



Abilene Planning Commission Minutes
Abilene Public Library - 209 NW Fourth Street
October 6, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – Planning Commission Present: Robin Black, Rod Boyd, Bill Marshall and by phone Chair Travis Sawyer. Absent: Jennifer Green, Vice Chair Brenda Finn-Bowers

Staff Present: Kari Zook and City Manager Jane Foltz.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Marshall to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting "Aye."

4. Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Boyd to approve the June 16, 2020 minutes. Motion carried, all voting "Aye."

Business Discussion

5. Open Public Hearing: for approval of an ordinance amending Section 27-401 of the Zoning Regulations for Electronic Message Center signs within the City of Abilene.

Chair Sawyer opened the public hearing at 4:15 p.m. No public attendance or comment. Public hearing closed at 4:15 p.m.

There was discussion regarding the Electronic Message Center Signs regarding dimming and the moving message. A motion was made by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Black to amend Section 27-401 of the Abilene Zoning Regulations, to provide for a minimum hold time of three seconds for all electronic message center signs now and hereafter approved by a conditional use permit. Motion carried, all voting "Aye."

Date to go before the City Commission: October 26, 2020

6. Open Public Hearing: for approval of an ordinance amending Section 20-14 concerning the designation and regulation of Critical Drainage Areas within the City of Abilene.

Chair Sawyer opened the public hearing at 4:31 p.m. No public attendance or comment. Public hearing closed at 4:31 p.m.

There was discussion regarding the Critical Drainage areas around the City of Abilene and how this ordinance being amended will help with future new developments having to follow guidelines that will assist in flood plain management.

A motion by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Marshall to amend Section 20-14 of the Abilene Zoning Regulations for Critical Drainage areas within the City of Abilene. Motion carried, all voting "Aye."

Date to go before City Commission: October 26, 2020

7. Discussion on updating/review Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Black requested this be put on the agenda because the planning commission should be reviewing the comprehensive plan every year. The planning commission would like to be updated by city staff regarding items the city is looking at. They would like to have on each agenda an update on what is happening in areas of town. Commissioner Black also mentioned the land use map and updating that with the comprehensive plan.

City Manager Foltz gave an update on what is happening currently in the City of Abilene.

- Large expansion at Van Diest Supply Co.
- Don's Tire addition, upcoming property tax abatement process
- Lot split application on a duplex in town on the agenda for next month's meeting
- DK County will be adding on to their county yard and restrooms/safe room at Sterl Hall
- Highlands property grant for workforce housing
- Windy Trails RV Park off 14th St.
- New Horizons Hemp offer on land off 14th St.
- Holiday Inn Express new hotel on hold due to Covid-19
- New build in downtown Abilene to go before Heritage Commission when details are available
- 24/7 RV Park in progress
- Planning & Zoning department permits have already doubled the 2019 total as of September
- Welcome signs around town with new logo are in process
- Historic District street sign banners have been placed in Downtown, City Park, Naroma Ct and Vine St.

8. Planning Commission Comments and Staff Updates

Next month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 4 p.m. at the Abilene Public Library.

Planning Commission Bylaws will be amended with the new meeting date change from the second Tuesday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month, Article VI – Meetings, Section 1 – Regular Meetings.

Planning Commission is still looking for one more member.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Black to adjourn. Motion carried, all voting "Aye."



Travis Sawyer, Chair
Brenda Finn-Bowers, Vice Chair