

**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ABILENE, INC.
JOINT MEETING WITH ABILENE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
July 12, 2016**

DCOA MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Copeland Marelyn Shedd John Beckham Jack Rich
Dani Ramsay

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Kent Sharp Kim Tarrant Akane Thaxton Stanley Smith
Robert Hanna Mindy Patterson James Childers Michael Rice
Alaisha Guerra

GUESTS PRESENT:

Judy Wilhelm–SBDC; Charlie Black, Brian Yates, and Doug Peters–Abilene Chamber of Commerce; Scott Hibbs, Justin Jaworski and Jack Rentz–Abilene Industrial Foundation; Mary Ross–Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas; Sandra Harper, Samuel Garcia and Mark Cary–Team Workforce; Greg Blair–AEP Texas; Scott Senter–Senter Realtors; Eliska Smith–TSTC; Katie Alford–Community Foundation; Mitch Barnett–Barnett & Hill Realtors; Brett Emmett–Hendrick Medical Center; Alex Russell–Sharon Riley Restaurants; Mark Zachary–McMahon Law Firm; Winston T. Ohlhausen, Timothy Palmer–Circa Creative; Kimmy McNiece–David Kinard & Co; Brooke Crum–Abilene Reporter News; 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 2:05 pm, 555 Walnut St., 2nd Floor, council chambers, Abilene, TX. Mr. Copeland turned the meeting over to Doug Peters, President of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce (COC).

2. PRESENTATION OF AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE NEWLY COMPLETED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS: Mr. Peters gave a presentation on ways to implement the strategic plan (Plan) with an eventual outcome that will show what kind of town Abilene is and what we have to offer. After numerous meetings between the Chamber of Commerce (COC), the Abilene Industrial Foundation (AIF), Development Corporation of Abilene

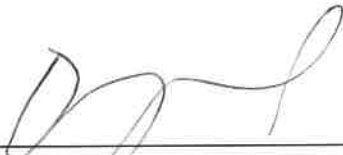
(DCOA) and other organizations involved in the implementation, no one particular implementation plan was determined to be the most effective but that all need to commit to implementation and periodically report on their progress. The unofficial name of the Plan is “Advancing Abilene”, giving the community an opportunity to take action and do things out of the ordinary, no longer staying in their comfort zone. As a community we need to focus as much, if not more on “product development” as we do “product sales”.

In order to maximize the implementation of the 49 action items listed under the 10 strategies set out in the Plan, there are three key focus areas; workforce development, small business development and downtown development. We should be training the generation of tomorrow to fill vacancies left by aging baby boomers, keeping those individuals here instead of losing them to the larger cities, and getting outside talent to choose Abilene because of its uniqueness. The downtown area is a make or break element as businesses or people look to relocate in Abilene. Revitalization and growth in a downtown shows that the residents are proud of their city and welcome others to see what we have to offer.

Kent Sharp, CEO of the DCOA, emphasized the importance of keeping the initial momentum going by ensuring implementation occurs. Choosing to transition to product development for Abilene is an innovative way to build a community for the young, the bright, the talented and the retired who want to live here. Implementation of the Plan will be a team effort with multiple partners and entities involved.

Mr. Sharp turned the meeting back over to Dave Copeland, who opened the presentation to the audience for questions. Several questions were discussed concerning the implementation timeline for the Plan. Mayor Archibald closed the presentation by reminding everyone how important it is to promote and sell Abilene, whenever and wherever possible. People who live and work in Abilene should be our biggest cheerleaders.

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



Dave Copeland, President