless phones.
- Rosten Callerman – stated that he was encouraged by the Council retreat and the infill development talk. He thinks infill development is the most responsible policy, as it takes care of resources we already have and will developed and maximize neighborhoods. If it is not done carefully it can easily lead to gentrification and push out legacy neighbors. Mr. Callerman stated that we need gentrification without displacement, and that the city needs to work with organizations that are already working in these neighborhoods to continue to develop better housing opportunities for legacy neighbors.
- Samuel Garcia – stated that he agrees that the DCOA does not run their meetings in the correct way. He submitted an open records request for a copy of their March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting and it has been eight days and he hasn't received it. He thinks that open records request are supposed to be done as quickly as possible, but the city tends to take the full ten days, and that the City does a poor job of providing information. Mr. Garcia stated that it has been two years since the hotel was approved, and the average Abilenian has no idea what is going on with it, and they deserve to know what is happening. Mr. Garcia asked if this still based on the feasibility study done over three years ago, where are the private investments, is the funding still the same, and if the LGC is still in charge.
- Jack Rich – stated his appreciation the comments about the DCOA and that he is open to learning and growing. He is hoping to get back to in person meetings soon, but there are health concerns they are dealing with and that takes precedence. Mr. Rich stated there is mischaracterizations made about the DCOA and he is happy to provide additional answers to any questions someone might have. They are trying to grow the economy and any citizen can make comments that misrepresent the facts and that hurts the community's ability to grow. He stated that it hurts the costs in direct time and attorney fees of focusing on finding information for requests. Mr. Rich appreciates Don Green's comments that we are a community that wants to see growth, and he wants to stay focused on this.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Williams recessed into Executive Session at 9:15 a.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:

- 10. A. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
  - 1. Officer Mark Watson and City of Abilene; Case No 01-21-0002-5335
  - 2. Frontier Texas! Discussion of Bylaws
- 10. B. 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property)
  - 1. Clyde Water
- 10. B. 551.074 (Personnel Matters)
  - 1. Boards & Commissions – Mayor’s Entertainment District Task Force
- 10. F. 551.087 (Business Prospect/Economic Development)
  - 1. Abilene Convention Center Hotel Project

The Executive Session ended at 9:57 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session. Mayor Williams reported no votes or action were taken in Executive Session.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

- 11. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on creation of the Mayor’s Entertainment District Task Force  
**[NOT CONSIDERED]**

Mayor Williams pulled this item from consideration.

- 17. 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. 33-2021]**

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

Mayor Pro-tem Price moved to (re)appoint the following from Frontier Texas! only:

Board	Term End Date
<i>Frontier Texas! Board of Directors</i>	
Audrey Ferry [Reappointment]	February 2024
Alex Russell [Reappointment]	February 2024
Cameron Wiley [New]	February 2024
Kay Richards [New]	February 2024
Rebecca Bridges [New]	February 2024
Logan Russell [New]	February 2024

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, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

ABSTAINED (1): Councilmember Hurt

18. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Approving a Design-Build Agreement with DPR Construction regarding construction of Downtown Convention Center Hotel, City Facilities and Parking  
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 48-2021]

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve a design-build agreement with DPR Construction regarding construction of Downtown Convention Center Hotel, City Facilities and Parking.

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

- David Swart, citizen – Mr. Swart stated that there has been speculation on social media and he understands COVID had an impact. He claims there was a meeting scheduled for the LGC board, but no agenda was posted. Mr. Swart stated he hurt his back and didn't get to come down to see if the meeting was held. He questioned if HOT taxes were being used for the hotel or a different funding. Mr. Swart hopes that there will be local subcontractors hired, and stated his frustration in seeing the two vacant lots in the downtown area.

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

Mayor Williams moved to table the item. Councilmember McAlister seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

NAYS (0): None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.



Shawna Atkinson  
City Secretary



Anthony Williams  
Mayor

Minutes approved on: April 22, 2021

