

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 13, 2025 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 March 13, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Weldon Hurt was present and presiding, along with Mayor Pro-tem Kyle McAlister, and Councilmembers Shane Price, Lynn Beard, Blaise Regan, and Brian Yates. Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Travis Craver was absent. Also present were Deputy City Manager Mindy Patterson, City Attorney Stanley Smith, and City Secretary Shawna Atkinson.

Councilmember Brian Yates delivered the invocation.

Sofia Futrelle and Persephone Ramos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the State of Texas Flag.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Service Awards:
 - Robert Klafter – 25 Years – Water Department
- Special Presentation:
 - The Veteran's Land Board presented Robert Hanna an award in recognition of his retirement.
 - Taylor County Judge Phil Crowley presented Robert Hanna a proclamation from Taylor County in recognition of his retirement.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of items 4-25. Items 9 and 10 were pulled for individual consideration. Item 13 and 16 were pulled from the agenda prior to the meeting.

Item pulled for individual consideration:

- Item 9 – Councilmember Regan
- Item 10 – Councilmember Yates

Items pulled from consideration:

- Item 13
- Item 16

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Hurt opened the public comment period. The following addressed the City Council:

- Aaron Young
- Tammy Fogle

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Yates moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of 4-8, 11-12, 14-15, and 17-25. Mayor Pro-tem McAlister seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

4. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on February 27, 2025
5. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on the Purchase of Two (2) 2025 RC-Mower R60 Remote Operated Mowers for Stormwater Utilities, Through Sourcewell Contract # 112624-EMB from Kinloch Equipment of Pasadena Texas
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 30-2025]
6. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on the Purchase of One(1) 2025 Caterpillar 265 C3H3 Skid Steer for Streets Services through Sourcewell Contract # 011723-CAT from Warren Cat of Abilene
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 31-2025]
7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action to Appropriate Funds for and Approve the Purchase of Four (4) Fuel Dispensers for Fleet Services from JF Petroleum Group's Abilene Office using Sourcewell Contract #081524-JFA
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 32-2025]
8. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action to Approve Change Order 1 to the Microwave System Modernization and Reconfiguration Project Contract with Scientel Solutions, LLC.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 33-2025]
11. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Design and Creation of the Giving Tree Sculpture as Part of Clear Fork Bank Sculpture Garden
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 36-2025]
12. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Design and Creation of the Winnie the Pooh Series as Part of the Storybook Series
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 37-2025]
14. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action To Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with MES Service Company, LLC for the Purchase of Dual Certified Firefighting Protective Gear for the Abilene Fire Department
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 39-2025]
15. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving Change Order No. 1 to the Contract with Dowtech Specialty Contractors for the Sodium Hydroxide Bulk Storage and Dry Polymer Feed Improvements
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 40-2025]
17. Resolution: R Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action to Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Child Advocacy Center to Apply for an Other Victims Assistance Grant (OVAG)
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 42-2025]

18. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on the Continuation of Services for a 3 Year Term with Granicus, LLC for the Swagit Live Switching, Broadcast, Streaming, and Archiving of Public Meetings
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 43-2025]
19. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Entering into an Economic Development Agreement with Brick and Mortar Properties for the Major Renovation of 2826 Roberts St.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 44-2025]
20. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Entering into an Economic Development Agreements with Thornton Custom Homes for 5433 and 5441 N 10th St.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 45-2025]
21. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Allowing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with BVNA for Inspection Services located at the Lancium Project
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 46-2025]
22. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Allowing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract with BVNA for City Backup Inspection Services
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 47-2025]
23. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2025-04: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on A Request From The Owner, To Change The Zoning Of Approximately 2.5 Acres From Heavy Industrial (HI) To Light Industrial (LI). Located At 4397 Crawford Drive. Legal Description Being Block A, Lot 1, Of The Button Willow, Section 5 Subdivision, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
24. Ordinance (First Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Amending Chapter 18, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Article X, "Stopping, Standing and Parking," Division 4, "Limited on Certain Streets," and Division 5, "Parking Meters," of the Abilene Code of Ordinances, and create a Paid Parking Program
25. Ordinance (First Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Amending the Fee Ordinance to Add a Commercial Breeder Permit Fee

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

9. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Schneider Electric Buildings America Inc. (ESCO), for Phase 5 Energy Efficient Facility Improvements
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 34-2025]

Having pulled the item, Councilmember Regan stated concerns about the dollar amount of the project, wanted clarification on how the savings are calculated, if park lighting is included in this, and why we are purchasing all of the HVACs at once.

