

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
February 6, 2024 at 3:15 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS
BALLROOM AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas met in Special Session on February 6, 2024, at 3:15 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 500 Cypress Street, Abilene, Texas. Mayor Weldon Hurt was present and presiding, along with Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Lynn Beard, and Councilmembers Blaise Regan and Brian Yates. Mayor Pro-tem Shane Price, and Councilmember Kyle McAlister and Travis Craver were absent. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, and City Secretary Shawna Atkinson.

The special called meeting/work session was held for the purpose of presenting the Mayor's Annual State of the City address.

Mayor Hurt opened the public comment period. With no speakers coming forward, the public comment period was closed.

After a kick-off and introduction video was played with a history of Abilene, as well as an overview of the City Council's priorities. City Manager Robert Hanna then welcomed everyone to the event.

Mayor Hurt's State of the City address covered issues in the following areas:

- An overview of Abilene's statistics, including population, age, housing an income, property tax rates, and its workforce.
- Street Maintenance Fee Projects
- Animal Services and the partnership with All Kind Animal Initiative for the new animal shelter
- The Rebuild ABI Program
- The 2022 and 2023 Bond Packages, including the new Fire Station #9, the Zoo master plan, and the demolition and rebuild of Cesar Chavez and Cobb Recreation Centers
- Investing in Abilene's people
- City Boards

Throughout, videos were shown on the following topics:

- Reliable Infrastructure
- Capital Improvements
- Various City department's accomplishments throughout the past year
- Quality of Life
- The City's Budgeting Process
- Engaging the Community

Mayor Hurt introduced Taylor County Judge Phil Crowley, who spoke on ambulance services in Taylor County, County employee salaries, and the 1915 Courthouse renovations currently underway.

Misty Mayo, CEO of the Development Corporation of Abilene, spoke about the DCOA, including awards they have won, companies they've worked for, reinvesting into Abilene, their impact in the area, and creating job opportunities in Abilene.

Joe Waldron, Assistant Superintendent with Abilene Independent School District, spoke about AISD being the heart of Abilene. He gave several examples of AISD students and staff and the impact they have made on Abilene and beyond.

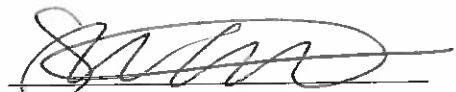
Joey Light, Superintendent with Wylie Independent School District, gave a snapshot of WISD's statistics, spoke about their 2023 bond projects, their new PUP Academy Day Care for staff, and their CTE program.

Doug Peters with the Abilene Chamber of Commerce spoke about what the Chamber of Commerce is, and how the Cultural Affairs Council and the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau fits in with them. He also spoke about the CALF festival, the Children's Performing Art Series, storybook sculptures, the Military Affairs Committee, and their economic impact on the City of Abilene.

Mayor Hurt wrapped up the event with a video of closing remarks and thank-yous and adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary



Weldon Hurt
Mayor

Minutes approved on: February 22, 2024

