

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 27, 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 27, 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, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Travis Craver, and Councilmembers Shane Price, Lynn Beard, Blaise Regan, and Brian Yates. Also present were City Manager Mindy Patterson, City Attorney Stanley Smith, and City Secretary Shawna Atkinson.

Mayor Weldon Hurt delivered the invocation.

Karson Bedingfield, 9th Grader, Ayedian Gonzales, 7th Grader, and CJ Heidemann, 5th Grader, all from Hartford Learning Center, 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

- Proclamations:
 - Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – accepted by Linda Neil with Texas Tech University
 - American Red Cross Month – accepted by Kara Dickens with the American Red Cross
 - National Women’s History Month – accepted by Crystal Blackraven with the Salvation Army

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of items 3-16. Items 6, 12 and 16 were pulled for individual consideration.

Item pulled for individual consideration:

- Item 6 – Councilmember Regan
- Item 12 – Councilmember Price
- Item 16 -- Councilmember Regan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Tammy Fogle
- William Kristopherson

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro-tem McAlister moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of 3-5, 7-11 and 13-15. Councilmember Yates seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None

3. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on March 13, 2025
4. 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
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 50-2025]
5. 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
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 51-2025]
7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on City Council Approving the Mayor to Sign Letters of Support for two Habitat and Angler Access Program Grants
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 53-2025]
8. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Entering into a Contract with Key City Septic Services
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 54-2025]
9. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving a Commission Agreement with Hardesty Realty Group Regarding Negotiations of Lease Agreement with Chick-fil-A
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 55-2025]
10. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Amending the Terms of a Chapter 380 Agreement with Chowning Realty LLC to Extend the Expiration of an Economic Development Agreement for 1438 N 6th St.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 56-2025]
11. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Entering Into an Economic Development Agreement with Thornton Custom Homes for a New Single-Family Home Located at 5425 N 10th St.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 57-2025]
13. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2025-06: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on A Request From The Owner, To Rezone Approximately One-Acre Of Land From Residential Single Family (RS-6) To Medium Density (MD), Located At 3073 Hickory Street
14. Ordinance (First Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Amending Chapter 18, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Article XIII, "Schedules," Section 18-285, "Increased Speed Limits," of the Abilene Municipal Code
15. Ordinance (First Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending Chapter 18, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Article XIII, "Schedules," Section 18-286, "Decreased Speed Limits-School Zones," of the Abilene Municipal Code

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

6. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving Multiple Contracts with Accurate Air Solutions LLC, Cary Services Inc., and Daikin Applied Americas, Inc. for HVAC Services
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 52-2025]

Having pulled the item, Councilmember Regan wanted clarification on the price and why there is a need for these contracts. Lesli Andrews, Director of Parks & Recreation, answered Councilmember Regan's questions. This is for emergency repairs only and we have several different units that each company specializes in, so that is why there are three companies.

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 (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

12. Ordinance (First Reading) TC-2025-01: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action a Request from the Adjacent Owner, to Abandon Certain Portions of Hickory Street and North 21st Street. Located at the 1300 to 1400 Blocks of North 21st Street and Hickory Street Extending 420 Feet South of the Intersection of North 21st Street and Hickory Street Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Having pulled the item, Councilmember Price stated he had concerns with the closing of Hickory Street. Cande Flores, Fire Chief, spoke about the perspective of the closure from the Fire Department, and they have concerns about it as well. The majority of Council had concerns about closing Hickory and would like to see that part of the closure taken out before the final reading.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. With no 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 (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

16. Ordinance (First Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Amending Chapter 28, "Solicitations", of the Code of Ordinances, Article II - "Permit", Section 28-21 "Denial" and Section 28-22 "Revocation"

Having pulled the item, Councilmember Regan questioned if we could legally deny a permit under the proposed changes and if this is out of the norm. Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary, clarified what the process for background checks on solicitors and why this is needed. Stanley Smith, City Attorney, also clarified that there are no legal concerns, but he would like to add some additional language mirroring the State's language to clear up any concern before the second reading.

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

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

AYES (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

REGULAR AGENDA

17. Ordinance (Final Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending Chapter 22, Parks and Recreation, Article I, In General, Sec. 22-5, Camping, Sleeping, Parking Overnight, of the Code of Ordinances
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 24-2025]

Lesli Andrews, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the item. Adoption of the item would amend Chapter 22, Sec. 22-5 to increase the maximum overnight hours for camping from 24 to 72.

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. Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

18. Ordinance: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Amending the Fee Ordinance to Add a Camping Fee for Overnight Camping in Johnson Park and Sea Bee Park, and Add a Commercial Breeder Permit Fee
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 25-2025]

Lesli Andrews, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the item. Adoption of the item would amend the fee ordinance to allow a camping fee for overnight camping for 72 hours and adding a commercial breeder permit fee.

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. Councilmember Beard seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

19. Ordinance (Final Reading) Z-2025-04: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, 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
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 26-2025]

Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning & Development Services, presented the item. Adoption of the item would change the zoning from Heavy Industrial (HI) to Light Industrial (LI) at the above referenced location.

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 (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

20. Ordinance (Final Reading): Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, 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
[ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-2025]

Max Johnson, Director of Public Works, presented the item. Adoption of the item would create a paid parking program for the downtown area.

Mayor Hurt opened the public hearing. The following spoke:

- Tammy Fogle

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

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

AYES (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates

NAYS (0): None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hurt recessed into Executive Session at 9:35 a.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:

21.D.551.074 (Personnel Matters)

1. City Manager Candidates

21.F.1551.087 (Business Prospect/Economic Development)

1. DCOA Project Hamilton (Agenda Item #23)

The Executive Session ended at 10:36 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session. Mayor Hurt reported no votes or action were taken in Executive Session.

REGULAR AGENDA

22. 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. 58-2025]

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>Abilene Convention Center Hotel Development Corporation</i>	
Dr. Lynn Murray [New]	N/A
<i>Street Maintenance Advisory & Appeals Board</i>	
David Todd [Reappointment]	March 2027

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.

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

AYES (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None

23. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Approving Project Hamilton for the Development Corporation of Abilene, Inc
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 59-2025]

Earlier in the meeting, under Section 551.087 (Business Prospect/Economic Development) of the Open Meetings Act, the item was discussed during the Executive Session, which started at 9:35 a.m., and ended at 10:36 a.m. No votes or actions were taken at that time.

Misty Mayo, CEO of the Development Corporation of Abilene, presented the item. Adoption of the item would approve the expansion of a local manufacturing company, Project Hamilton.

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. Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem McAlister, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Craver, and Councilmembers Price, Beard, Regan, and Yates
NAYS (0): None

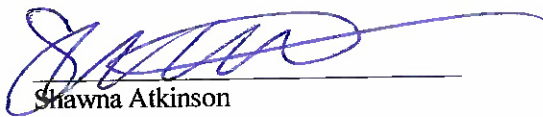
24. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a New Building Lease Agreement for a New Main Branch Library at Abilene Heritage Square
[NOT CONSIDERED]

This item was pulled prior to the meeting and was not considered.

The Mayor and Council gave their congratulations to City Manager Robert Hanna on his retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.


Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary


Weldon Hurt
Mayor

Minutes approved on: April 10, 2025

