

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 25, 2020 at 4:30 p.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 June 25, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Mayor Pro-tem Weldon Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Donna Albus and Councilmembers Shane Price, Jack Rentz, Kyle McAlister and Travis Craver. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, City Secretary Shawna Atkinson, and various members of the City staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Williams recessed into Executive Session at 4:30 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:

- 15. A. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)
 - 1. Ovation Service, LLC v Blanca Cortez, et al
 - 2. Reginald Lamkin vs. City of Abilene
 - 3. Governor's Executive Order COVID-19
 - 4. Claim of Discrimination – Rita Monterossa
- 15. B. 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property)
 - 1. Clyde Water
 - 2. T&P Freight Warehouse, 901 North 1st Street, Abilene
- 15.F. 551.087 (Business Prospects/Economic Development)
 - 1. Abilene Convention Center Hotel Project

The Executive Session ended at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 5:30 p.m. as noted on the posted agenda. Mayor Williams reported no votes or action were taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Kyle McAlister delivered the invocation.

The Bulliez Elite Softball team, consisting of Chasity, Mariah, Avery, Micaela, Cameron, Aubrey, Camo, Greyson and Ava, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and State of Texas Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of items 3-11. Items 4 and 7 were pulled for individual consideration. Items pulled for individual consideration were as follows:

- David Swart, citizen – Item #4
- Sheria Ford-Davis, citizen – Item #7

Mayor Pro-tem Hurt moved to approve the Consent Agenda, now consisting of items 3, 5-6, and 8-11. Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver
NAYS (0): None

- 3. Minutes: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on June 11, 2020

5. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Approving a Single-Family Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Program Project located at 2109 Clinton Street with C.E. Vann Construction and Budgeted with HOME Program Funds
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 115-2020]
6. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on awarding the bid to Starks Construction Company, Inc. for the FM 89 Utility Relocates Project
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 116-2020]
8. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action to Approve a 90-day extension to the Operating Cost Relief for American Airlines.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 118-2020]
9. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-08: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from TTY Holdings LLC. and Jeff Luther Construction Company, agent Timothy Yandell, to rezone from Light Industrial (LI) and Multi-Family Residential (MF) to a Planned Development District (PDD) located at 629 North 6th Street, Lot 7, Block 104, located at 601 Plum Street, Lots 7-12, Block 66, located at 501, 509, 525, 533, 541 Ash Street, Original Town Abilene, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
10. Ordinance (First Reading) Z-2020-09: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on request from Quality Implement Company, agents Gary and Diana Handley, to rezone property from Agricultural Open Space (AO) to General Commercial (GC) District located near northeast corner of Loop 322 and Industrial Boulevard
11. Ordinance (First Reading) CUP-2020-03: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on a request from Quality Implement Company, agents Gary and Diana Handley, for Conditional Use Permit allowing retail sale and rental of trucks and other large vehicles and equipment in a General Commercial District located near northeast corner of Loop 322 and Industrial Boulevard

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

4. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Caldwell County Chevrolet for the Purchase of Two (2) Half-Ton Pickup Trucks and One (1) Three-Quarter Ton Pickup Truck
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 114-2020]

The item was pulled by David Swart, citizen.

Having pulled the item, David Swart stated that he is not opposed to the item, but just does not understand why this dealership keeps outbidding local dealerships. He encouraged local dealerships to try to match this one in the future to keep tax dollars local.

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

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

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

7. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing and Take Action to approve CityLink's New Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 117-2020]

The item was pulled by Sheria Ford-Davis, citizen.

Having pulled the item, Sheria Ford-Davis stated that the board she's a part of, the Citizen's Advisory Board for People with Disabilities, have been working with CityLink and asking for bus shelters. She is concerned that there is no shelter for people when there are storms or high temperature and urges CityLink to look into adding these.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- David Swart – spoke about a certain shelter that used to be on “the Ride to Dyess” bus route, but thinks that some locations can benefit from a shelter.
- Tim Yandell – questioned if there is not funding from the City for this, if it would be possible to use advertisement on the shelters themselves as a way to raise money, so businesses can advertise on them and help pay for them at the same time.

