



SPECIAL CALLED/JOINT MEETING

February 9, 2021 at 6 p.m.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Abilene, Texas and the Comprehensive Plan Action Committee met on February 9, 2021 at 6 p.m. at the Abilene Convention Center, 1100 North 6th Street, Upstairs Conference Room, Abilene, Texas

Members representing the Planning and Zoning Commission were:

Mr. Clint Rosenbaum, Pro Tem	Mr. Bill Noonan, Secretary
Mr. Mitch Barnett	Mr. Brad Benham
Ms. Alex Russell, Sergeant-at-Arms	

*Mr. Shane Price, City Council Member

Also present were City Staff:

Mr. Michael Rice, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Michael Warrix, Director of Planning and Development Services
Mr. Zack Rainbow, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services
Ms. Cheryl Sawyers, Planning Services Manager
Ms. Kelley Messer, First Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Jared Smith, Planner II
Mr. Nick Watts, Planner I and Historic Preservation Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rosenbaum opened the meeting at 6 p.m.

INVOCATION

Ms. Cheryl Sawyers delivered the invocation.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome and Presentation: Introduction of Halff Associates, Inc. team members and brief status of the project (Halff)

Ms. Cheryl Sawyers, Planning Services Manager, introduced Mr. Brennan Kane, Director of Planning with HALFF Associates, Inc. Members of the Halff Associates, Inc. team present were introduced:

Ms. Kelsey Ryan, Ms. Haley Carruthers, Ms. Kailey Saver, Mr. Jason Claunch, and Mr. Ryan Short

Mr. Brennan Kane provided an update to attendees and announced the agenda goals for the evening. He reminded everyone that the comprehensive plan is the “citizens’ plan.” It is guided by the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission, with it being focused on the community of Abilene.

Discussions to take place during this meeting would include the development of a future land use plan and the long term visions for the community. Mr. Kane said they are currently in Phase III, which entails the development of Abilene’s vision and fiscal impact, as well as future development maps. He encouraged everyone to continue promoting the project website. (www.connectabilene.com) He also discussed identified strengths and aspirations, in addition to opportunities for the City of Abilene.

2. Community Survey Results: Presentation and discussion over the community survey and results (Halff)

Mr. Kane announced there were approximately 1,900 responses to the community survey. They will post an overall summary to the project website. There were many participants who have lived in Abilene for 20 – 30 years.

Mr. Jason Claunch provided an overview of the market assessment. A full written assessment will be provided. Population growth, the propensity for wealth, and psychographic segments were discussed. He indicated the local market could support approximately 1,200 new residents. Infrastructure maintenance to support growth was also a topic.

Ms. Cheryl Sawyers offered a time for public comments. There was no one who wished to comment.

3. Community Statement and Guiding Principles Discussion: Presentation and discussion over community statement and seven guiding principles (Half)

Mr. Kane discussed overall building blocks guiding community principles. Seven (7) building blocks were narrowed down from sixteen and identified:

1. Neighborhood Friendly and Familiar Traditions
2. Prosperity on Purpose, Vibrancy through Vision
3. Exceptional Value, Extended Invitation
4. Protect Community, Connect Communities
5. Keep Abilene Healthy and Advance Accessibility
6. Forward Thinking Governance
7. Lean on Learning to Create Opportunity

4. Abilene's Existing Character Discussion: Mapping exercise and review development in Abilene (Half)

A character assessment was the planned exercise. The purpose was to define character zones of a community, which are urban, suburban, and urban. This exercise aligns with future development mapping.

5. Comprehensive Plan Next Steps Discussion: Summary of meeting and what is next for the Comprehensive Plan (Half)

At the next meeting in April, participants will have the opportunity to development place types within the areas that were identified during this meeting. Strategies, focus areas, and characteristics desired by the community will be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

APPROVED



Mr. Clint Rosenbaum, Pro Tem