Lesli Andrews, Director of Parks & Recreation, introduced Matt Lombardo and Ryan Wonder with Schneider Electric, who answered the Council's questions.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in opposition to the item:

- Eric Bengs

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

Mayor Pro-tem McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Yates seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (5): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, and Yates

NAYS (1): Councilmember Regan

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

10. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Contract for Phase 6 with Schneider Electric Buildings America Inc. (ESCO), for Water Department Improvements
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 35-2025]

Having pulled the item, Councilmember Yates wanted to highlight the differences between this phase and phase 5.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in opposition to the item:

- Tammy Fogle

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

Councilmember Yates moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Beard seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

ITEMS PULLED FROM INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

13. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action to Approve an Agreement with Empyrean Benefit Solutions to Provide an Online Benefits Administration Platform
[NOT CONSIDERED]
16. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action to Approve an Amendment to the City's Tyler Technologies Contract to add the Environmental Health Enterprise Module to Replace the Sunsetting Digital Health Department Electronic System
[NOT CONSIDERED]

Mayor Hurt recessed the meeting for a short break at 9:48 a.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

26. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Approving the Special Events Permit Policy
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 49-2025]

Councilmember Price moved to remove this item from the table. Councilmember Beard seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

Lesli Andrews, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve a Special Events Permit policy that would create a one-stop-shop for all special events, including payment of required fees and access to support staff.

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

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented. Mayor Pro-tem McAlister seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

27. Ordinance: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending Chapter 29, "Streets and Sidewalks," Article IX, "Special Events Permit" of the Code of Ordinances
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 15-2025]

Lesli Andrews, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the item. Adoption of the item would amend Chapter 29 of the Code of Ordinances, Streets and Sidewalks, that would outline the special events permit process and what is and is not allowed.

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

Mayor Pro-tem McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Regan seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

28. Ordinance: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending the Fees and Charges Ordinance to Special Events Fees
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 16-2025]

Lesli Andrews, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the item. Adoption of the item would add the associated fees for special events to the fee schedule.

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

Councilmember Yates moved to approve the item as presented. Mayor Pro-tem McAlister seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

29. Ordinance: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending Chapter 6, Animals and Fowl, of the Abilene Code of Ordinances
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 17-2025]

Stanley Smith, City Attorney, presented the item. Adoption of the item would amend Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances, Animals and Fowl.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in opposition to the item:

- Cindy Knox
- Aaron Young
- Thomas McIntire – did not speak, indicated opposition on card

The following spoke in favor of the item:

- Claude Milton
- Angela Tomlin

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

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented with the following amendments:

- 1) 6-18 - correct the three references to 6-93 (1 in c and 2 in e) to reference 6-92
- 2) 6-34 (d) (1) add “service animal” to the list of exemptions for the breeder’s license requirement
- 3) 6-94 - mirror the exemption list under (b) [first impoundment] as exemptions allowed under (c) [second impoundments]

Councilmember Beard seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

30. Ordinance CUP-2025-03: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a Request from the Owner, to Apply a Conditional Use Permit to Approximately 0.9 Acres to Allow for Contractor Services within General Commercial (GC) Zoning, Located at 625 ES 11th Street
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 18-2025]

Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would apply a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) at the above referenced location, to allow for contractor services.

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

Councilmember Regan moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Beard seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

31. Ordinance CUP-2025-04: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a Request from the Owner, Represented by Precision Contractors, to Apply a Conditional Use Permit to Approximately 1.81 Acres Zoned General Commercial to Allow Freight containers, Located at 718 S. Clack Street
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 19-2025]

Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would apply a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) at the above referenced location, to allow freight storage containers.