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

Don Green, Director of Transportation, addressed concerns and stated that approximately 10% of bus stops have shelters currently. They are looking to place more throughout the City, but the issue of making them ADA compliant makes it more challenging for them, as they have to have sidewalks and ramps. Mr. Green stated that they have received funds from the CARES Act that could potentially be used for this.

City Manager Hanna suggested this be brought up during the upcoming budget workshop,

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

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver
NAYS (0): None

REGULAR AGENDA

12. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Modifying and Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster Issued June 1, 2020
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 119-2020]

Stanley Smith, City Attorney, presented the item. Adoption of the item would extend the local Disaster Declaration issued on June 1, 2020. The language adopts the current Executive Order issued by the Governor of Texas.

Mayor Williams read through talking points and presented a spreadsheet with numbers of COVID-19 cases from our sister cities and a comparison of how Abilene is looking next to those cities. Council and Staff also discussed various ways to safeguard yourself during this pandemic.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- David Swart – stated that a lot of Abilenians are out work and were supposed to be going back to work soon, but with how the numbers are rising, he questioned if that will still happen. He also stated that it should be everyone's individual choice to wear a mask or not.
- Deborah Williams – stated that she is baffled by what she has heard. She encouraged everyone to wear a mask and gave her reasoning why you should.
- Nicholas Moses – questioned Mayor Pro-tem Hurt's mindset that profits are more important than people's health.
- Rhonda Webb – stated that she is confused because everyone keeps saying different things regarding masks. She questioned why anyone should wear a mask when our leaders will not.

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

Councilmember McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Rentz seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (1): Mayor Pro-tem Hurt

13. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Possible Action to Extend the Temporary Suspension of the Residential and Commercial Street Maintenance Fee During the COVID-19 Pandemic or Allow the Temporary Suspension to Expire

Greg McCaffery, Director of Public Works, presented the item. On April 23, 2020, the City Council voted to suspend the Street Maintenance fee for 60 days. The fee is scheduled to be reinstated on July 1, 2020, unless Council moves to extend the suspension further.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- David Swart – spoke about taxes and money from the Development Corporation of Abilene. Stated that there are a lot of "mom and pop" businesses that are barely making it and reinstating the fee makes it harder for them, but he also realizes we do have to fix the streets.
- Cynthia Alvidrez – questioned why there are TIRZ zones with money set aside to bring those areas up, when the money is coming out of the Street Maintenance Fee to pay for those same areas. Thinks that with unemployment rates so high and COVID-19 cases still increasing, Council needs to suspend the fee until at least the end of the year.

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

No votes or action were taken at this time, so the Street Maintenance Fee is reinstated on July 1, 2020.

14. 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. 120-2020]

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- Sheria Ford-Davis – stated she is the Vice-Chair for the Citizen's Advisory Board for People with Disabilities and they need people to be appointed to their board so they can have a quorum.
- Demetrius Earthly – asked about the Threshold Initiative and how the members were selected.

Because neither of the boards/initiatives mentioned were listed on the agenda, Council and Staff could not comment or answer the citizens questions.

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

Councilmember Price moved to (re)appoint the following:

Board	Term End Date
<i>Child Advocacy Center Board</i>	
James McDow [New]	December 2021 [unexpired term]
<i>Senior Citizens Advisory Board</i>	
Monroe Nevells [Reappointment]	May 2022
Maxine Williams [Reappointment]	May 2022
Leroy King [Reappointment]	May 2022
Johnny Whisenhunt [Reappointment]	May 2022

Councilmember Craver seconded the motion; motion carried

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver

NAYS (0): None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Williams opened the public comment period. The following addressed the city council:

- David Swart – spoke about the Street Maintenance Fund and how our streets still need help. Thanked the Public Works Director for doing a good job on the streets and described the difference between bond money and the Street Maintenance Fee.
- Sheria Ford-Davis – spoke about a Juneteenth celebration at Stephenson Park, and how there is a chain link fence for the tennis court netting there, and that there are no working bathrooms or lights at night. Also asked how a citizen that lives next to Stephenson can build on his land if that area is in a flood zone.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.


Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary


Anthony Williams
Mayor

Deputy
Minutes approved on: July 9, 2020