

**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ABILENE, INC.**  
**JOINT MEETING WITH ABILENE CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**March 29, 2016**

**DCOA MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dave Copeland          John Beckham          Jack Rich          Dani Ramsay

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Norm Archibald          Shane Price          Bruce Kreidler          Anthony Williams  
Jay Hardaway          Steve Savage          Kyle McAlister

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kent Sharp          Kim Tarrant          Akane Thaxton          Don Hardin  
Cynthia Nesmith          Stanley Smith          Robert Hanna          Danette Dunlap  
Mindy Patterson          James Childers          Michael Rice

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Judy Wilhelm – SBDC; Gary Grubbs, Jeff DeLoach, Steve Krazer, Charlie Black, Brian Yates, Doug Peters, Sammy Garcia and Erica Pangburn – Abilene Chamber of Commerce; Scott Hibbs, Ben Russell, Dee Moore, Justin Jaworski, Russell Guthrie, Jack Rentz, Seaton Higginbotham – Abilene Industrial Foundation; Tim Yandell - Big Brothers Big Sisters; Joe Kimble – BBVA Compass Bank; Greg Blair and Ron Ford – AEP Texas; Scott Senter and Ray Ferguson – Strategic Planning Committee; Mary Ross – West Central Texas Workforce Solutions; Carol Dupree – Cisco College; Grady Barr, Larry Gill – Community Foundation; Brooke Crum – Abilene Reporter News; Media – KTXS, KTAB. There were other guests in attendance that are not listed here.

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Norm Archibald called the meeting to order for the City Council. DCOA President Dave Copeland called the meeting to order for the DCOA at 10:33 am, 555 Walnut St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, council chambers, Abilene, TX. Mr. Copeland turned the meeting over to Doug Peters, President of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

**2. PRESENTATION OF FINAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC EFFORTS DEVELOPED BY TIP STRATEGIES:** Mr. Peters gave a short presentation highlighting points of the strategic plan developed by TIP Strategies, explaining this was not a study but a detailed, ~~measurable~~, action-based plan with implementations based on progress. Mr. Peters then turned the meeting over to Mayor Norm Archibald.

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Mayor Archibald explained Abilene's need for a strategic plan, giving us a road map of where we are headed for the future. When businesses look at coming to Abilene they want to know what incentives are available, existing buildings and available workforce. In order to move forward plans have to be made for the future, adequate supply of water and bond issues passed to help improve and maintain our streets. The plan will help build a stronger economic

foundation for the community to offer greater incentives to new businesses, keep young people here instead of moving off to other cities, keep the tax base growing and become a place of choice.

Mr. Peters introduced Dave Copeland, President of the Development Corporation of Abilene and oversight advisor in the development of the strategic plan. Mr. Copeland began by thanking everyone on the Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Copeland explained there are 10 strategies identified to help implement the forward progress; 1) Continue to market and promote Abilene as a destination for new investment and employment; 2) Build a highly skilled talent base; 3) Develop an innovation ecosystem that supports innovative people and businesses; 4) Position Abilene as “top of mind” or “first choice” for businesses and talent coming out of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex; 5) Support the growth and prosperity of existing businesses; 6) Making downtown Abilene a center of employment and investment; 7) Continue to redevelop the Pine Street Corridor connecting downtown to the city’s emerging education and healthcare district; 8) Engage emerging leaders in economic development and civic affairs; 9) Leverage Dyess Air Force Base as a source of talent and an economic driver; and 10) Launch a community-wide campaign to encourage residents to become ambassadors for Abilene’s success. For this to be successful we all have a <sup>role</sup> ~~role~~ and an opportunity to work together so this plan can come to life and benefit the community.

Mr. Peters introduced Ray Ferguson, one of the co-chairs of the strategic planning committee along with Tucker Bridwell who was unable to attend. Mr. Ferguson gave a brief overview of the process, which started with hiring TIP Strategies to develop a strategic plan for Abilene. The plan would include community assets, target industries, strategic goals and objectives. Once the goals and objectives are set out, find a way to deliver these services from an economic development standpoint. The final step would be TIP returning each year for the next five years to evaluate accomplishments achieved toward each goal. To effectively execute these goals a local oversight group will be formed which will interface with organizations whose participation is vital in completing each goal. These organizations will include the City of Abilene, DCOA, Abilene Chamber of Commerce, Abilene Industrial Foundation, Texas Tech Small Business Development Center, Texas Workforce Solutions and the secondary and post-secondary educational institutions.

**3. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am by both Mayor Norm Archibald and DCOA President Dave Copeland.

  
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Dave Copeland, President