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

Councilmember Yates moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Price seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

32. Ordinance CUP-2025-05: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a Request from the Owner, to Apply a Conditional Use Permit to Approximately 15.03 Acres to Allow an RV (Recreational Vehicle) Park, Located at 3201 Dub Wright Blvd.
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-2025]

Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would apply a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) at the above referenced location, to allow for an RV park.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in favor of the item:

- Clayton Farrow, agent

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

Mayor Pro-tem McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Regan seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

33. Ordinance Z-2025-03: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a Request from the Owner, to Change the Zoning of Approximately 22.14 Acres from Agricultural Open (AO) to Multi Family (MF) Located at 6310 Butterfield Trail
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 21-2025]

Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would change the zoning from Agricultural Open Space (AO) to Multi Family (MF) at the above referenced location.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in favor of the item:

- Clayton Farrow, agent

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

Councilmember Beard moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Price seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

34. Ordinance: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on an Ordinance of the City of Abilene, Texas, and Providing for the Extension of the Boundary Limits of the City of Abilene, Texas, and for the Annexation of Certain Territory - 31 acres - Lying Adjacent and Contiguous to the Present Boundary Limits of the City of Abilene, and Granting to All the Inhabitants of Territory, all the Rights and Privileges of other Citizens and Binding the Inhabitants by All of the Acts, Ordinances, Resolutions and Regulations of the City of Abilene; and Adopting a Service Plan Agreement
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 22-2025]

Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would annex the above referenced property into the City Limits of the City of Abilene.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in opposition to the item:

- Charles Baucum

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

Councilmember Yates moved to approve the item as presented. Mayor Pro-tem McAlister seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

35. Ordinance: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on an Ordinance of the City of Abilene, Texas, and Providing for the Extension of the Boundary Limits of the City of Abilene, Texas, and for the Annexation of Certain Territory - 28.58 acres - Lying Adjacent and Contiguous to the Present Boundary Limits of the City of Abilene, and Granting to All the Inhabitants of

Territory, all the Rights and Privileges of other Citizens and Binding the Inhabitants by All of the Acts, Ordinances, Resolutions and Regulations of the City of Abilene; and Adopting a Service Plan Agreement [ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 23-2025]

Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would annex the above referenced property into the City Limits of the City of Abilene.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in opposition to the item:

- Charles Baucum

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

Mayor Pro-tem McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Beard seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

36. Discussion: Receive a Report and Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Provide Direction on Homeless Initiatives.

Max Johnson, Director of Public Works, presented the item and spoke about homeless encampments in the City limits, how complaints are handled, the signs they are putting up when they clear an encampment, and costs for these cleanups. Councilmember Regan asked for this item and he would like to see the City fund a "director" position to be the point of contact and liaison between all of the non-profits regarding the homeless population.

Lieutenant Brad McGary with the Abilene Police Department, Jenny Goode with Betty Hardwick, and Courtney Horton with Abilene Hope Haven, all spoke on the issues they are seeing in their professions and the ideas they have on solving this issue. Council discussed the issue at length, and the consensus was to have with Ms. Goode and Ms. Horton help staff to draft a job description for this position, as well as to describe what the end goal of all of this would be, to be presented at a later meeting.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke in favor of the item:

- Rosten Callerman
- Cynthia Pearson

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

This item was only for discussion. No votes or action were taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hurt recessed into Executive Session at 12:18 p.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:

- 37.A.551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
 - 1. City Manager Search Confidentiality
- 37.D.551.074 (Personnel Matters)
 - 1. Boards & Commissions

The Executive Session ended at 12:31 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session. Mayor Hurt reported no votes or action were taken in Executive Session.

REGULAR AGENDA

23. 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. 50-2025]

Adoption of the item would approve the (re)appointments of the following board and commission members, per the city Charter:

Board	Term End Date
<i>Landmarks Commission</i>	
Derek Hood [Alternate] [New]	November 2025
<i>Street Maintenance Advisory & Appeals Board</i>	
Joey Devora [Reappointment]	March 2027
Branson Hurt [Reappointment]	March 2027

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

Mayor Hurt had a conflict of interest on this item and abstained from voting on the item. A Conflict of Interest Affidavit was filled out before the meeting and filed with the City Secretary's office.

Mayor Pro-tem McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Price seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (5): Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

ABSTAIN (1): Mayor Hurt

39. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Appointing Mindy Patterson as the City Manager
[ORAL RESOLUTION]

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke on the item:

- Tammy Fogle

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

Councilmember Price moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Beard seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (1): Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver

After remarks from Council and Mr. Hanna, City Secretary Shawna Atkinson swore in Mindy Patterson as the City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.



Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary

Deputy



Weldon Hurt
Mayor

Minutes approved on: March 27, 2025

